

Welcoming the Stranger

Becky Seipel has a heart for refugees—and while she may not have traveled as far as many of them have her passion for working with those fleeing violence and seeking new homes has introduced her to people and places far from her home. Her work with Catholic Charities in her home town of Louisville led her to a “semester in the city” and work with ESL classes at St. Leo while she was a student at Xavier University. This provided her a chance to form relationships and learn about life through the eyes of refugees and immigrants.



The summer after graduation, she spent 10 weeks with the Jesuit Refugee Service in South Africa. When she returned to the US she spent a year working as housing coordinator for refugees at Catholic Charities in Cleveland. She returned to Cincinnati last fall and began law school with the goal of becoming an immigration attorney.

She'll be in Madrid in June and July working for a professor at the Universidad Pontifical Comillas who specializes in immigration and asylum law. She'll help the professor with her current project on irregular immigration as well as assist her in preparing reports for the EU. Her work will primarily be in English but she hopes to practice Spanish as much as possible in her free time. . As with many things she's done so far this will be a win-win for both Becky and the attorney—and for the future immigrants and refugees she'll be helping.

- Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate