
A Catholic Approach

to

Immigration Issues

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- Show two segments of “Dying to Live- A migrant’s journey” from Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture at the University of Notre Dame.

- Face of the Migrant – 6 min.

- Push, Pull, Politics – 5 min.

U.S. Immigration History

- 1790 - First Naturalization Law “white persons of good moral character.” 2 yrs res.
- 1800 – 1850’s - 1M+ Germans, famine and political unrest. 1.8 M Irish, famine of '45-52.
- 1865 – 14TH Amendment – children born in U.S. are Citizens.
- 1870 – African Americans included in Naturalization Law.
- 1870s – Large influx of Chinese contract workers (rails, agriculture, gold rush)
Also about 1 M French – Canadians. Fruit growing taking off in California – Mexican contract labor.

Immigration History - page 2

- 1880's - Immigration increasing rapidly as U.S. expanded, manufacturing started.
1880 – 1920 = “Great Wave” 24 Mil. Immigrants.
(1910 – 1920 = 2 M Italians.)
 - 1882 - Chinese Exclusion Act. Shut down Chinese immigration for 10 years (renewed repeatedly till 1943). “Yellow Peril”
 - 1891 – Immigration Service established.
 - 1892 – Ellis Island (closed in 1954)
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Immigration History – page 3

- 1901 – Pres. McKinley assassinated – Anarchist Exclusion Act.
 - 1907 – U.S./Japan “Gentleman’s Agreement” Japan stopped passports to U.S. (but sent males to Hawaii where they could then hop over to Calif.)
 - After WWI – concern over large influx of So. And Eastern European immigrants.
 - 1921 – Emergency Quota Act – Set national origin quotas based on 1910 census (favored No. Europe)
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Immigration History – page 4

- 1924 – Immigration Act of 1924 – rolled basis for origin (country) quotas back to 1890 (cutting back more on all but British, German, Irish). Also created U.S. Border Patrol.
 - 20's – 30's Immigration declined significantly. Depression. Roosevelt curtailed quotas in 1932. 1931-40 average 53,000/yr.
 - 1942 - Bracero Program. Guest Worker Program with Mexico. Replaced farmer workers who were drafted. 4 Mil Mexican Workers sponsored in 22 years (ended in 1964). Mostly Calif. And Fla.
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Immigration History – page 5

- 1952 – Immigration and Nationality Act of 52: Recodified and combined previous immig. Laws. Set new quotas based on 1920 census. Dropped racial distinctions.
 - 1954 – Eisenhower cracked down on illegal Mexican immigration. Cut down 95% from 1M/year.
 - 1965 – Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments of '65: Abolished national origin quotas. Introduced family preferences (chain immigration). Objective to reunite families and attract targeted skilled workers. Resulted in huge increase in immigration (both legal and illegal).
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Immigration History – page 6

- 1980 - Refugee Act – 1st U.S. policy on admission of refugees.
 - 1986 – Immigration Reform and Control Act of '86. Amnesty mixed with enforcement. Legal status to 3M. (still working on 15,000+ cases in 2007). Crack down on hiring and harboring illegal immigrants (poorly funded).
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Immigration History – page 7

- 1990 – Immigration Act – expanded 1965 act. Increased immigration limit to 700,000 and visas by 40%. Introduced Diversity visa and investor visas. Formed Commission on Immigration Reform headed by Barbra Jordan. Commission ran from '90-'97. Made 4 recommendations for new policies. Few acted on.
 - 1996 – Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Act: Toughened up enforcement. More Border P. More agents. Tougher penalties. Fence San Diego. Automated employment verification.
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Immigration History – page 8

- 1990's - a series of mini-amnesties:
 - '94 Pardoned 578,000 – renewed in '97 & 00.
 - '97 NACARA – made 1M legal from Central Amer.
 - '98 HRIFA – made 125,000 Haitians legal.
 - 2000 – LIFE – made 900,000 legal.
 - Sept. 11, 2001 – Terrorists Attacks. Caused hard look at holes in immigration system. USA Patriot Act passed to provide new ways to intercept terrorists. (slowed down all applications for legal entry).
 - 2003 - INS becomes part of Homeland Security changes to USCIS. (citizenship and immigration)
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Immigration History – page 9

- 2005 – U.S. House passed bill focusing on enforcement. Not passed in Senate.
 - 2006 – U.S. Senate (Spector) passed bill providing amnesty to most illegal immigrants and increased legal immigration. Not passed in House.
 - 2007 – U.S. Senate (McCain) considered “Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007” would have provided amnesty and increased legal immigration and enforcement. No public support.
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General Observations on U.S. Immigration Policy

- Largely driven by economic needs.
 - Have always accommodated a supply of low cost labor willing to work under poor conditions.
 - Has been somewhat inconsistent since WWII
 - Crack downs mixed with amnesty.
 - Laws not enforced vigorously (not funded).
 - Message: “Don’t cross, but if you do we’ll hire”
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Current Predicament

- Has become a major national issue of contention in last 10-12 years.
 - ❑ Terrorism
 - ❑ Cost of absorbing relatively poor people into U.S. Costs of Education, Medical care.
 - ❑ Crime and Drug flow across U.S. – Mexican border.
 - ❑ Economic downturn. Scarcity of jobs.
 - ❑ Issues of Justice. Unfair to rule followers.
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Current Predicament - 2

- General Recognition that Reform is needed.
 - Frustration with lack of action by U.S. Congress/President.
 - States taking independent action.
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Current Predicament - 3

- Arizona SB 1070 passed April 23, 2010 effective July 29, 2010
 - Makes it a state crime to break Federal Immigration law.
 - Local and State law enforcement must ask for proof of legal presence if being stopped for some legal reason.
 - Immigrants must carry proof of legality.
 - Unlawful to transport, harbor, encourage illegals.
 - Unlawful to Pickup or be pickuiped for day work.
 - Unlawful to apply for work if illegal.
 - Citizens can sue police if they don't enforce the law.
 - Turns illegals over to ICE for deportation.
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Current Predicament - 4

- June 21, Town of Fremont, Neb. Voted to ban illegal immigrants from working or living in city (25,000 – about same size as Anderson)
 - June 15, Anderson County Council passes resolution asking state to do more to stop illegal immigration.
 - May 20 bill hotly debated in S.C. State Legislature which would copy Arizona law. Will come up next year.
 - Mid June, AZ state legislator sponsors bill rescinding 14th Amendment for illegal immigrant children.
 - July 1, provisions applying to all employers in S.C. with fines and license revocations for hiring illegal immigrants take effect. (law passed in 2008).
 - Two bills in S.C. Legislature (Sen. 1446 and House 4919) would make S.C. law officers check immigration status on person stopped, arrested or detained. One would make it unlawful for illegal immigrant to solicit work.
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- Break - Refreshments

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- Show one segment of “Dying to Live- A migrant’s journey” from Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture at the University of Notre Dame.
 - The Border and Beyond – 8 min.
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Where Are We?

- Millions of people in other countries are desperate enough to risk their lives to get into U.S.
 - 12-13 Million undocumented (illegal) immigrants currently in the U. S.
 - More heavy-handed approach to enforcement:
 - Raids: Greenville, S.C. Oct. '08 Postville, Iowa – U.S. Supreme Court – May, '09 ruling.
 - More local law enforcement involvement.
 - Crack downs on employers and undocumented.
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What to do ?

Hard line approach:

- "...deporting aliens is as easy as one, two, three. The next time you hear [U.S. President] George W. Bush or [U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security] Michael Chertoff say how impossible immigration enforcement is, remember this simple formula: one, go to where you know aliens are; two, arrest them; three, deport them. Don't bother asking where aliens hang out. The better question is where aren't they hanging out. Go to a bus stop, a taco truck, a convenience store, the post office or an auto repair shop. No need to round them all up at once. Just arrest one or two every day at different locations around town and the message will soon get out."

Joe Guzzardi

English teacher at Lodi Adult School in California

"Deportation: As Easy As One, Two, Three," VDare.com

Aug. 19, 2007

List of Problems Caused by Illegal Immigration according to www.endillegalimmigration.com

- **Anti-American Attitudes**
- **Anti-Semitic Attitudes**
- **Attacks on Border Patrol and Law Enforcement agents**
- **Attacks on Free Speech in America**
- **Animal Abuse Increases**
- **Census Numbers: Negative Impact on Congressional Representation**
- **Child Molestation**
- **Closed and Overcrowded Hospitals and Emergency Rooms**
- **Cost of Translators**
- **Day Laborers loitering and creating public hazards**
- **Depreciated Wages for Americans and Legal Immigrants**
- **Deterioration of Common American Culture**
- **Disrespect for American Laws**
- **Document Fraud**
- **Drunk driving injuries and deaths: Hit and Runs**
- **Ethnic Cleansing and Race Riots**
- **Farm animals with in city limits**
- **Food Poisoning**
- **Gangs, Graffiti, Drugs, Cartels, Smugglers, and Violence**
- **Gang Rape and unreported rapes**
- **High Birth Rates and Overpopulation**
- **Human Sex Slavery**
- **Identity Theft**
- **Increased Crime**
- **Increased Taxes for Americans**

List of problems (continued)

- Increased pressures on infrastructure (roads, traffic, water, sewer)
- Infectious Diseases
- Lost American Jobs
- Lost American Sovereignty
- Lost Self Governance of American citizens Vs. Globalism and Elitism
- Male Chauvinism: Gender inequality
- Not Speaking English, loss of common language, Press 1 for English
- Overcrowded Schools and Negative Impact on American Education
- Overcrowded single family homes
- Overcrowded Jails and Prisons
- Public Sanitation Loss: Trash and human waste in towns
- Racist Groups and Race Based Politics
- Remittances: Billions of dollars sent out of the US Economy
- Rule of Law: Fundamental principles of America sacrificed.
- Separatist Movements: Demands for autonomy
- Smear Campaigns and Lies: Dirty Politics
- Stolen American Taxpayer Resources: Tuition, Welfare, Licenses
- Taking limited seats in colleges at taxpayer expense
- Tax payer funds going to special interest groups (example) "LaRaza"
- Terrorism Threats and Loss of national security
- Trash and Negative Impact on Environment at border
- Unfair to Legal Immigrants
- Unfair Business Competition for law abiding companies
- Unlicensed and Uninsured Motorists
- Untaxed Wages
- Voter Fraud

Core Arguments Against Those Coming into or Staying in U. S. Without Proper Authority

- Take jobs away from U.S. Citizens.
- Create demands on scarce resources (schools, medical, welfare) without paying taxes.
- Represent threats to Security. Bring drugs, kidnappings, violence.
- Undermine the rule of law. Is unfair to those who comply with the law.

- *“We should honor every legal immigrant here, working hard to become a new citizen. But we are also a nation of laws.”*
President Bill Clinton, State of the Union Address, January 23, 1996

Takes Jobs Away from U.S. Citizens

- True at sovereign level.
 - Church looks at global level.
 - Desperate people around the world work for low wages under poor conditions.
 - Industrialized nations seek out these people to keep the cost of goods low.
 - We are walking around Walmart wearing clothes that were made by desperate people working for low wages under poor conditions; and buying goods made by desperate people working for low wages under poor conditions; and all the time grumbling about desperate people risking their lives to come to the U.S. to work for low wages under poor conditions.

 - Are we really outraged about desperate people working for low wages under poor conditions and taking U.S. jobs ? Or are we just outraged if they come and do it here ??
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Takes Jobs Away from U.S. Citizens

- Did NAFTA take jobs away from Mexicans?
 - Big agricultural businesses (Archer Daniel Midlands) can produce corn at 1/10 the cost of a small So. Mexico farmer. That drove 100,000s out of work.
 - Big winner in retail: Walmart. Did the same thing it does in the U.S. Went in drove out or bought up local mom and pop stores. Left them unemployed.
 - Loans to Mexico in 80s by IMF and World Bank (U.S. dominated) absorbed huge amounts of Mexico's national budget as interest payments making it unavailable for social programs.
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Puts strains on our resources without paying taxes.

- Poor people do put a strain on resources. This is just as true if they are Mayflower Americans or undocumented.
 - Illegal immigrants are not eligible for FI benefits (welfare), food stamps, section 8 housing. U.S. born children of undocumented immigrants are U.S. citizens and are eligible for food stamps and AFDC.
 - Yes, there is fraud. That is a function of how well the government employees do at detection. Citizens and non-citizens commit fraud. Not a new thing.
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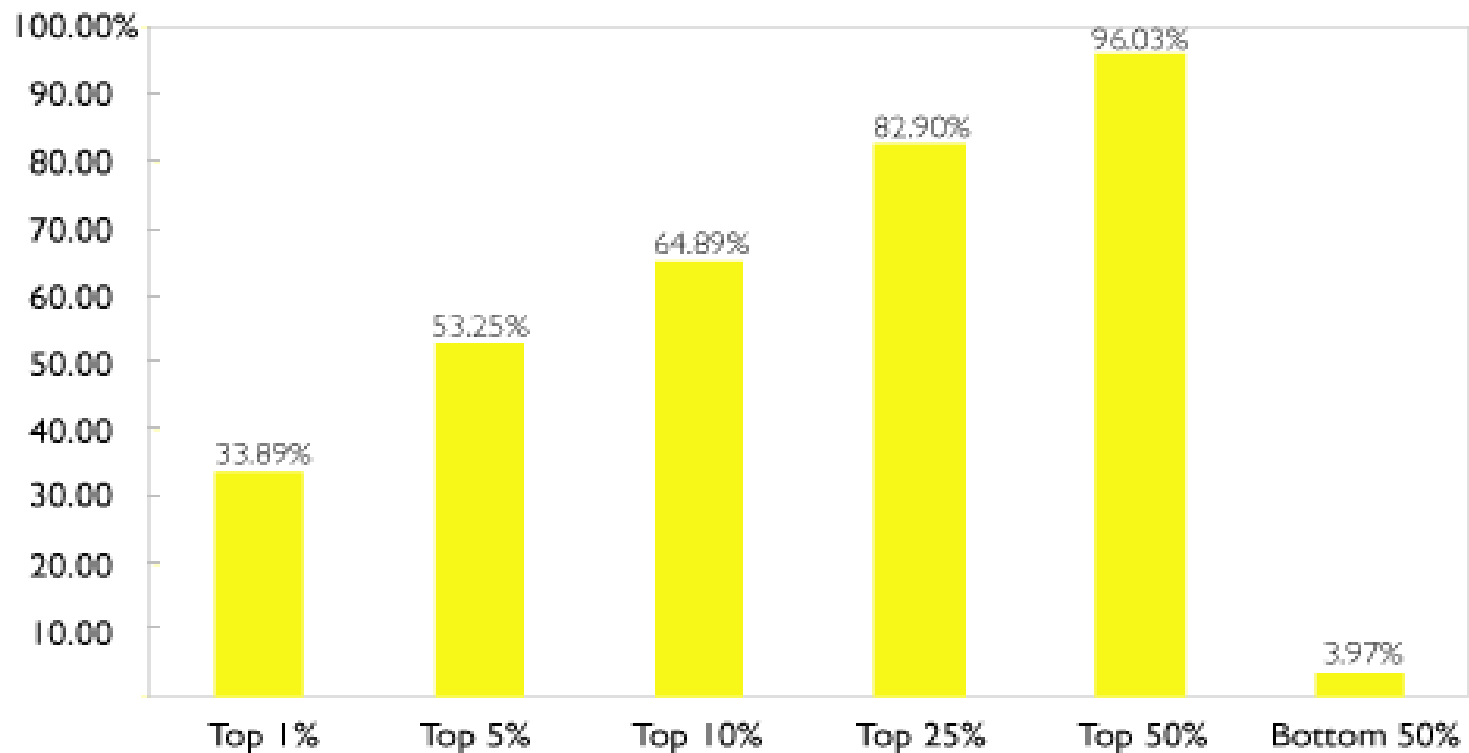
Puts strains on resources without paying taxes. - 2

- How do undocumented immigrants buy gas without paying gas taxes ?
 - How do undocumented immigrants buy goods and food without paying sales taxes ?
 - How do they rent, or own a home without paying property taxes? (which generally supports schools – except currently in S.C.)
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Puts strains on our resources without paying taxes. - 3

- If undocumented get a job they show a social security card. If it is bogus the money is still withheld and sent to the SS pot, but they can never claim it.
 - Income Taxes: Poor people in the U.S. do not pay income taxes. 47% percent of all U.S. wage earners pay NO income taxes.
 - If you are going to be outraged about people not paying income taxes you have to spread that rage to EVERYONE making below \$32,890 AGI today.
 - The immigrants did not set that up. We did.
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Federal Individual Income Tax Burden in 2001 (Shares of Personal Income Tax Payments by Percentile Groups)



Source: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division.

Who Pays Income Taxes? See Who Pays What For Tax Year 2007

Percentiles Ranked by AGI	AGI Threshold on Percentiles	Percentage of Federal Personal Income Tax Paid
Top 1%	\$410,096	40.42
Top 5%	\$160,041	60.63
Top 10%	\$113,018	71.22
Top 25%	\$66,532	86.59
Top 50%	\$32,879	97.11
Bottom 50%	<\$32,879	2.89

Note: AGI is Adjusted Gross Income
Source: Internal Revenue Service

Represents threats to security. Brings crime, drugs.

- 19 of the 21 World Trade terrorists were legal.
 - Umar Farouk – the underwear bomber of last Christmas had a multiple entry visa.
 - Faisal Shahjad – Times Square bomber had just become a U.S. citizen.
 - Nidal Hasan – Ft. Hood shootings was an American born citizen.
 - Terrorist are well funded – they can get, or make, papers. So far they haven't even had to go to the trouble of forgery.
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Represents threats to security. Brings crime, drugs. - 2

- Yes, drug related violence and ransom kidnappings are related to the flow of drugs across the border. This is a very real problem for border states like Texas, Arizona, Calif., and N.M.
 - All immigrants are not druggies. Most of the 13 M illegals in the U.S. do not want their kids exposed to drugs anymore than any U.S. citizen does.
 - It is a blatantly unfair to paint all immigrants with the same brush. They are not “all the same.”
(where have we heard that before ??)
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Represents threats to security. Brings crime, drugs. - 3

- There are over 7000 gun shops on the U.S. side in border states along the border.
 - There are about 1500 gun shops in Houston, Tex. alone.
 - Is the U.S. cracking down on the “ant trails” (smuggling of two or three guns per day across) or “shadow sales” legal buying guns in the U.S. for criminals and felons ?
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Undermine the rule of law.

- One of the most appealing arguments.
 - We are a country of laws. We value fairness.
 - The church says some laws are unjust and can be changed. There is quite some precedence for that in our nation.
 - The church says laws that keep desperate people from seeking survival for their family are unjust and should be changed.
 - But – “my grandfather did it the right way thru Ellis Island !! It’s not fair!” Those were far different circumstances. Everyone’s grandfather was better off before 9/11.
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- The interior of the Statue of Liberty pedestal contains a bronze plaque inscribed with the sonnet "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus. It has never been engraved on the exterior of the pedestal, despite such depictions in editorial cartoons.

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Catholic Church's Position

- “The local people, moreover, especially public authorities, should all treat {immigrants} not as mere tools of production but as persons, and must help them to arrange for their families to live with them and to provide themselves with decent living quarters.”

(Second Vatican Council – Dec. 7, 1965)

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- “This atmosphere of welcoming is increasingly necessary in confronting today’s diverse forms of distancing ourselves from others. This is profoundly evidenced in the problem of millions of refugees and exiles, in the phenomenon of racial intolerance as well as intolerance toward the person whose only “fault” is a search for work and better living conditions outside his own country, and in the fear of all who are different and thus seen as a threat.”

Pope John Paul II (Feb. 26, 1998)

Catholic Church's Position

- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops – Migration and Refugee Services:

www.usccb.org/mrs/stranger.shtml

- Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform:

www.justiceforimmigrants.org

“Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope”

A Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States. Delivered on the fourth anniversary of Ecclesia in America, January 22, 2003, in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., and Mexico City, Mexico.

available online at:

www.usccb/mrs/stranger.shtml

From “Strangers No-Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope.” Joint Pastoral Letter of U.S. and Mex. Bishops

- “In the Church no one is a stranger, and the Church is not foreign to anyone, anywhere. As a sacrament of unity and thus a sign and a binding force for the whole human race, the Church is the place where illegal immigrants are also recognized and accepted as brothers and sisters. It is the task of the various Dioceses actively to ensure that these people, who are obliged to live outside the safety net of civil society, may find a sense of brotherhood in the Christian community. Solidarity means taking responsibility for those in trouble.
 - The Church must, therefore, welcome all persons regardless of race, culture, language, and nation with joy, charity, and hope. It must do so with special care for those who find themselves—regardless of motive—in situations of poverty, marginalization, and exclusion.”
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Strangers No Longer - page 1

- After an Introduction in which the Bishops explain that they are speaking; “as two episcopal conferences but as one Church, united in the view that migration between our two nations is necessary and beneficial. At the same time, some aspects of the migrant experience are far from the vision of the Kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed: many persons who seek to migrate are suffering, and, in some cases, tragically dying; human rights are abused; families are kept apart; and racist and xenophobic attitudes remain.”
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Strangers No Longer – page 2

- They also state that their purpose is no less than to: “seek to awaken our peoples to the mysterious presence of the crucified and risen Lord in the person of the migrant and to renew in them the values of the Kingdom of God that he proclaimed.”
 - In the first two chapters of the statement the Bishops explore biblical history and Catholic social teaching informed by the teachings of Jesus and the scriptures.
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Strangers No Longer – page 3

- The Bishops put forth the following five principles which they see as emerging from Church teachings and which guide the Church's view on migration issues:
 - Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland.
 - Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families.
 - Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders. (but that right may not be used “merely for the purpose of acquiring additional wealth.”)
 - Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.
 - The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected.
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Bishops Recommendations – page 1

The Bishops make the following recommendations to leaders of both nations:

- Economic inequalities between the U.S. and Mexico (and other nations) must be adjusted. This should be a long term goal. (NAFTA hurt more than helped).
 - Mexico needs to create living wage jobs.
 - Joint border development projects should be created (U.S./Mex and Mex/Guatamala).
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Bishops Recommendations – contin'd

- The Immigration Systems of both countries (U.S. and Mex.) need reforms:
 - Loosen the caps on family visas to eliminate current indefinite separations.
 - Mexico stop denying Mexican citizenship to children of immigrants born there.
 - Grant broad legalization of undocumented immigrants in U.S.
 - Expand permanent work visas.
 - Improve worker protections of temporary worker visas. (better wages, family unity, balance with U.S. workers in pay, a path to permanent residency).
 - The U.S. should sign the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
 - Must curtail the use of excessive force (shackling hands and feet) and other abuse.
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Immigration Reforms - continued

- ❑ Provide appropriate handling of minors rights and physical care.
 - ❑ Mexico must stop abuses of human rights (corruption).
 - ❑ Mexico needs to clarify immigration policies.
 - ❑ Urges both Mex. and U. S. to abandon strategies that increase migrant deaths and smuggling operations.
 - ❑ Both countries must halt human trafficking.
 - ❑ U.S. should review the 1996 Immigration Act regarding due process rights.
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Catholic Church's Position - Summary

- It is an issue of Justice, Compassion & Charity – not of law. Laws can be unjust. Laws in the U.S. can be changed, and have been repeatedly regarding immigration.
 - All people deserve to be treated with dignity, tolerance and fairness, regardless of race, creed, or economic circumstances. No one should be exploited.
 - Preservation of the integrity of families is crucial.
 - We have an obligation to help the poor. This does not stop at the county line.
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(The Last Judgment. Matthew 25: 44-46)

“ Then they in turn will ask: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or away from home or naked or ill or in prison and not attend you in your needs?’ He will answer them: ‘I assure you, as often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to me.’ These will go off to eternal punishment and the just to eternal life.”

Jesus Christ (33 AD).

Questions - Discussion

