

# A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION



*Rebeka Baranyibikiye (right) and her family*



*Melanie Nsabimana and Simeon Banyankiyubusa*

Three Burundian adults have recently become US citizens. Rebeka Baranyibikiye, Simeon Banyankiyubusa and his wife Melanie Nsabimana who were naturalized this spring join some seven other adult parishioners who have made the United States their home country.

When an adult becomes a citizen so do their children under 18 who were born in another country so we have many more new citizens than just the grown-ups. Several more are close to taking their citizenship tests and learning English is a big step in the process, It's hard work but both they and their ESL teachers are determined and all celebrate when they have achieved their goal.

Though they are proud to be US citizens, the refugees never forget their home country which is now experiencing violence and political turmoil. They worry about family members still there and pray for peace. Cell phones and email help keep them connected. They make sure their children know their relatives in Africa and try to pass the values and traditions of their homeland.

Congratulations!

*- Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate*

Photos provided by Sr. Mary Duddey and Angela Anno