DIGNITY and JUSTICE

Welcoming the Stranger at Our Border

by

LINDA DAKIN-GRIMM







Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com.

Copyright © 2020 by Linda Dakin-Grimm

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher. Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Dakin-Grimm, Linda, author.

Title: Dignity and justice: welcoming the stranger at our border / Linda Dakin-Grimm.

Description: Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: Through stories of real children and families, Dignity and Justice explores the issue of migration to the southern border of the United States—including the historical, social, legal and political dynamics.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020002336 (print) | LCCN 2020002337 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626983816 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781608338450 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Emigration and immigration—Religious aspects—Catholic Church. | Immigrants—Mexican-American Border Region—Social conditions. | Immigrant children—Mexican-American Border Region—Social conditions. | United States—Emigration and immigration—History—21st century. | United States—Emigration and immigration—Government policy—History—21st century. | Immigration enforcement—Social conditions—Mexican-American Border Region. | Social justice—Religious aspects—Catholic Church. | Christian sociology—Catholic Church.

Classification: LCC BX1795.E44 D35 2020 (print) | LCC BX1795.E44 (ebook) | DDC 261.8/380973—dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2020002336 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2020002337

Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Part I GILBERTO 1

Gilberto's Story 3

Introduction ix

2. The Background 18
3. A Christian Response 27
Part II GABRIELA AND JAVIER 33
4. Gabriela and Javi's Story 35
5. External Forces 45
6. The Catholic Way 52
7. Liliana's Story 65
8. The Background 72
9. Federico and Camille Flores 85
Part IV THE CATHOLIC WAY 107
10. Pope Pius XII 109
11. Pope Saint John Paul II 115
12. Pope Francis 123

Doing What the Lord Asks 128

13.

vi Contents

 Comprehensive Immigration Reform— A Catholic Proposal 136

Appendix I Citizenship 148
Appendix II U.S. Immigration Law and the Immigration System 153

Glossary 177