

IMMIGRATION: MYTH OR FACT?

1. _____ Immigrants don't pay taxes.
2. _____ Sources vary, but immigrants pay \$90-\$140 billion dollars a year in federal, state, and local taxes.
3. _____ Immigrants come to America to get public benefits and welfare.
4. _____ Immigrants come to America to work and to reunite with family members.
5. _____ Immigrants don't want to learn English.
6. _____ Within ten years of arrival, more than 75% of immigrants speak English well.
7. _____ Percentage wise, the number of foreign-born in the U.S. is greater now than it was 100 years ago in the heyday of immigration.
8. _____ Around 75% of today's immigrants are legal permanent residents.
9. _____ Increasing the Border Patrol's budget six-fold, doubling the Border Patrol, fortifying urban entry areas, pushing would-be migrants into dangerous desert areas have helped slow the flow of undocumented immigration.
10. _____ Around 40% of undocumented immigrants entered legally, but have over-stayed their visas.
11. _____ U.S. security agents agree that more restrictive immigration measures would have prevented 9/11.
12. _____ Since 9/11, the myriad measures targeting immigrants have netted no terrorism prosecutions.
13. _____ The Catholic Church teaches that immigration is a moral issue that impacts human dignity and human rights.
14. _____ By offering legal and social services to help all immigrants, regardless of legal status, the Church encourages illegal immigration.
15. _____ The Catholic Church holds that illegal immigration is not good for society or for the migrant who lives in the shadows outside the law.
16. _____ The Church maintains that when people break the law in order to survive and support their families, the law needs to change.

Answers

1. Myth	4. Fact	7. Myth	10. Fact	13. Fact
2. Fact	5. Myth	8. Fact	11. Myth	14. Myth
3. Myth	6. Fact	9. Myth	12. Fact	15. Fact
				16. Fact

For further background information on these issues, see “Learn the Issues: Myths,” a handout near the end of your packet from the Catholic Bishops’ “Justice for Immigrants” campaign.

The website www.justiceforimmigrants.org offers a wealth of well-documented resources.