

## **Posada: Learning Activities**

To order "Posada" on DVD, please visit [Posadas-Project.com](http://Posadas-Project.com).

### **Immigrant Roots Awareness Exercise:**

**A preparatory learning activity that explores "Where in the world are we from?" and "What sort of difference do our immigrants roots make for us?"**

One approach to put immigration issues into perspective is to examine how immigration has played a role in one's own life and community and to apply this knowledge to the present. The Immigrants Roots Awareness Exercise is designed to help this process of examination and reflection. When you, your group, school, or worship community begins to look at immigration, the Posadas Project invites participants to explore six questions and then share information and insights gained from your own immigrant roots. It will be helpful to have a map of the world for participants to name and point out places that relate to their immigrant roots. The following activity has six questions.

• For more information about the Immigrant Roots Awareness Exercises, please contact its author, Rev. Mark McGregor, S.J. at Gonzaga University: (509) 313-3681 or [mcgregor2@gonzaga.edu](mailto:mcgregor2@gonzaga.edu)

- Who in your family immigrated to the USA?
- From which country/countries did you or your ancestors emigrate?
- When did you/your ancestors immigrate to the USA?
- What do you know about the journey or your family's integration into society?
- Why did you/your ancestors immigrate to the USA?
- Who and/or what helped you/your ancestors to integrate into life in the USA?

When you gather to discuss these questions, divide into small groups and provide a copy of a world map to each group. Have small group discuss their immigrant roots before as a lead-in to a larger conversation about immigration.

### **Posada: Preparatory Questions**

Before viewing *Posada* it might be beneficial to raise some preparatory questions about geography, immigration, the ritual processions and Las Posadas and possible faith responses towards newcomers and migrants. *Posada* focuses on the journeys of unaccompanied immigrant children, over ninety percent of whom come to the U.S. from Central America. These countries are: Honduras (30 %); El Salvador (26%); Guatemala, (20%); Mexico (10%); Nicaragua (3%).

- On a map, locate these countries of origins.
- How many miles would one have to travel from each of these countries to reach the U.S.?
- How many borders would a person have to cross from each of these countries in order to reach the U.S.



*Posada* explores the experience of immigration through the lens of Las Posadas.

- If you have ever celebrated Las Posadas, what do you remember about them?
- With whom, where, and how did you celebrate?
- Were there some religious or social traditions that were special?
- Have you participated in other Advent rituals or celebrations besides Las Posadas? If so, talk about these rituals or celebrations.

Las Posadas is a procession that is part of the Christian faith.

- Talk about the faith and responding to newcomers. What faith-based values, concepts or sources of belief form the basis for how you respond to migrants and refugees?

*Posada* is about immigrants who come to a land of immigrants. Immigration can be better understood when one knows about subjects related to immigration. A few worth naming include: social systems, economics, politics, law, international relations and history. There are also personal or family stories that help us to listen and understand the reality of migration. What subjects do you know about that help you to understand the situation of immigrants?

### **Posada: Discussion Questions**

The following bank of 20 questions are meant for discussion after *Posada* has been viewed.

1. Do you recall from which countries Densi, Johny and Wilber emigrated?  
What do you remember about each of their circumstances?
2. Nearly 80% of unaccompanied immigrant children who come to the U.S. are boys and 20% are girls. How might a girl's experience of making this journey be distinct from a boy's journey?
3. About 80% of unaccompanied immigrant children come from Central America.  
Can you identify common factors/circumstance that influence people to emigrate?
4. Do you know someone who emigrated from Central America or elsewhere in the Americas and why they left their homeland(s)?
5. What sort of challenges or rejections did Densi, Johny and Wilber experience?
6. Compare their challenges and rejections to that of other immigrants. How are their experiences similar or different to other immigrants'?
7. Who do you see knocking on society's door, asking for *posada*?
8. What do you remember about Amalia Molina's story? How did she come to know Densi, Johny and Wilber?
9. How do you find hope and perseverance? Who are advocates, guardian angels and sources of hope for you?

10. What were some of the challenges and obstacles that Densi, Johny and Wilber faced with respect to their being integrated into society?
11. How were the rejections experienced by the immigrant youth in *Posada* similar to the rejections faced by Joseph and Mary in Las Posadas?
12. With respect to integrating into life in America name some of the hardships that immigrants face.
13. How does the reception at the third house of Las Posadas differ from the receptions at the first two houses?
14. Who are the angels who accompany/help Densi, Johny and Wilber? What sort of assistance do they provide?
15. Who are people/organizations in your community that provide welcome to or that help integrate immigrants or newcomers?
16. Recall Rigo's story: born in Mexico, he grew up in the U.S. & was deported to Mexico. What unresolved question does he have at the end of *Posada*? What questions does his situation raise about immigrant children who are brought to the U.S. by their family?
17. Which scenes of *Posada* stood out for you as memorable? Describe what was said or done that made you take notice. Did these involve Densi, Johny, Wilber, Amalia or Rigo?
18. Were there other persons in *Posada* whose stories made you think more about immigration?
19. What questions about the U.S. immigration system were raised in watching *Posada*? What values and practices would you want to as the basis for the U.S. immigration system?
20. What sort of further questions have been raised for you after seeing *Posada*?

## ***Posada*: Taking the Next Step**

After watching *Posada*, you may want to take further steps to increase your awareness of immigration. Here are some proposed steps. Check one, or the ones that apply to you.

- Learn more about my own immigrant roots
- Talk to my parents, grandparents, and other family about our family's history
- Talk to my friends about immigration
- Discover what immigration work is being done in my community
- Find out who is doing this immigration work in my community
- Look into recognizing community members who help immigrants/giving an Angels Award to a member of my community
- Pray for immigrants
- Show Posada at my school/parish/home
- Facilitate a discussion group about immigrant roots (like the one on the back of this page)
- Keep up-to-date on immigration legislation
- Contact my local and national government representatives to advocate for comprehensive and fair immigration reform
- Share what I've learned at this teach-in with my friends, family, and classmates by doing a presentation, such as a panel discussion
- Get to know people living in my area who have recently immigrated
- Teach English to non-English speakers
- Learn a language that is not my native language
- Celebrate Las Posadas at a local parish or in my region
- Other