



We are called to be the Light of Christ in the World.

Immigration

Words of Justice

The news is filled with stories about Immigration, refugees, deportation, DACA (Dreamers). This has prompted a group of parishioners to look beyond the politics to get at what our Catholic faith asks of us in regard to “welcoming the stranger.” We thought it was a good time to highlight the subject of Immigration in order to engage the parish more fully.

“Every migrant is a human person who, as such, possesses fundamental, inalienable rights that must be respected by everyone and in every circumstance.”

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), 2009

“Every human being is a child of God. He or she bears the image of Christ! We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are our brother and sister to be welcomed, respected and loved.”

—Pope Francis, 2014 Message from the World Day of Migrants & Refugees

“Recommit as a church to work so that every person’s dignity is respected, the immigrant is welcomed as a brother or sister and all humanity forms a united family which knows how to appreciate with discernment the different cultures which comprise it. We call upon all people of good will, but Catholics especially to welcome the newcomers in their neighborhoods and school, in their places of work and worship, with heart-felt hospitality, openness and eagerness.

“Welcoming the Stranger Among Us, Unity in Diversity” NCCB, 2001

Migration

Another aspect of integral human development that is worthy of attention is the phenomenon of migration. This is a striking phenomenon because of the sheer numbers of people involved, the social, economic, political, culture and religious problems it raises, and dramatic challenges it poses to nations and the international community. We can say that we are facing a social phenomenon of epoch-making proportions that requires bold, forward-looking policies of international cooperation if it is to be handled effectively.

—Pope Benedict XVI, 2009, “*Caritas in Veritate*” (“Charity in Truth”)



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Currently, there are 65 million displaced people and 22 million refugees worldwide. The Administration and Congress proposed to only admit up to 45,000 refugees to the U.S. in fiscal year 2018. Bishop Vasquez of Austin, TX reaction: "We are disturbed and deeply disappointed by the ... number ... these people are at-risk..."

From the USCCB News Release, September 17, 2017

"Pope Francis exhorted us to 'reach out, open your arms to migrants and refugees, share the journey'....This is a moment of opportunity to restore America's historic leadership as a refuge for those fleeing persecution....

We can and must do better."

—Bishop Vasquez, USCCB Sept 29, 2017

"It is often true that undocumented workers may break immigration laws to come to the United States. We wish to emphasize that a concern for upholding the law supports the common good. But it is also true that laws that undermine human dignity, separate families, and which prevent the exercise of basic human rights are unjust laws in need of reform."

From "unlocking the Gates in our Hearts, Catholic Bishops of Minnesota, 2012.

"Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus were also immigrants in a foreign land when they fled from King Herod...When we warmly welcome newcomers we open our hearts wider to Christ."

From a statement by Bishop Eusebio Elizondo on behalf of the USCCB, Oct. 25, 2016

"Inspire us, as nation, communities and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters. May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognize that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home.

Pope Francis, Greece, April 16, 2106