

# The Encuentro Project

## Seeking the Grace of Encounter

### MISSION

The Encuentro Project offers programming and lodging for immersion and encounter experiences in the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez border region which include: Direct work with asylum seekers, migrant, immigrant and/or refugee persons; education in Catholic Social Teaching and on border/migrant realities and projects through site visits; evening reflection and spiritual accompaniment.

### ORGANIZERS OF THE PROGRAM

The Encuentro Project is a collaborative and inter-congregational project involving The Jesuits, the Marist Brothers, Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family. Lay persons and the Hope Border Institute will form part of the team.

Director of The Encuentro Project  
Fr. Rafael Garcia, S.J. – 505-288-9552

Program Coordinator & House Manager  
Bro. Todd Patenaude, F.M.S. – 915-213-2466

### LOCATION

The residence and base of the program is at 1837 Grandview, El Paso, TX 79902. The unique mix in the design, combining residential and needed institutional character is present in this three level, 9-bedroom, 6-bathroom facility, with common areas, the project's office and separate community space for two Marist Brothers whose community is based at this project. The spacious building is excellent for our mission and is centrally located, approximately 1 ½ miles from the U.S.-Mexico border.

#### **For additional information and to inquire about possible participation, contact us. (see below)**

Please include information about your group, number of persons who want to participate (specifying if there are any junior or senior high school age persons, who would need to bring supervisor), dates when you would like to participate. If possible, provide more than one option of dates.

### ABOUT

The program will provide a residence (single, double and multiple occupancy rooms; maximum capacity of 20) in central El Paso.

During the stay, participants will be able to:

- Encounter and minister to migrant, refugee or vulnerable immigrant persons, in shelters, guest houses and/or parishes.
- Visit with persons and organizations serving in the El Paso region.
- Visit with persons and organizations serving the Ciudad Juarez region. (optional)
- Participate in workshops on Catholic Social Teaching and migrant/border realities.
- Participate in personal and group reflection and regular community evening prayer.
- Live in community. Longer term participants will have the independence needed to fulfill their program.

The program will be offered in two basic forms:

- Short term immersion programs for groups.
- Programs based on blocks of time (a month; summer; semester) and designed for the needs of the requesting group or individual.

*Note: Though not essential, some fluency in Spanish would be beneficial.*

### FEES

The fee will depend on the duration of stay and format of the group/individual's goals while here.

- Short-term immersion (up to 7 days): \$80/day/person, includes program, staff assistance, lodging, breakfast food and catered evening meals.
- Longer term participation (four weeks or more), i.e., a sabbatical, a semester, a summer or a month will have an adjusted, lower per diem.
- For 8-27 day immersions, fee will be individually determined.

*Not included are: Transportation costs, to and from El Paso AND while in El Paso; Insurance; food for lunch, which typically will be while on the road.*



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