

Immigration: Catholic Social Teaching

Then according to the teachings of *Rerum Novarum*, the right of the family to a life worthy of human dignity is recognized. When this happens, migration attains its natural scope...
– *Exsul Familia (On the Spiritual Care of the Migrant)* Pope Pius XII, 1952

Every human being has the right to the freedom of movement and of residence within the confines of their country; and, when there are just reasons for it, the right to emigrate and take up residence elsewhere.
– *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)* Pope John XXIII, 1963

The call to solidarity is also a call to promote the effective recognition of the rights of immigrants and to overcome all discrimination based on race, culture, or religion.
– *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity, U.S. Bishops*, 2000

Conversion of mind and heart leads to communion expressed through hospitality on the part of receiving communities and a sense of belonging and welcome on the part of those in the communities where migrants are arriving. The New Testament often counsels that hospitality is a virtue necessary for all followers of Jesus.
– *Strangers No Longer: A Journey of Hope, US and Mexico Bishops*, 2003

Striking a balance between the needs and aspirations of different ethnic and cultural communities is not an easy task. Equally challenging is accepting each other's differences and confronting each case of prejudice, cultural stereotyping, and expression of racism present in our society even today. Pastoral leaders in our parishes have the challenge to provide a healthy environment and a sense of community for all their parishioners... This involves developing leaders as bridge-people within the Hispanic community and the other communities in the parish as a way to establish an identity and connection not only with the local community, but also with the greater Catholic Church.
– *Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry: From Guests to Hosts, Archdiocese of Seattle*, 2007

No country can be expected to address today's problems of migration by itself. We are all witnesses of the burden of suffering, the dislocation and the aspirations that accompany the flow of migrants... there is no doubt that foreign workers, despite any difficulties concerning integration, make a significant contribution to the economic development of the host country... these labourers cannot be considered as a commodity or a mere workforce. 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, and International Migration, Pope Benedict XVI*, 2009

