



Where Justice and Truth Meet

January, 2025

*Rooted in our prayer for the life of the world, and in our care for our common home, we are strengthened by our Associates and partners-in-mission to walk together into a future of authentic intercultural living.
– 2024 General Chapter Statement*

**"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
Matthew 25:35**

Our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters

Our sisters and associates who work with immigrants or immigrant advocacy groups are preparing for the promised disruption in the lives of immigrants and communities. Groups are beginning Know-Your-Rights training for immigrants, including what documents to carry and not to carry. They are also doing training for staff, volunteers, and allies, helping families to formulate safety plans and establish guardianship for children in the case of mass raids. A research team is pausing their project on asylum seekers since there are now concerns about housing the data and the required confidentiality. This organizing and collaborating effort includes some Catholic parishes.

All these efforts are in conjunction with the Gospel mandate to welcome the stranger, the Catholic Church efforts throughout history, and our corporate stance on Migration.



[The November 14, 2024 Press Release from the U. S. Catholic Conference of Bishops](#)

is a statement of solidarity with immigrants. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the USCCB, Bishop Mark J. Seitz,

chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, and Bishop Jaime Soto, chairman of the board for Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., issued this statement of pastoral concern.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Compelled by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and recognizing the inherent dignity of each person as

a child of God, we stand in firm solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters who live and labor in these United States.

From the founding of our nation, immigrants have been essential to this society's growth and prosperity. They come to our shores as strangers, drawn by the promises this land offers, and they become Americans. They continue to provide food security, health services, and many other essential skills that support our prosperous nation.

Our country deserves an immigration system that offers fair and generous pathways to full citizenship for immigrants living and working for many years within our borders.

We need a system that provides permanent relief for childhood arrivals, helps families stay together, and welcomes refugees.

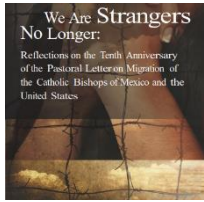
We hope that our country can develop an effective asylum system for those fleeing persecution and an immigration system that keeps our borders safe and secure, with enforcement policies that focus on those who present risks and dangers to society, particularly efforts to reduce gang activity, stem the flow of drugs, and end human trafficking.

The United States should have an immigration system that protects vulnerable migrants and their families, many of whom have already been victimized by criminal actors.

Together, we must speak out on behalf of the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free" and ask our government to provide fair and humane treatment for our beloved immigrant brothers and sisters. It is our hope, and our prayer, that all of us can work together to support a meaningful reform of our current immigration system.

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In 2003, the bishops of the United States and Mexico issued a joint pastoral letter, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*.



The bishops offered pastoral guidance to Catholics who encounter and engage migrants living and working in their communities. The letter also suggested systematic reforms to U.S. immigration policy and presented an alternative to the existing immigration policy paradigm. For a brief overview of the major points presented in the pastoral letter, this [Strangers No Longer summary pamphlet](#) will be of assistance.



The Vatican document officially proclaiming 2025 as a year of Jubilee is titled *Spes Non Confundit* - "Hope does not disappoint." Pope Francis calls us to be tangible signs of hope to specific brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. In one paragraph, he specifically mentions migrants, the exiled, displaced persons and refugees, with a call for "a spirit of welcome...lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future."

Resources: Below are links of Catholic institutions for you to consult on current immigrant matters.

<https://justiceforimmigrants.org/>

JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS In 2004, a diverse group of Catholic organizations joined the U.S. Catholic bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign (JFI) to unite and mobilize in support of immigration reform.

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/migration/migration-and-refugee-services>

USCCB Migration and Refugee Services focuses on policy and advocacy, resettlement services, children and migration, and human trafficking.

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/what-we-do/immigration-services/>

As the domestic charitable arm of the U.S. Catholic Church, Catholic Charities serves our vulnerable sisters and brothers and welcomes the stranger, all within the confines of the law.

<https://www.cliniclegal.org/>

CLINIC In 1987, USCCB established CLINIC, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., to support a growing need for community-based programs dedicated to serving indigent and low-income immigrants.



One of our congregational Corporate Stances** is on migration:

We, the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL, express solidarity with those individuals and families who find it necessary to leave their homes or homeland in order to secure their safety and future. We commit to welcome, support, and protect all migrants: immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons. We commit to assist in their integration. We advocate for policies that protect their human rights, including family unity.

**A corporate stance is a communally agreed upon position on a justice issue authorizing Leadership to speak or act in the name of the entire congregation on behalf of the issue.

Warsan Shire was born in Kenya to Somali parents and lives in London. An excerpt from her poem, [Home](#) reads: ... "You have to understand that no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land..."