

The USA Catholic church's involvement – or better – SOLIDARITY with our sisters and brothers who are immigrants to our country – and this diocese, especially, goes back over a century and a half.

To learn about this personal/political issue, please review (and share) the following: several very important and useful websites from our USA Bishops and many and varied articles about recent events.

Our USA Bishops' website is filled with resources. Here are a few links to its webpages:

The main page on Immigration: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/index.cfm>

Some very relevant webpages for our parishes:

PARISH ACTIVITIES TO HELP IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND PEOPLE ON THE MOVE
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/migrants-refugees-and-travelers/parish-activities-immigration.cfm>

Faithful citizens who wish to become advocates, click here:

http://capwiz.com/justiceforimmigrants/mlm/signup/?ignore_cookie=1

Another important and well-developed website with many and varied resources:

<http://justiceforimmigrants.org/> About Justice for Immigrants:

In January 2003, the bishops of the United States and Mexico issued a joint pastoral letter, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, (“Strangers No Longer”) that presented a Catholic framework for responding to the ongoing migration in their respective countries. Strangers No Longer offered pastoral guidance to Catholics who encounter and engage migrants, including undocumented immigrants, migrant children, and refugees, who are living and working in their communities. The letter also suggested systematic reforms to U.S. migration policy and presented an alternative to the existing immigration paradigm.

In 2004, the Catholic bishops of the United States committed to immigration reform as a priority of the U.S. Catholic Church, and to creating a culture of welcome in which all migrants are treated with respect and dignity. A diverse group of Catholic organizations with national networks joined the U.S. Catholic bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign (JFI) in an effort to unite and mobilize a growing network of Catholic institutions, individuals, and other persons of goodwill in support of immigration reform.

The JFI campaign's primary objectives are:

- To educate the public, especially the Catholic community, about Church teaching on migration and immigrants;
- To create political will for just and humane immigration reform; and
- Advocate for just and fair reforms in U.S. immigration and refugee laws and policies that reflect the principles enunciated by the bishops.

12+ articles on recent IMMIGRATION and Refugee Ban legislation.

Bishop James Conley of Lincoln joined other bishops in their criticism of the order, saying it would do “very little to resolve the immigration problems in our country.” “Nor will it meaningfully impact the security of our nation, or the safety of our citizens,” he said. Read entire article here:

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/bishop-conley-mass-deportations-will-not-fix-our-immigration-system-57453/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email

New immigration rules will hurt the vulnerable, US bishops warn

“During this unsettling time, we will redouble our work to accompany and protect our immigrant brothers and sisters and recognize their contributions and inherent dignity as children of God,” he said. Read entire article here: http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/new-immigration-rules-will-hurt-the-vulnerable-us-bishops-warn-32650/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/new-immigration-rules-will-hurt-the-vulnerable-us-bishops-warn-32650/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email

Hundreds come together to show support for refugees in Scranton

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/hundreds-come-together-to-show-support-for-refugees-in-scranton-1.2156851>

"I hope all those people who want immigrants, take them in themselves. When we run out of welfare and dip more into Social Security what will we all do then?" This is from a Facebook post by a Catholic friend; it sums up what I suspect many people, some Trump supporters, believe about refugees and immigrants. It is one of several false narratives circulating about the hardworking, often highly educated people who were forced to flee persecution or death in their native lands.

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/simple-spirit/i-was-stranger-and-you-welcomed-me>

Statement by The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of

Scranton, Regarding Executive Order On Refugees And Migrants

<http://www.publicnow.com/view/6C2CB3108FB64B9761BE1225D074C7FA7FBBD245?2017-01-30-03%3A00%3A31%2000%3A00-xxx1942>

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Life is hard enough when you don't know if you'll be able to feed your children tomorrow. Or where you'll be living next month. And now millions of Syrian refugees are also facing the hardships of winter in Lebanon, Jordan and beyond. As temperatures drop, refugees in camps or elsewhere on their journeys need warm clothing and secure shelter. And it's not just the plight of Syrian refugees. Winter is a harsh reality for displaced people all over the world. http://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org/poverty-and-migrant-refugees/?utm_source=all-subscribers&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=quarterly-newsletter&utm_src=quarterly-newsletter

The Committee's chairman, Austin, Tex. Bishop Joe Vasquez said in part, "We will continue to engage the new administration, as we have all administrations for the duration of the current refugee program, now almost forty years. We will work vigorously to ensure that refugees are humanely welcomed in collaboration with Catholic Charities without sacrificing our security or our core values as Americans, and to ensure that families may be reunified with their loved ones." <http://nfpc.org/homepage-news/us-bishops-committee-on-migration-cardinal-blase-cupich-denounce-executive-order-on-refugees-and-migrants/>

According to Catholic social teaching, governments exist for the sole reason of attaining the common good, a central principle of the teaching. In doing so, the state must protect the rights and duties of individuals (Pope St. John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*, 53-61). http://m.ncregister.com/daily-news/on-trumps-executive-order-on-refugees-look-to-pope-st-john-xxiii#.WJiB_1UrKM9

Sister Donna Markham OP, Ph.D., president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) expressed profound concern about President Trump's immigration-related executive actions and the potential impact these actions will have on those who are most vulnerable.

http://newsletters.getresponse.com/archive/ncc_newsletter/NCC-Weekly-News-Christian-Unity-and-Immigration-397242605.html?e=&u=xcQv&s=Q7U1mg

Persons First: Refugees, Immigrants and Executive Orders Posted by Archbishop Charles Chaput on Tuesday Jan 31st, 2017 at 8:25 PM

There are few embodiments of the weak more needy or compelling than refugees. <http://m.ncregister.com/blog/archbishopchaput/persons-first-refugees-immigrants-and-executive-orders#.WJSIMIE8KEd>

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As leaders of many faiths gathered for prayer in Washington, D.C. this week, they pledged solidarity with refugees looking to enter the U.S. "While we recognize and while we are very, very aware of the need for security, we also very much recognize that that cannot be at the cost of any type of failure to recognize the needs of people who are being persecuted," Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, D.C. insisted at a Tuesday interfaith gathering, speaking for himself and other Catholic bishops. <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/who-is-our-neighbor-faith-leaders-say-its-refugees-13876/>

Rather than protecting U.S. interests, recent executive orders restricting immigrants and refugees could actually pose a threat to national security, warned a group of Catholic leaders on Wednesday.

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholic-leaders-refugee-ban-actually-harms-national-security-57881/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email

More than **21.3 million refugees today have fled their home countries; more than half are children**. Most are living in camps in countries such as **Kenya, Jordan, and Pakistan**. Many will never return home and are dependent on the compassion of strangers. Some believe that the U.S., with a quota of 110,000 per year, allows too many refugees into the country. Trump has issued an order to cut that number to 50,000 and, over the past weekend, eliminated entrance for many.

http://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201702/when-fear-wins-christianity-loses-30918?utm_source=Long+read+2%2F2%2F17&utm_campaign=Long+read+2%2F2%2F17&utm_medium=email

"Pope Francis calls us to be a people of hope," she said. "And we do know in our work on Capitol Hill that there are many members — both Democratic and Republican — who do understand the value of immigrants in our communities, who do understand we have an obligation to provide shelter for people seeking refuge. But we've got our work cut out for us." - *Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sr.* Sharon Altendorf teaches English as a second language to mostly Mexican students in San Antonio.

<http://globalsistersreport.org/news/migration/new-executive-orders-immigration-policy-have-advocates-dreamers-apprehensive-44666>

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“Christ the Immigrant” a poem by Fr. Larry Dowling:

<http://nfpc.org/homepage-news/christ-the-immigrant-a-poem-composed-by-father-larry-dowling/>

Jesuit Refugee Services, USA

http://jrsusa.org/news_detail?TN=NEWS-20170127033703

t-shirts, signs, etc... via **Ignatian Solidarity Network**

https://ignatiansolidarity.net/stand-with-refugees-and-immigrants-materials/?utm_source=ISN+Updates+List&utm_campaign=43a7542ac6-14.10.15+ISN+Updates&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f721035495-43a7542ac6-255755289