



Lumen Christi Catholic Community is called to be the light of Christ in the world. We seek to shine this light on everyone we encounter—within and outside our parish community--regardless of race, creed, language, economic status, and immigration status. Indeed, we recognize that in welcoming the “stranger” among us we have Christ’s light shone back on us, for in these interactions we most closely encounter Christ himself.

We affirm that practicing Christian hospitality means extending welcome to our immigrant neighbors, the literal strangers among us. We see the face of Jesus in all faces and thus affirm our Christian duty to recognize the God-given dignity of our immigrant neighbors at a time when their safety and well-being is being challenged daily in the United States.

We call for our country’s immigration principles to be based on human dignity and the common good of society. We work to live the commitments outlined by the US Council of Catholic Bishops (in *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity*, 2000):

- To commit ourselves to continue the work of advocacy for laws that respect the human rights of immigrants and preserve the unity of the immigrant family.
- To encourage the extension of social services, citizenship classes, community organizing efforts that secure improved housing conditions, decent wages, better medical attention, and appropriate educational opportunities for immigrants and refugees.
- To advocate reform of immigration laws that have undermined some basic human rights for immigrants.
- To join with others of good will in a call for legalization opportunities for the maximum number of undocumented persons, particularly those who have built equities and otherwise contributed to their communities.

We encourage engagement with immigrants in our local community to seek to learn, join in solidarity, honor human dignity, and protect families.

In support of these commitments, Lumen Christi Catholic Community has taken the following initiatives and will continue in our efforts to welcome the strangers among us:

- Formed an immigration working group charged with evaluating and refining our parish response to how we welcome the stranger.
- Hosted a Room for Discussion in early 2018 to encourage community conversation around ways we have been affected by the immigration experience, what light church social teaching and tradition sheds on the issues of immigration, and how we're called to respond as a community of faith.
- Sponsored an ongoing education and communication effort dedicated to opening eyes and hearts—educating community members on the struggles and fears of immigrant families as well as the Gospel and Catholic leadership's call to respond.
- With the support of our Archdiocese and the urging of the Council of Catholic Bishops, Fr. Paul sent a parish-wide mailing requesting parishioners to advocate for Dreamers, and we sponsored a postcard campaign to challenge our legislators.
- Working to strengthen our partnership with Neighborhood House which primarily serves our immigrant neighbors.
- Better defined our emergency response program and equipped parish and school point persons with the training and resources to be able to meet a request for need with the message, "You are not alone. This community stands with you and your family."

While these actions form part of a response that will embody Christ's light in the world, it is only in our ongoing efforts to seek out "encounter with the living Jesus" in our daily lives will we walk the path to "conversion, communion, and solidarity" that Pope John Paul II called us toward in his *Ecclesia in America*, and build the kingdom of heaven that Jesus spoke about so often.