



Love Your Neighbor

PARISH TOOLKIT FOR THE WEEK
OF PRAYER AND ACTION

OCTOBER 7-13



**Share the
Journey** ☼
#sharejourney



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GENERAL INFORMATION

September 27, 2017 marks Pope Francis' launch of a global campaign to support migrants around the world. Through this campaign, our Church hopes to dispel widespread fear of newcomers and to raise awareness of why so many people are compelled to leave their homes at this time in history. We want to inspire communities to build relationships with refugees and immigrants, and to love their neighbors in the U.S. and around the world in a variety of ways.

You can help your diocese, parish, school or organization participate in the "Share the Journey" campaign along with Pope Francis, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), and the Church's global charitable network, Caritas Internationalis. In collaboration with the annual celebration of Respect Life Month in October, the U.S. Catholic bishops invite your participation in a kickoff week of prayer and action for "Share the Journey," October 7-13.

This toolkit includes easy ways to bring this campaign to life at Masses on October 7-8, in your community the week of October 7-13, and throughout the 2-year campaign.

AT MASS:

Distribute the [prayer and commitment sheet](#) in the pews, and say the prayer together at the end of Mass.

- Pray for immigrants and refugees in the [general intercessions](#).
- Use the [homily notes](#) to connect respect for all human life with our commitment to our brothers and sisters who have fled from their homes.
- Include information in [your bulletin about the Global Migration Campaign](#) and [Church teaching regarding immigrants and refugees](#).
- Ask a representative from a [local Catholic Charities office](#) to say a few words before or after Mass.

IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SCHOOL SETTINGS:

- Kick off the week with a special Mass for the intention of immigrants' and refugees' needs to be met.
- Start morning announcements or religious education classes with a prayer for immigrants and refugees.
- [Showcase stories and pictures](#) in newsletters and on bulletin boards from immigrants and refugees who live both around the world and in the United States.
- Use [lesson plans, resources, simulations, and prayer pilgrimages](#) to explain why people leave their home countries, to highlight common myths about the issue, and to raise awareness about what the Church teaches.

THROUGHOUT YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY:

Host a community-wide prayer for immigrants and refugees.

Invite people to participate in communal prayer such as a [prayer vigil](#), [Rosary](#), Holy Hour or Stations of the Cross offered for immigrants and refugees. Consider incorporating a walk as part of these prayer options to show solidarity with immigrants and refugees on the move, with whom we share this earthly pilgrimage.

Provide opportunities for people to get to know immigrants and refugees.

Host a potluck gathering for your local community that includes migrants and refugees sharing their country's cuisine. Organize a speaking event or school assembly in your community. [Contact your local Catholic Charities](#) office or another local agency that serves immigrants or refugees to help you identify people who would be comfortable meeting and sharing their stories. If you cannot arrange an in-person gathering, encourage members of your community to get to know immigrants and refugees by [reading their stories](#).

Help people put themselves in our brothers' and sisters' shoes.

Hold a simulation experience that helps people explore why immigrants and refugees are forced to leave their homes [using this exercise from CRS](#), [a guide from Catholic Charities of Louisville](#) or the [Refugees Seeking Safety tool from Cabrini University](#).

Organize local community service.

[Contact your local Catholic Charities](#) office or another local agency that serves immigrants or refugees to discover their needs. Then, organize a day of service or a collection of household items they need. Assistance is often needed in tutoring, language skills development, shelter, basic resource allocation, legal services, job training, transportation and companionship. Even children can serve by collecting items or designing welcome cards for immigrants and refugee families who are arriving in your community.

Strengthen the pastoral care of immigrants and refugees in your parish.

Contact the [Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers](#) (USCCB) to collaborate with a national Catholic association of religious and lay leaders that can offer assistance in ministering to your local ethnic community or the people on the move landing within your parish jurisdiction at diversity@usccb.org or 202-541-3035. Sponsor your parish religious and lay leaders so they can participate in a [Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers](#) training (USCCB). Contact the subcommittee for information on the latest study on the pastoral care of immigrants and refugees in your diocese, and for copies of the bilingual manuals on [Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers](#) and the bilingual resource on [Best Practices for Shared Parishes](#).

Your parish can also become involved in a [Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees Program](#) operated by many Catholic Charities agencies if one exists in your community. If not, you can organize a local, parish-based group to provide support for newly arriving refugees. Contact the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services department at MRS@usccb.org for more information.

Offer a public sign that your community is in solidarity with immigrants and refugees.

Consider a symbolic gesture to help raise awareness. For example, pitch a tent on the parish lawn with a sign that encourages people to stand in solidarity with immigrants and refugees and provides information about where to learn more. Display posters or pictures in the gathering space with stories and ways to help.

Encourage education.

Challenge your community to learn about the issue of migration. Invite classes and groups that are meeting in your community throughout the week to offer education on why people leave their home countries, common myths about the issue, and [what the Church teaches about immigration](#).

Rally your community to contact your elected officials.

Check out action alerts about national and global legislation concerning refugees and immigrants from [Catholic Charities USA](#), [Justice for Immigrants](#) (USCCB) and [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#) (from the USCCB and CRS). Create personalized postcards or letters for people to sign during the week of prayer and action. Schedule a meeting with your congressional offices in advance of the week of prayer and action, and hand deliver these letters or postcards at the meeting. [Here are some tips for how to get started](#).

LET US SHARE THE JOURNEY

A Prayer for the Global Migration Campaign



Share the
Journey 
#sharejourney



Daniel Etter for CRS

Adonai, Lord and Master,
Many are the journeys your people have taken:
Abraham's journey led from fear to understanding;
Moses' journey led from bondage to liberty;
the disciples' journey led from death to new life.

Even today, your people journey—
immigrants and refugees, pilgrims and nomads,
searching for hope,
searching for opportunity,
searching for peace,
searching for you.

Lord, I know that I too am called to journey.
Yet too many times, I have heard your call,
and my feet have remained unmoved.

Continue to call me
beyond my comfort and into encounter.
And when I meet a companion on the road,
may we find you in each other's embrace.
Let us share the journey.

Amen



I prayerfully commit to participate in caring for immigrants and refugees in my community and/or around the world by:

(Write down one action you commit to do as a part of the global migration campaign. Then, post what you're doing and why, and invite others to do the same. Be sure to include #sharejourney in your post!)

For ideas on what you can do, visit sharejourney.org, and follow #sharejourney on social media.

COMPARTAMOS EL VIAJE

Una oración por la Campaña mundial de migración



Share the
Journey 
#sharejourney



Daniel Etter para CRS

Adonai, Señor y Maestro,
Muchos son los viajes que tu pueblo ha realizado:
el viaje de Abraham lo levó del miedo al entendimiento;
el viaje de Moisés lo condujo de la esclavitud a la libertad;
el viaje de los discípulos los llevó de la muerte a la nueva vida.

Incluso hoy, el viaje de tu pueblo—
inmigrantes y refugiados, peregrinos y nómadas,
buscando la esperanza,
buscando oportunidades,
buscando la paz,
buscando por ti.

Señor, sé que yo también estoy llamado a viajar.
Sin embargo, demasiadas veces, he escuchado tu llamado,
y mis pies han permanecido inmóviles.

Sigue llamándome
más allá de mi comodidad y hacia el encuentro.
Y cuando me encuentre con un compañero en el camino,
que podamos encontrarte en el abrazo del otro.
Compartamos el viaje.

Amén



Me comprometo en oración a participar en el cuidado de los inmigrantes y los refugiados en mi comunidad y/o en todo el mundo mediante:

(Anote una acción que se compromete a hacer como parte de la campaña mundial de migración y, a continuación, publique lo que está haciendo y por qué, e invite a otros a hacer lo mismo. ¡Asegúrese de incluir #ComparteElCamino en su publicación!)

Para obtener ideas sobre lo que puede hacer, visite sharejourney.org/en-espanol y siga #ComparteElCamino en las redes sociales.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

For all immigrants and refugees who have fled their homes, that God might bring them to a place of peace and safety ... We pray to the Lord.

For migrant children who have been separated from their families due to difficult circumstances or death, that God will provide his protection ... We pray to the Lord.

For the Christian faithful and all people of goodwill, that we might find the compassion to walk in solidarity with immigrants and refugees, and the courage to advocate on their behalf ... We pray to the Lord.

For our nation's—and the world's—leaders and elected officials: May they work together to end the strife and persecution that causes people to flee their homes, and may they provide care and protection for immigrants and refugees, and share responsibility in helping them build new lives ... We pray to the Lord.

For all of us, who are called by name to be disciples of Christ: May he give us courage to open our hearts to those who are most vulnerable during this Respect Life Month and always ... We pray to the Lord.

INTERCESIONES GENERALES POR LOS INMIGRANTES Y REFUGIADOS

Por todos los inmigrantes y refugiados que han huido de sus hogares, que Dios los lleve a un lugar de paz y seguridad ... Roguemos al Señor.

Por los niños migrantes, que han sido separados de sus familias debido a circunstancias difíciles o muerte, que Dios les dé su protección ... Roguemos al Señor.

Por los fieles cristianos y todas las personas de buena voluntad, para que podamos encontrar la compasión para caminar en solidaridad con los migrantes y los refugiados y el valor para abogar por ellos ... Roguemos al Señor.

Por los líderes de nuestra nación y del mundo, así como los funcionarios electos: Que trabajen juntos para poner fin a los conflictos y la persecución que hacen que la gente huya de sus hogares, y puedan proporcionar cuidado y protección a los inmigrantes y refugiados y compartir la responsabilidad en ayudarles a construir nuevas vidas ... Roguemos al Señor.

Por todos nosotros, que somos llamados por nombre a ser discípulos de Cristo: Que nos dé el valor para abrir nuestros corazones a aquellos que son más vulnerables durante este Mes de Respeto a la Vida y siempre ... Roguemos al Señor.

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Our parish is excited to participate in the global migration campaign called “Share the Journey,” which was launched by Pope Francis on September 27. Today, during Mass, we [*prayed for immigrants and refugees during the general intercessions, heard about immigrants and refugees in the homily, said a prayer together for migrants, etc.*]. Throughout this week, all Catholics in the United States are invited to take part in prayer and action on behalf of immigrants and refugees in the United States and around the world. Please see the prayer sheet in the pews, or the bulletin insert, to learn more about the campaign and some ideas for simple ways you can participate throughout the week. [*We will also host X parish event on X date. All are welcome.*]

BULLETIN INSERT

On September 27, 2017, Pope Francis launched a global campaign to support immigrants and refugees around the world called “Share the Journey.” Our brothers and sisters often make perilous journeys, leaving their homelands because they are forced to flee their homes to escape conflict, poverty, persecution and violence. There are more refugees and internally displaced people now—over 65 million—than at any other time in recorded history. Our faith calls us to “love our neighbor,” to see Christ in those who are in greatest need, and to welcome newcomers seeking the security, peace, and opportunity they cannot find in their home countries.

We can join Pope Francis and the Church around the world, and share the journey with fellow children of God by:

Learning about their journeys. Read stories, watch videos, and pay attention to news that can help sensitize us to their reality. Then, share what you learn with others by:

- Joining the *#sharejourney* campaign on social media!
- Meeting immigrants and refugees. Contact your local Catholic Charities agency to learn how you can join or support their programs that serve immigrants and refugees. [*If available, insert information about ways people can get involved with your diocesan, parish, local Catholic Charities office, or another local agency’s outreach to immigrants and refugees.*]
- Saying a daily prayer for all people, and especially children, who have fled their homes in search of peace and safety.
- Supporting the work of local and international Catholic agencies, like Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services, who help to care for the needs of immigrants and refugees in the United States and around the world.

[*All are welcome to join our parish as we gather for (a prayer service, talk, potluck, community service activity, video and discussion, etc.) on (date), (time), (location.) Please register by contacting [name, contact info.]*]

Learn more about and get involved in the “Share the Journey” global migration campaign at sharejourney.org.

ANUNCIO DESDE EL PÚLPITO

Nuestra parroquia está emocionada de participar en una campaña de migración mundial llamada “Compartir el viaje”, que fue lanzada por el Papa Francisco el 27 de septiembre. Hoy, durante la misa, *[oramos por los inmigrantes y refugiados durante las intercesiones generales, escuchamos sobre inmigrantes y refugiados durante la homilía, pronunciamos una oración juntos por los migrantes, etc.]*. A lo largo de esta semana, todos los católicos de los Estados Unidos están invitados a participar en oración y acción en favor de los inmigrantes y refugiados en los Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo. Por favor vea la hoja de oración en los bancos o el boletín para aprender más acerca de la campaña y algunas maneras simples en las que usted puede participar durante toda la semana. *[También vamos a organizar el evento parroquial X en fecha X. Todos son bienvenidos.]*

VOLANTE PARA EL BOLETÍN

El 27 de septiembre de 2017, el Papa Francis lanzó una campaña mundial para apoyar a los inmigrantes y refugiados alrededor del mundo llamada “Compartir el viaje”. Nuestros hermanos y hermanas a menudo hacen peligrosos viajes, dejando sus tierras natales porque se ven obligados a huir de sus hogares para escapar del conflicto, la pobreza, la persecución y la violencia. Actualmente hay más de 65 millones de refugiados y desplazados internos, la cifra más alta de toda la historia. Nuestra fe nos llama a “amar a nuestro prójimo”, a ver a Cristo en quienes más lo necesitan y a dar la bienvenida a los recién llegados que buscan la seguridad, la paz y oportunidades para ganarse la vida que no pueden encontrar en sus países de origen.

Podemos unirnos al Papa Francisco y a la Iglesia alrededor del mundo y compartir el viaje con nuestros hermanos y hermanas, hijos e hijas de Dios:

- Aprendiendo sobre sus viajes. Leer historias, ver videos y prestar atención a las noticias que pueden ayudar a sensibilizarnos a su realidad y compartir lo que hemos aprendido.
- ¡Uniéndose a la campaña #ComparteElCamino en las redes sociales!
- Reuniéndose con inmigrantes y refugiados. Comuníquese con su agencia local de Catholic Charities para saber cómo puede unirse o apoyar sus programas que sirven a inmigrantes y refugiados. *[Si está disponible, incluya información acerca de cómo las personas pueden involucrarse con los esfuerzos de alcance de su oficina diocesana, parroquial, local de Catholic Charities, u otra agencia local para los inmigrantes y refugiados.]*
- Diciendo una oración diaria por todas las personas, y especialmente por los niños, que han huido de sus hogares en busca de paz y seguridad.
- Apoyando el trabajo de organismos católicos locales e internacionales, como Catholic Charities y Catholic Relief Services, que ayudan a atender las necesidades de los inmigrantes y refugiados en los Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo.

[Todos son bienvenidos a unirse a nuestra parroquia mientras nos reunimos para (un ejercicio de oración, charla, comida compartida, actividad de servicio comunitario, video y diálogo, etc.) el (fecha), (hora), (lugar). datos de contacto.] Por favor regístrese poniéndose en contacto con (nombre, datos de contacto.)]

Obtenga más información sobre la campaña mundial de migración “Compartir el viaje” y participe en sharejourney.org/en-espanol.

HOMILY NOTES

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Lectionary: 139

By Father Ron Chochol, Archdiocese of St. Louis

Extreme violence is how the prophet Isaiah describes the vineyard owner's response to the wild grapes that grew in his vineyard after all his hard work. There is even more violence in the Gospel parable. Not only do the tenants inflict violence, but the chief priests and elders to whom Jesus addresses the parable call for a wretched death for those wretched men. They respond to violence with more violence. But stories of violence are not what we look forward to when we come for Sunday Mass. We come to praise God, to find peace for our hearts, and be inspired to witness God's love in the world. These stories of violence do not fulfill that hope; when we think about it, neither do these stories threaten us. They are just stories from the past. We are here together in peace. We can share in the Eucharist and be strengthened for the journey of life. We can return to our homes in safety.

But throughout the world, in Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Central America, and right here in the United States, there are millions of people who have fled their homes, their countries, their whole way of life—to find safety from violence. For them, violence is not a biblical story from the past. It is an ever-present reality, overwhelming their lives. They flee for all sorts of reasons: to get away from civil wars, to avoid having their daughters seized for the sex trade and their sons taken to serve as laborers or soldiers in tribal armies. They flee multi-year droughts that leave them without food and hope for their families. They flee ethnic and religious oppression. They flee to find work to support their families. They flee environmental disasters and lawlessness. Often their children have not been to school for years. They are exposed to brutality daily. They long to return to their homes. But until these are safe places, they know they need to go elsewhere. Whether they have fled to another part of their own country or to another country altogether, they are at the mercy of strangers, who probably speak a different language. They live with fear in their hearts. Who will take them in? How will they be received, if they do find a new home?

These are the people throughout the world that Pope Francis embraces and holds close to his heart. These are the people he has gone to visit where they have landed on safe shores. These are the people he has provided shelter for in Rome. These are the people whom he challenges us to embrace and hold close to our hearts. In doing so I think he is listening to the last verses in today's reading from Isaiah and in the Gospel. Isaiah proclaims that the Lord of hosts rejects the bloodshed and the outcry, the violence, and calls for right judgment and justice from his people, to live in God's peace. Likewise, at the end of the Gospel we just heard, Jesus rejects the violence of the chief priests and elders against the violent tenants in the parable. Jesus promises that the kingdom of God, the loving presence and gracious power of our God, will be given to people who produce its fruit, the fruit that is life and hope for all.

Just over a week ago, Pope Francis, speaking from the merciful heart of Jesus, launched a 2-year campaign to reach out to the refugees and migrants of the world. He is calling on Catholics, Christians, people of other religions and people of goodwill to work together for the good of our sisters and brothers throughout the world who have fled their homes in desperation. He invites us, here in the United States, to consider how Jesus would expect us to respond to these desperate children of God and share their journey. Because of the many conflicts in the world, we are sometimes inclined to see the world around us with fear for our own safety and security. All too often we see threats. The Holy Father is asking us to reconsider our ways of thinking about and of responding to

refugees and migrants. *[Include information about parish activities here, e.g.: To help one another here in our own parish to do this, please take some time to read the insert in today's bulletin and discuss it at home with your family or neighbors. On (date) at (time) we are sponsoring a potluck dinner and conversation with immigrants/refugees who have recently come to our area. There will be a prayer service here at church with recently arrived immigrants/refugees on (date) at (time). At the end of Mass today we will pray for immigrants and refugees using the prayer sheets in the pews which you can take home with you, etc.]*

There are many opportunities for us to respond to Christ's call to love our neighbor and share the journey of immigrants and refugees in our country and around the world. We can support efforts to provide food and shelter in the camps around the world where they have taken refuge. We can join local efforts to support people here in our community or nearby. You can learn more about how each of us can respond to the Holy Father's request in our bulletin and on the prayer sheet in the pews today.

To conclude, I would like to share these words from Pope Francis from earlier this year:

"Each person is precious; persons are more important than things, and the worth of an institution is measured by the way it treats the life and dignity of human beings, particularly when they are vulnerable" *(Message for the World Day of immigrants and refugees 2017 [15 January 2017])*.

These words are particularly relevant for us now, during Respect Life Month, as we remember that our Catholic faith upholds the life and dignity of all people. May the words and actions of our Holy Father in imitation of Jesus inspire us in the days, weeks and months ahead to expand the reach and range of our hearts to those who are calling out for our help. Let us "Share the Journey"!

NOTAS DE LA HOMILÍA

Vigésimo séptimo domingo del tiempo ordinario, Leccionario: 139

Por el padre David García, Diócesis de San Antonio, Catholic Relief Services

En julio hubo una terrible tragedia en San Antonio. Diez inmigrantes murieron en un tráiler que había sido cerrado sin agua y sin ventilación en temperaturas de 38°C (100° F) durante horas mientras eran transportados desde la frontera mexicana al norte. Junto con los que murieron, 34 más fueron dejados en condiciones críticas o graves en los hospitales. La mayoría de ellos vinieron de México y el resto de Guatemala. Se habían visto obligados a pagar dinero para su protección al cártel de la droga para cruzar la frontera junto con más dinero a los contrabandistas para el transporte. Esta tragedia humana se repite en todo el mundo a medida que las personas que se ven obligadas a huir de las condiciones de la guerra, la violencia, el hambre y la pobreza absoluta para tener una oportunidad de sobrevivir. Muchos viajan con niños. Los seres humanos vulnerables son tratados como carga y muchos no sobreviven.

Aquellos de nosotros que venimos de México o América Latina conocemos las condiciones que obligan a la gente a emigrar. Muchos de nosotros conocemos a familiares o amigos que vinieron a este país por estas razones. Esta semana el Papa Francisco nos está pidiendo que volvamos nuestra atención a la difícil situación de los inmigrantes y refugiados en todo el mundo. Su advertencia es grave. Debemos prestar atención y actuar en favor de nuestros hermanos y hermanas antes de que sea demasiado tarde. Nos advierte a todos de la “globalización de la indiferencia” que afecta a aquellos de nosotros que vivimos vidas cómodas lejos de la violencia, la guerra y la pobreza de tantos en el mundo. A menudo no prestamos atención cuando el problema no nos afecta inmediatamente. Sin embargo, como católicos, el Papa nos está llamando a ser universales en nuestro cuidado y acción.

La semana pasada, esta semana y la próxima semana, la lectura del Evangelio cuenta parábolas del juicio de Dios. Junto con la primera lectura de hoy, el Evangelio muestra que Dios hace todo lo posible por nosotros y sin embargo ignoramos o incluso incumplimos los deseos de Dios. La parábola de los labradores malvados es una grave advertencia de que hay un juicio que viene para todos si no actuamos.

Esta parábola del viñedo parece no tener mucho sentido, ya que el terrateniente nunca parece saber que los inquilinos son malvados. Apela a su honor. Por lo general en aquellos tiempos, la gente simpatizaba con los inquilinos que a menudo eran maltratados por los propietarios, pero no esta vez. Esto habría perturbado a los oyentes de la parábola. Dios siempre busca lo mejor de nosotros, nos da lo que necesitamos, pero espera que tratemos a los demás como Dios nos ha tratado, es decir, con respeto, generosidad y compasión. Los inquilinos no practicaban ni siquiera la justicia básica, haciendo lo que era correcto, mucho menos imitando la bondad del dueño de la viña. Ellos rechazaron los dones de Dios por su codicia y la manera en que trataron a otros. La viña, es decir, el mundo, pertenece a Dios, no a nosotros.

El contexto de este evangelio es que Mateo está escribiendo para una audiencia judía y está muy frustrado con la mayoría de los judíos que rechazaron a Jesús. Para Mateo estaba tan claro quién era Jesús. ¿Está claro para nosotros que Jesús se encuentra en el rostro del migrante desesperado?

Hay frustración al escuchar esta parábola: ¿Quién debe heredar la viña? La parábola no nos dice el final de la historia, sino que Jesús les hace la pregunta y los oyentes pronuncian un juicio sobre sí mismos. Hay una rendición de cuentas severa para ellos y nosotros si no respondemos como Dios

pide. Así como la parábola deja las preguntas abiertas, igual Jesús como el Mesías dejó muchas preguntas con sus palabras y acciones. ¿Por qué se asoció Jesús con los marginados, los pobres y los que nadie quería? Dios quiere lo que nadie más quiere. Puesto que la historia no tiene final, tal vez tengamos que escribirla y terminarla. ¿Somos buenos corresponsables fieles o somos ladrones? ¿Nos preocupamos por todas nuestras hermanas y hermanos como Dios nos llama a hacer o simplemente a nosotros mismos? ¿Cómo podemos ser fieles a Dios según los términos de Dios, no los nuestros?

A partir de este fin de semana, la Iglesia en todo el país está invitada a participar en una semana de oración y acción por los inmigrantes y refugiados. Hace una semana y media, el Papa Francis lanzó una campaña mundial, llamada “Compartir el viaje”, reuniéndose con un refugiado en la plaza de San Pedro e invitando a los católicos de todo el mundo a unirse a él para abrir nuestros corazones a los inmigrantes y refugiados. *[Incluya información sobre las actividades de la parroquia aquí, por ejemplo: Para ayudarnos unos a otros aquí en nuestra propia parroquia a hacer esto, por favor dedique un tiempo para leer el volante en el boletín de hoy y discutirlo en casa con su familia o vecinos. El (fecha) a las (hora) estaremos patrocinando una cena compartida y conversación con los inmigrantes/refugiados que han llegado recientemente a nuestra área. Habrá un ejercicio de oración aquí en la iglesia con los inmigrantes/refugiados recién llegados el (fecha) a las (hora). Al final de la misa de hoy oraremos por los inmigrantes y los refugiados utilizando las hojas de oración en los bancos que se pueden llevar a casa con ustedes, etc.]*

Esta campaña nos recuerda que todos somos corresponsables unos de otros. Todos somos hijos de Dios, como recordamos especialmente durante este Mes de Respeto a la Vida. Somos inquilinos de este mundo, que pertenece a todos. “Mi casa es su casa” es nuestra tradición. Dios espera que nos cuidemos el uno al otro. Los que hemos sido bendecidos necesitamos rezar y actuar en favor de aquellos que son vulnerables en nuestro mundo. Aunque mis acciones no solucionarán por completo la crisis de los refugiados, la migración y la trata de personas que amenaza la vida de tantos, todo lo que hago marcará la diferencia.

Nunca estamos libres de responsabilidad. Nunca hemos hecho lo suficiente. Somos INQUILINOS en este mundo, CORRESPONSABLES no PROPIETARIOS. Toda la Iglesia debe actuar. Yo debo actuar.

CATHOLIC TEACHING ON IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

MIGRATION

The Church's position on migration is rooted in the Gospel and in the rich tradition of Catholic social teaching. A recent example of this teaching is in [Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope](#), a joint pastoral letter concerning migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States. The pastoral letter promotes five principles that should be used to help formulate migration-related policy:

Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland. All persons have the right to find in their own countries the economic, political and social opportunities to live in dignity and achieve a full life through the use of their God-given gifts. In this context, work that provides a just, living wage is a basic human need.

Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families. The Church recognizes that all the goods of the Earth belong to all people. When persons cannot find employment in their country of origin to support themselves and their families, they have a right to find work elsewhere in order to survive. Sovereign nations should provide ways to accommodate this right.

Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders. The Church recognizes the right of sovereign nations to control their territories and their borders. However, wealthier nations, which have the ability to better protect and feed their residents, have a strong obligation to accommodate migration flows.

Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection. Those who flee wars and persecution should be protected by the global community. This requires, at a minimum, that migrants have a right to claim refugee status without incarceration and to have their claims fully considered by a competent authority.

The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected. Regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all persons, possess inherent human dignity that should be respected. Often they are subject to punitive laws and harsh treatment by enforcement officers from both receiving and transit countries. The Church recognizes the right of every sovereign state to control its borders in order to promote the common good. It also recognizes the right of every human being to migrate in order to enjoy his or her God-given rights. These teachings complement each other. Government policies that respect the basic human rights of the undocumented are necessary.

REFUGEES

It is a core Catholic teaching that every human being is created in the image of God and is therefore entitled to dignity and respect. The Catholic Church views assisting those in need as a fundamental Christian duty that is derived directly from the life and mercy of Christ, who himself was a refugee. As Christians, we are called to welcome our new neighbors with the same love and compassion we would want ourselves to be shown in a time of persecution. We must remember that refugees from all over the world are sent to our communities and are fleeing danger, exploitation and persecution.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) is one of nine national refugee resettlement agencies in the United States that assists refugees and advocates for the refugee community. Through a cooperative agreement and grants with the federal government, USCCB/MRS works in coordination with Catholic Charities and other partner agencies around the United States to welcome and ensure that the basic needs of each arriving refugee are adequately met.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A REFUGEE AND AN IMMIGRANT?

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

An immigrant is someone who voluntarily leaves his or her country in order to improve the prospects for themselves and their families.

MIGRACIÓN

Nuestro enfoque a la migración está enraizado en el Evangelio y en siglos de tradiciones de la enseñanza social católica. Uno de esos documentos es “[Ya no somos extranjeros: Juntos en el camino de la esperanza](#)”, carta pastoral de los obispos católicos de México y de los Estados Unidos sobre la migración. Abajo encontrarán cinco principios que son los que guían el enfoque de la Iglesia con respecto a la migración.

Los Estados soberanos poseen el derecho de controlar sus fronteras. La Iglesia reconoce que todo Estado soberano posee el derecho de salvaguardar su territorio y sus fronteras. Sin embargo, las naciones con más poderío económico, las cuales tienen la capacidad de proteger y de alimentar mejor a sus habitantes, tienen una obligación mayor de adaptarse a los flujos migratorios.

Las personas tienen el derecho de encontrar oportunidades en su tierra natal. Todas las personas tienen el derecho de encontrar en su propio país oportunidades económicas, políticas y sociales para tener una vida digna y plena mediante el uso de los dones que Dios les dio. En este contexto, un trabajo que proporcione un salario justo para vivir es una necesidad básica de todo ser humano.

Las personas tienen el derecho de emigrar para mantenerse a sí mismas y a sus familias. La Iglesia reconoce que todos los bienes de la tierra pertenecen a todos los pueblos. Cuando las personas no encuentran un empleo en su país de origen para poder mantenerse a sí mismas y a sus familias, ellas tienen el derecho de buscar trabajo en otro lugar para lograr sobrevivir. Los Estados soberanos deben proveer las formas para acomodar este derecho.

Debe protegerse a quienes buscan refugio y asilo. La comunidad global debe proteger a quienes huyen de las guerras y de la persecución. Esto requiere, como mínimo, que los migrantes cuenten con el derecho de solicitar el estatus de refugiado sin que se les detenga y que su solicitud sea plenamente considerada por las autoridades competentes.

Deben respetarse la dignidad y los derechos humanos de los migrantes indocumentados.

Independientemente de su situación legal, los migrantes, como toda persona, poseen una dignidad humana intrínseca que debe ser respetada. Con frecuencia, ellos están sujetos a leyes punitivas y al maltrato por parte de las autoridades, tanto en los países de tránsito como de destino. Se necesitan políticas gubernamentales que respeten los derechos humanos de las personas indocumentadas. La Iglesia reconoce el derecho de todo Estado soberano de controlar sus fronteras para promover el bien común. Asimismo, reconoce el derecho de todo ser humano de migrar para gozar de los derechos que Dios les dio. Estas enseñanzas se complementan entre sí. Son necesarias políticas gubernamentales que respeten los derechos humanos básicos de los indocumentados.

REFUGIADOS

Es una enseñanza católica fundamental que todo ser humano es creado a imagen de Dios y, por lo tanto, tiene derecho a la dignidad y al respeto. La Iglesia Católica considera ayudar a los necesitados como un deber cristiano fundamental que deriva directamente de la vida y la misericordia de Cristo, que él mismo era un refugiado. Como cristianos, nosotros estamos llamados a dar la bienvenida a nuestros nuevos prójimos con el mismo amor y compasión que querríamos que nos mostraran en un tiempo de persecución. Debemos recordar que los refugiados de todo el mundo son enviados a nuestras comunidades y huyen del peligro, la explotación y la persecución.

El departamento de Servicios de Migración y Refugiados de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB/MRS, por su sigla en inglés) es una de las nueve agencias nacionales de reasentamiento de refugiados en los Estados Unidos que ayuda a los refugiados y aboga por la comunidad de refugiados. A través de un acuerdo de cooperación y subsidios con el gobierno federal, USCCB/MRS trabaja en coordinación con Catholic Charities y otras agencias asociadas alrededor de los Estados Unidos para dar la bienvenida y asegurar que las necesidades básicas de cada refugiado que llega se cumplan adecuadamente.

¿CUÁL ES LA DIFERENCIA ENTRE UN REFUGIADO Y UN INMIGRANTE?

Según el Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados, un **refugiado** es alguien que ha sido forzado a huir de su país debido a la persecución, la guerra o la violencia. Un refugiado tiene un temor fundado de persecución por razones de raza, religión, nacionalidad, opinión política o pertenencia a un grupo social determinado.

Un **inmigrante** es alguien que deja voluntariamente su país para mejorar las perspectivas para ellos y sus familias.