



Social Concerns Focus

OUR FOCUS THIS ISSUE: LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON - IMMIGRANTS

Catholic Social Teaching

“We believe that every life is precious,and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.”

— Themes from Catholic Social Teaching

Call to Action Suggestions:

Proposed concerns for legislation.

When there is an opportunity to alert your legislators, please consider the following proposals:

- Immigration reform to address and respond to the realities of separated families and labor demands.
- Bishops propose earned legalization for those unauthorized and have built up equities and are otherwise free to enter.
- Follow a process for coming to the U.S.
- Pay fines and application fees.
- Complete a rigorous background and security check.
- Proof of paid taxes.
- Demonstrate learning English.
- Obtain a visa to lead to permanent residency over time.

Resources

- www.justiceforimmigrants.org This website is full of information and resources for further education.
- **Kathy Langer**, Social Concerns position on the Diocesan level; She is located at the Catholic Charities office at 911 18 St. No., Box 2390, St. Cloud, MN 56302.
- **Monica Segura-Schwartz**, Manager, Legal Immigration Services & La Cruz Community Center, located at 157 Roosevelt Rd, Suite 200; St. Cloud, MN 56301. 320-229-6021
- **Immigration Law Center of Minnesota**, 450 Syndicate St. N., #175, St. Paul, MN 55104; 1-800-223-1368; Email is oifcinallegal@ilcm.org; website is www.ilcm.org

www.justiceforimmigrants.org
provided the content for this newsletter.

We meet the face of Christ in the immigrant and those in need

Our focus this issue concerns the life and dignity of the human person – specifically immigrants.

The quote under the picture, is a very strong statement showing biblical support for respect for immigrants.

Sometimes people are uncertain about terms used for immigrants. The following describes these terms.

• **An immigrant** reside permanently in the US as a lawful permanent resident.

• **A refugee** is a person who lives outside of the US who seeks protection on the grounds that he or she fears in his or her homeland.

• **An undocumented immigrant** is a person present in the US without permission of the US government.

This issue has become a growing concern in the U.S. as well as the



“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. 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 once aliens in the land of Egypt.”

Leviticus 19:33-34

and exile were common themes in the life of Jesus. It is no coincidence that Jesus lived as a migrant and refugee: He provided an example for all generations in this as well as all aspects of His life.

We meet the face of Christ in the immigrant as well as in others in need.

Catholic church in America.

In 2005, the U.S. Catholic bishops launched a “Justice for Immigrants” campaign which called for a humane and comprehensive reform of both U.S. and Mexican immigration laws.

Pope Benedict XVI stated “Every migrant is a human person who, as such, possesses fundamental, inalienable rights that must be respected by everyone and in every circumstance.”

Caritas in Veritate, no. 62

You are invited to join the Social Concerns Committee! Contact one of the following members:

Sister Gloria Haider • Peggy Imholte • Patti Keeling • Kathy Peterson • Maria Lahr • Mike Monnens • Louise Echola