

4 of 5. **BROAD-BASED LEGALIZATION:**

For those in this country without proper immigration documentation, opportunities should be provided for them to obtain legalization if they can demonstrate good moral character and have built up equities in this country. Such an "earned" legalization should be achievable and independently verifiable.

1 of 5. **GLOBAL ANTI-POVERTY EFFORTS:**

Many migrants are compelled to leave their homes out of economic necessity in order to provide even the most basic needs for themselves and their families. Trade, debt relief, international economic aid, and other types of economic policies should be pursued that result in people not having to migrate in desperation in order to survive.

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: "I am the Lord your God."

(Leviticus 19: 33-34)



The Little Book of
Immigration Myths
&
Catholic Social Teaching

1. Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland.

2. Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families.

3. Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders.

4. Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.

5. The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected.

IMMIGRANTS DON'T PAY TAXES

False. Between 50 - 75% of undocumented immigrants pay between 90 and 140 billion dollars in federal, state and local & sales taxes a year. In addition, undocumented immigrants also contribute to Medicare and provide as much as 9 billion dollars a year to the social security fund.

liberties and due process. These laws and policies, including detention for months without charges, secret hearings, and ethnic profiling, signal a sea of change in our government's policies and attitudes towards immigrants. We are a country with a long, rich tradition of welcoming newcomers. Government policies that unfairly and inappropriately confuse immigration with terrorism do not make us safer, tarnish our heritage and damage our standing abroad.

IMMIGRANTS ARE A DRAIN ON THE U.S. ECONOMY

False. The immigrant community is not a drain on the U.S. economy. It is a net benefit. The average immigrant in a lifetime pays a net \$80,000 more in taxes than they collect in government services. Without guest workers, the U.S. economy would lose as much as 9 billion dollars a year in agricultural production and 20% of the current production would go overseas.