

LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

“Love One Another”

Refugees, Migrants, Immigrants in Our Midst



Throughout the Bible, the message is clear: Welcome strangers and aliens and treat them as your neighbors. In Leviticus 19:34 we read, “The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. In the same way, the writer of Hebrews advises, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

The Holy Family were refugees when they fled to Egypt to escape Herod. Refugees are forced to leave their homes because of war, environmental disasters, or political persecution. The 1951 Refugee Convention of the United Nations is based on the fundamental principle that refugees should not be expelled or returned if their life would be under threat. Present day examples of refugees would be Haitians, Afghanis, Burmese, and many from Central America.

Migrants and immigrants come to a new country for various reasons. Many want to join family members living in the country. Others are economic immigrants hoping for a better life. Some are welcomed into a country as migrants to work in needed labor jobs or are immigrants who take positions in technology, engineering, or medicine. These workers play an important role in the U.S. economy.

Immigrants, migrants, and refugees are in many stories we read in the Bible. The story of God’s chosen people, Israel, is the story of wandering. Joseph is sent into slavery in a strange land (Genesis 37-46), Moses flees to Midian (Exodus 2), Ruth accompanies Naomi (Ruth 2), and Jesus and his disciples travel constantly during their ministry.

The message is clear, but the topic of immigration into the U.S. has become highly politicized, and our policies have not consistently followed the Church’s teaching. Pope Francis calls upon us to join him in our loving support of those who come to us from other countries: “The Bible tells us that God hears the cry of his people, and I wish to join my voice to yours in calling for the three L’s’ for all our brothers and sisters: land, lodging and labor. I said it and I repeat it: These are sacred rights.”



Wisdom from St. Oscar Romero

There are many things that can only be seen through eyes that have cried.



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WATCH



What does the Bible say about refugees, migrants and foreigners? Although a bit dated (made in 2017), this brief video shares important truths we Catholics should ponder.

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READ



Refugee”, “migrant” and “asylum-seeker” are temporary

terms assigned to women, children and men seeking to start over in a new country.

What do these terms mean?

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EXPLORE



Justice For Immigrants is a USCCB-supported

organization committed to immigration reform and a culture of welcome in which all migrants are treated with respect and dignity. **Explore the JFI website.**

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