

OPTION 1:

**JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS**  
***Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice***

Catholic Social Teaching supports basic principles related to migration that recognize the inherent human dignity of everyone, allow families to reunite and stabilize, protect U.S. borders from real threats, and help reduce migration by promoting economic development in poorer countries. To learn more, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

OPTION 2:

**JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS**  
***Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice***

Catholic Social Teaching supports five basic principles related to migration that allow families to reunite and stabilize, protect U.S. borders from real threats, and help reduce migration by promoting economic development in poorer countries. 1) People have the right to find opportunities in their homeland. 2) People have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families. 3) Sovereign nations have a right to control their borders. 4) Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection. 5) The human rights and dignity of undocumented immigrants should be respected. To learn more, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

\* \* \* \* \*

OPTION 1:

**JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS**  
***Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice***

In December 2009 the Immigration Policy Center reported Wisconsin was home to 252,150 immigrants in 2007, of which 41.2% (or 103,291 people) were naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. Latinos accounted for 4.8% and Asians 1.9% of Wisconsinites in 2007, with purchasing power of Latinos totaling \$5.3 billion and Asian buying power totaling \$3.0 billion. For the complete report, visit <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/new-americans-badger-state>

OPTION 2:

**JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS**  
***Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice***

The Immigration Policy Center published its findings on immigration for the state of Wisconsin in December 2009. The Center reports that Wisconsin was home to 252,150 immigrants in 2007, of which 41.2% (or 103,291 people) were naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. Latinos accounted for 4.8% and Asians 1.9% of Wisconsinites in 2007, with purchasing power of Latinos totaling \$5.3 billion and Asian buying power totaling \$3.0 billion in Wisconsin in 2007. For the complete report, visit <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/new-americans-badger-state>

\* \* \* \* \*

OPTION 1:

**JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS**  
***Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice***

Antonio Martinez has lived in the U.S. as a legal permanent resident for 35 years. In 1994 he filed papers to legally bring his wife from Michoacan, Mexico, but sixteen years later, Antonio still waits. Like millions, he hopes and prays for changes in immigration law to reduce the wait for family visas. For current visa wait times, visit:  
[http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin\\_1360.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html)

OPTION 2:

**JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS**  
***Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice***

Antonio Martinez has lived in the U.S. as a legal permanent resident for 35 years. In 1994 he filed all necessary paperwork to legally bring his wife to the U.S. from Michoacan, Mexico. Sixteen years later, due to U.S. immigration laws and painfully long backlogs, Antonio continues to wait. Like millions of other immigrants seeking to legally bring family members, he hopes and prays for changes in immigration law that will reduce the waiting period for family visas.

Visa applications submitted in May of 1987 by a legal resident of the U.S. for a brother or sister from the Philippines are just now being processed . . . that's a 23 year wait period! To learn more about visa wait times, visit  
[http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin\\_1360.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html)

\* \* \* \* \*

**JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS**  
***Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice***

One need not look further than the life and words of Jesus to understand that people on the move are special in the eyes of God. The New Testament begins with Matthew's story of Joseph and Mary fleeing into Egypt with their newborn son, Jesus. Our Savior Himself lived as a refugee because His own land was not safe.

New legislation for comprehensive immigration reform has been introduced to Congress. Pray that migrants, immigrants and refugees find hope in our concern for justice. To learn more, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

\* \* \* \* \*

## **We Need Comprehensive Immigration Reform....**

The history of the Church in the US compels us to care in a unique way for the welfare of today's immigrants. Our immigrant ancestors helped build the Church here and helped establish a thriving American political system. The first American citizen to become a saint – Frances Xavier Cabrini – was a naturalized immigrant from Italy and is now the universal patroness of immigrants. Catholic immigrants of every generation have experienced discrimination and intolerance at the hands of those who arrived before them. In the 1600s and 1700s some Catholics were denied the right to vote, hold office and celebrate mass in a church. “No Irish Need Apply” was a staple of employment ads in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Descendants of enslaved Africans continue to suffer the after effects of slavery and segregation. Today, like their immigrant predecessors, Latinos, Asians, and others are the objects of suspicion, intolerance and discrimination.

The role of the Catholic Church in the current immigration debate in the United States has surprised and perhaps upset many people, including even some Catholics. But the Church's position on migration has remained consistent for decades.

Drawing on some classic principles of Catholic social thought, the bishops of the Church have expressed opposition to the breaking of laws and unlawful entry into the country. The Church has long acknowledged the right of a nation-state to control its territorial borders and to regulate entry. The State has a very serious responsibility to protect its citizens and this may entail strong immigration controls. At the same time however, the Church says that human beings have a right to migrate—particularly in search of work in order to improve their human condition and to provide for the needs of their families. The bishops have called for just immigration laws that will allow generous channels of entry, good working conditions, families being able to stay together and the protection of the migrant's dignity and human rights.

Concern for family unity and the dignity of all God's children should underlie our moral thinking as Catholic Christians. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus blesses the poor and those who hunger and thirst for justice [Matt 5]. He makes clear through the story of the Good Samaritan that God's kingdom is one of love and community for all people including the stranger and the alien in our midst [Luke 10]. In the eyes of God, we are one human family whose salvation is found in care and concern for the least among us. [Matt 25:40] “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me” [Mt. 25:35]

Our current immigration system is broke and needs comprehensive reform.

## **Immigration Reform – One Human Family....**

The role of the Catholic Church in the current immigration debate in the United States has surprised and perhaps upset many people. The Catholic bishops have expressed opposition to the breaking of laws and unlawful entry into the country. At the same time, they have called for just immigration laws that will allow channels of entry, good working conditions, maintaining family unity – parents with children, husbands and wives – and protection of human dignity and human rights. Concern for family unity and the dignity of all God's children should underlie our moral thinking as Catholic Christians.

It is up to each of us to learn more about the legal and human reality of our current immigration system and why comprehensive reform is necessary to protect family unity and the dignity of our neighbors.

In the eyes of God, we are one human family whose salvation is found in care and concern for the least among us. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me" [Mt. 25:35]

---

## **One More Reason Why Comprehensive Immigration Reform is Needed.**

According to Catholic Charities Immigration Attorney Barbara Graham the current immigration system is so backed up that it is not possible for refugees and asylum seekers to get a fair hearing neither can these individuals afford the \$10 to \$20 thousand dollars required to be represented by a lawyer, thus victims of torture and violence are being deported back to the situation they were fleeing. Children are not considered in our current law causing the break up of families often leaving children and parents separated in different countries.

To learn more about the Catholic Bishop's Campaign for Immigration Reform go to [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

---

## **Immigration Reform – Human Dignity...**

The Catholic commitment to the dignity of the immigrant comes from the exact same roots as our commitment to the unborn child. ... Our country's immigration crisis is a test of our humanity. **Most Rev. Charles Chaput, Archbishop of Denver, June 2009**

### **US Bishops Statement on Immigration Reform**

1. Support public policy to address global economic inequities through just trade practices, economic development, and debt relief.
2. Advance peacemaking efforts to end conflict which forces persons to flee their homes.
3. Give special consideration to migrants who are forced to leave their homes out of necessity and seek only to survive and support their families.
4. Provide legal avenues for persons to enter the nation legally in a safe, orderly and dignified manner to obtain jobs and reunite with family members.
5. Employ a refugee and asylum system that protects asylum seeker, refugees, and other forced migrants and offers them a haven from persecution.
6. Afford migrants due process of the law and, if applicable, allow them to articulate a fear of return to their home before a qualified adjudicator.

Go to [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org) – for more information on the US Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform

---

### **We Need Immigration Reform for Family Unity....**

“We have, literally, tens of thousands of American citizens whose wives are being deported, whose husbands are being deported. We have millions of American citizen children who when they wake up in the morning to go to school fear all day long whether or not their parents will be there at the end of the day.”

Most children under 18 of unauthorized immigrants—73% in 2008—are U.S. citizens by birth. These young Americans number 4 million.

#### **The “Catch 22” facing an Undocumented Parent of a Citizen Child:**

- Your citizen child under 18 cannot sponsor you for a visa.
- You cannot legalize your status while remaining in the U.S.
- If you leave to obtain a visa, you are barred from re-entering the U.S. for 3 or 10 years, and perhaps permanently.
- The hardship to your citizen child is not grounds for relief from the re-entry bars.
- Even if you obtain a waiver of the re-entry bars, you may have to wait 10 years or more to receive a visa.
- In short, there is no way for you to legalize your status while maintaining family unity in the U.S.

To learn more, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

---

### **Our immigration System Needs Reform**

Our U.S. immigration system ... is badly broken and in urgent need of reform. A continuation of our “enforcement-only” policies is not a practical or effective solution.

**Under the existing system**, people are dying at the border, immigrants are living and working in abject conditions, families trying to reunite legally are separated for many years, employers are unable to hire the workers that they need. U.S. workers suffer from the unlevel playing field shared with exploited immigrant workers, and law-abiding U.S. employers are in unfair competition with unscrupulous employers who increase profits by hiring cheap and vulnerable labor.

Meanwhile, the United States continues to spend billions of dollars maintaining this system. [*Breaking Down the Problems: What's Wrong with Our Current Immigration System?*]

To learn more, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

---

### **Our immigration System Needs Reform**

Most Americans understand we cannot deport 12 million people or hope that they will choose to “self-deport.” The United States must create a fair, humane, and practical immigration system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that is responsive to the needs of our economy and encourages legal behavior.

*[Breaking Down the Problems: What's Wrong with Our Current Immigration System?]*

It is important that supporters of reform make their voices heard on Capitol Hill. You can ask legislators to support immigration reform legislation that keeps immigrant families together, adopts smart and humane enforcement policies, and ensures that immigrants without legal status register with the government and begin a path toward citizenship.

As Congress considers comprehensive immigration reform, it is important that supporters of reform make their voices heard on Capitol Hill. Contact your legislators. Tell them we need comprehensive immigration reform now.

---

## **Scripture Quotes**

You shall treat the aliens who reside with you no differently than the citizens born among you; have the same love for them as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.

**Leviticus 19:34**

I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness ... against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

**Malachi 3:5**

“Lord, when did we see you an immigrant and welcome you?” ... “As often as you did it to one of these least who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

**Mt. 25:38, 40**

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to immigrants, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them....

**Heb. 13: 1-2**

---

## **Immigration Quotes from Church Authorities**

Continue to welcome the immigrants who join your ranks today, to share their joys and hopes, to support them in their sorrows and trials, and to help them flourish in their new home.

**April 2008**

**Pope Benedict XVI to the United States Bishops,**

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

**June, 2009**

**Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*,**

In the Church, no one is a stranger, and the Church is not foreign to anyone, anywhere. As a sacrament of unity and thus a sign and binding force for the whole human race, the

Church is the place where illegal immigrants are also recognized and accepted as brothers and sisters.

**Pope John Paul II, World Migration**

**Day, 1996**

For Christians, the migrant is ... a person whose presence challenges them and whose needs become an obligation.... "What have you done to your brother or sister?" (cf. Gn 4:9). The answer should not be limited to what is imposed by law, but should be made in the manner of solidarity.

**Pope John Paul II, World Migration**

**Day, 1996**

Regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all persons, possess inherent human dignity which should be respected. Government policies that respect the basic human rights of the undocumented are necessary.

***Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope,***

**No. 38**

**Catholic Bishops of the United States and Mexico**

The Catholic commitment to the dignity of the immigrant comes from the exact same roots as our commitment to the unborn child. ... Our country's immigration crisis is a test of our humanity.

**Most Rev. Charles Chaput, Archbishop of Denver,**

**June 2009**

Migrants are "possessed by a dream, just like you and me. ...They're trying to improve their lives, live their lives with some dignity, with some semblance of value and meaning."

**Bishop Gerald Kicanas, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic**

**Bishops**

The nation cannot have it both ways.... We cannot accept the toil and taxes of immigrants while relegating them to a permanent underclass subject to abuse and exploitation.... Immigrants must be brought out of the shadows so they can fully contribute to our nation's future economic and social well-being.

**Cardinal Roger Mahony, January,**

**2009**

Perhaps the immigration debate says as much about us as a country as it does about the immigrants. Who do we want to be? As the Catholic bishops of Mexico and the United States stated in their joint pastoral letter, Strangers No Longer, "We judge ourselves as a community of faith by the way we treat the most vulnerable among us."

**Thomas J.**

**Reese, S.J.**

Our nation requires an immigration system that marries legal immigration with our long-term economic needs, the principle of family unity, and basic human rights. This will help restore the rule of law to our immigration system. Now, our immigration system accomplishes none of these goals.

**Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, Oct. 8,**

**2009**

The Catholic Church supports comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship, because "we are all brothers and sisters in God's one family," said Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. He decried "the broken immigration system and a toxic political atmosphere which has prevented humane reform of this system." Catholics witness "families being separated, migrant workers being exploited, and families mourning the death of loved ones who die on their journey to the United States."

Georgetown University, October,

2009

As faith-based leaders and organizations, we call attention to the moral dimensions of public policy and pursue policies that uphold the human dignity of each person, all of whom are made in the image of God. We engage the immigration issue with the goal of fashioning an immigration system that facilitates legal status and family unity in the interest of serving the God-given dignity and rights of every individual.

Interfaith Statement signed by over 500 organizations,

Oct., 2008

---

### **Prayer for Our Immigrant Sisters and Brothers**

Blessed are You, Lord Jesus Christ.  
You crossed every border  
between Divinity and humanity  
to make your home with us.  
Help us to welcome you in newcomers,  
migrants and refugees.

Blessed are You, God of all nations.  
You bless our land richly  
with goods of creation  
and with people made in your image.  
Help us to be good stewards and peacemakers,  
who live as your children.

Blessed are You, Holy Spirit.  
You work in the hearts of all  
to bring about harmony and goodwill.  
Strengthen us to welcome those  
from other lands, cultures, religions,  
that we may live in human solidarity  
and in hope.

God of all people, grant us vision  
to see your presence in our midst,  
especially in our immigrant sisters and brothers.  
Give us courage  
to open the door to our neighbors  
and grace to build a society of justice.

## **General Intercessions**

For immigrants, migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and all newcomers, that they may be welcomed in our parish.

For our immigrant and refugee sisters and brothers, that they may remain true to all that is good in their rich traditions and heritage, and help to build harmonious communities wherever they live.

For religious leaders, that they may continue to lead, guide and support the solicitude of the Church towards immigrants and vulnerable populations.

For immigrants, refugees and exploited vulnerable populations in our community, that they may find hope in our concern for justice and feel the warmth of our love.

For our community, gathered here today to celebrate our unity in Christ, that we may come to a greater understanding and acceptance of our differences.

For unaccompanied migrant children, that they may be protected from all harm and reunited with loving families.

For migrant workers, that they may work in safe and just conditions, and that we who benefit from their labor may be truly grateful for what they provide.

For an end to the violence and poverty that displace so many of our sisters and brothers from their homes and homelands.

For our leaders, that they may implement policies that allow for safe migration, just working conditions, and an end to the detention of asylum seekers, while protecting our national safety.