Remembering Bishop Frederick H. Borsch
Clergy and lay members of the Diocese of Los Angeles gathered June 10 at St. Augustine’s Church, Santa Monica, to remember the Rt. Rev. Frederick Houk Borsch, fifth bishop of Los Angeles, who died April 11 at his home in Philadelphia. Retired Bishop Suffragan Chester Talton, who served for many years with Borsch, presided at the committal (pictured in inset photo with Kathryn Pitkin Derose, deacon, and Nathan Rugh, rector, of St. Augustine’s). “To Fred’s mind, it was the job of the church to hold out the gospel vision to a beautiful yet confused world,” said the Rev. Canon Gary Hall (pictured above left) in his homily. “In Fred’s practice, a bishop spoke both to the church and to the world about how we might, together, bridge the gap between is and ought, between God’s vision and ours.” (The full homily may be read at bit.ly/2rtnswm.) Hartshorn Murphy (lower left), retired rector of St. Augustine’s, where Fred Borsch and his wife Barbara were longtime members, and archdeacon for congregational development during Borsch’s tenure, also spoke (his remarks may be found at bit.ly/2rybycn). The Borsches’ sons Stuart, Matthew and Benjamin offered reminiscences about their father.

Bishop Bruce ordains deacons in rite at procathedral
Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce (center front), assisted by Bishop Coadjutor-elect John H. Taylor (at center back), ordained (from left) Gethin Weid, Mark David Bradshaw, Elizabeth McQuitty, Otto Rene Vasquez, Robin Lynn Kassabian, Susan Holliday Cardone, and Edward F. Milkovich as deacons at St. John’s ProCathedral on June 3.

Tickets available for coadjutor consecration
July 8 liturgy set for Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles
Additional tickets for the July 8 consecration of John Taylor as bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of Los Angeles may be reserved by email to bishopsoffice@ladiocese.org, the arrangements committee confirmed June 14.

Balcony seating is still available at the Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion for the 1:30 p.m. liturgy now that all block ticket orders and waiting lists from congregations have been accommodated on a first-come-first-served basis, said Bob Williams, diocesan canon for community relations.

Although printed tickets have not yet been released by the Music Center, they will be distributed to congregations and individuals by diocesan staff as soon as tickets are in hand at the Cathedral Center. Inquiries and updates are welcome by email to bishopsoffice@ladiocese.org, or by phone to 213.482.2040, ext. 230.

IRIS immigrant advocate training on June 29 will focus on law, rights
IRIS (Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service), a ministry of the Diocese of Los Angeles, will hold a training session for immigration advocates on Thursday, June 29, 1:30–3:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, 840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles.

The program, presented by Shiu-Ming Cheer of the National Immigration Law Center, will include discussions of constitutional rights; sanctuary/safe zone policies; pro-immigrant local and state measures; and rapid response networks.

Free parking is available. For information, contact IRIS at 323.667.0489 or iris@ladiocese.org
Observing World Refugee Day June 20

By J. Jon Bruno, Bishop Diocesan

Serving immigrants and refugees is a key area of shared diocesan and interfaith ministry, led forward by IRIS (Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Services) together with our Program Group on Global Partnership and various parish-based initiatives. Since it was founded as a program of the diocese in 2005, IRIS has help more than 10,000 refugees and immigrants begin new lives in the United States.

As we approach World Refugee Day on June 20, it is important to remember on this day, and all days, that we are a nation of immigrants and refugees. Our founders fled political and religious persecution. And today, perhaps more than ever, forced migration — whether due to political instability, wretched poverty, or violent conditions in one’s home country — is a challenge of global proportions. This year, World Refugee Day falls in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and we are reminded that some refugees are Muslims, and many face persecution and violence here in America.

As we continue to respond to these needs, I am grateful to many local colleagues in advocacy and service, especially Dr. Grace Dyrness of USC and the HUB for Urban Initiatives, who extends to us the following invitation:

“June 20 is World Refugee Day. Globally we remember the strength, courage, and resilience of millions of refugees. This is a time of reflection and holy solidarity. From there we will proceed to Adelanto and hold a prayer vigil. Some members of the clergy and others will visit detainees. In this way, we will bring attention to what is happening to our immigrant friends and neighbors in distress and raise awareness about our moral responsibility to speak truth to power, welcome the stranger, pursue release for the prisoner, and care for the widow and the orphan.

“Please join us. A bus will be chartered from Los Angeles. Approximate time 8 a.m. from Los Angeles – 4 p.m. return. (Suggested donation of $30 includes bus and box lunch.) Please register online at: www.icujp.org/god_behind_bars.

“Sponsors: Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP), Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC), Immaculate Heart Community, Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), All Saints Church Pasadena.”

Let us join in participation and prayer in supporting these important efforts, continuing to be the heart and hands of Christ in service to our immigrant and refugee sisters and brothers.