Catholic Principles of Migration

From “Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope,” a joint pastoral letter from the Catholic bishops of the United States and Mexico:

- People have the right to live a life befitting human dignity in their home country.
- When there are just reasons, people must be allowed to emigrate to other countries.
- Each country has the right and responsibility to control its borders.
- Migrants who flee wars and persecution have the right to file for refugee status without incarceration.
- The dignity and rights of undocumented migrants must be respected.

U.S. Bishops Urge Congress to Act

For decades, the U.S. bishops have called for lasting solutions to address our broken immigration system. They have lobbied Congress to consider six essential elements for meaningful reform:

- Address the root causes of migration.
- Ensure a pathway to citizenship.
- Ensure humane conditions for migrants and keep families together.
- Provide protections for temporary immigrant workers.
- Restore due process rights protections.
- Limit enforcement interventions to dangerous and criminal people.

Local Response to Immigration Crisis

Washington state’s bishops have called the recent influx of migrants and refugees an international humanitarian crisis. They recognize our responsibility to aid people fleeing danger, who are brothers and sisters in Christ. They urge Congress to take comprehensive action and encourage Catholics to support ongoing efforts that support immigrant families at the border. Learn more: WACatholics.org/immigration-support
How Will YOU Respond?
Here are 4 simple things YOU can do to support your immigrant brothers and sisters

1. Pray

Prayer for Migrants and Refugees

God our refuge, you share the journey with migrants and refugees, lightening their footsteps with hope. For you, Lord, are close to the broken-hearted.

Pour out your Spirit upon world leaders. May they see the tragedies of our human family and be moved to respond with wisdom, compassion and courage.

Open our eyes and hearts to the God-given dignity of all your people. Move us to welcome our neighbors and so bear witness to your love.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

2. Act

- Initiate a parish immigration committee
- Accompany immigrants and refugees to legal appointments
- Become an English language mentor
- Consider a mission trip to the border
- Volunteer for detention ministry, ADNW, or another local immigrant support organization
- Participate in Youth Migrant Project (Burlington) or Agape Service Project (Bellingham)

3. Learn More

Here are a few resources if you’re interested in learning more about immigration

- Visit WACatholics.org to sign up for advocacy alerts from the Washington State Catholic Conference
- Find resources from the Archdiocese of Seattle’s Immigrant & Refugee Ministry at seattlearchdiocese.org/irm
- Read Pope Francis’ message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees

4. Donate

The Archdiocese of Seattle has created an Immigrant Family Support Fund, with 100% of donations going to three Catholic agencies serving immigrant families at the U.S. border (donate at https://bit.ly/2JeGwnP):

- Humanitarian Respite Center, McAllen, Texas, operated by Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley
- Annunciation House, El Paso, Texas
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego