

What is the church's position on immigration?

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/churchteachingonimmigrationreform.cfm>

Catholic Social Teaching

The Catholic Catechism instructs the faithful that good government has **two duties**, both of which must be carried out and neither of which can be ignored. The **first duty is** to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. Persons have the right to immigrate and thus government must accommodate this right to the greatest extent possible, especially financially blessed nations: "The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him." Catholic Catechism, 2241.

The **second duty** is to secure one's border and enforce the law for the sake of the common good. Sovereign nations have the right to enforce their laws and all persons must respect the legitimate exercise of this right: "Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens." Catholic Catechism, 2241.

Our Most Rev. José H. Gomez's Remarks on Immigration Policy to The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado in August 3, 2011.

http://www.la-archdiocese.org/archbishop/Documents/2011-0803_Talk_Knights.pdf"...

The Church's perspective on these issues is rooted in Jesus Christ's teaching that every human person is created in God's image and has God-given dignity and rights. From a Catholic standpoint, America's founders got it exactly right. Human rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are universal and inalienable. They come from God, not governments. And these rights are not contingent on where you are born or what racial or ethnic group you are born into. .."

Comments from Bishops throughout the nation:

<http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/statements.shtml>

How do we teach immigration issues to parishioners?

<http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/index.shtml>

This is a great, informative, and practical site about immigration 101 providing webinars and suggesting taking concrete actions.

<http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/documents/JFI-Parish-Education-Organizing-Manual.pdf>

This site gives an excellent step by step program for parishes to use.

Other suggestions are:

- **Celebrating mass:**

http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/media/Press%20Releases/2013-0906_Immigration_Reform2.pdf

- **Bulletins:**

http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/oljp/OJP_Downloads/Immigration-CIR%20Bulletin%20Insert%20Final%2024jul2013.pdf

- **Suggestions for homilies**

http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/oljp/OJP_Downloads/Immigration-Homily%20Notes_Aug-Sep.pdf

- **Additional suggestions:**

Forming, training special committees to visit parishes to teach them about their options and rights. Providing free legal help and/or providing sponsorship on family bases. One family coordinates/provides help for an emigrant family. Providing free ESL classes and/or providing free seminars on emigration in Spanish.

How do we move people to understand the issues?

- Providing forums to discuss and express people's opinions.
- Radio talk shows
- Articles in news papers
- Testimonials
- Multicultural Face of the Immigrant
- Immigrant Priests Speak

Additional Resources:

Immigration Policy Center: American Immigration Council

www.immigrationpolicy.org/comprehensive-immigration-reform-2014