Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

Catholic Diocese *of* Cleveland

Immigration Resources

2026-2027



"We are called to take concrete measures to overcome the misunderstanding, ignorance, competition, and fear that stand in the way of genuinely welcoming the stranger in our midst..."
- USCCB, Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity









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*To view or download any of the resources included herein, click on the links provided or visit **dioceseofcleveland.org/immigration**, and go to "Resources".*

1 | From Our Bishop



As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to recognize the God-given dignity of every human person. This truth must guide our response to immigration and to those who come to our communities seeking safety, opportunity, and a better future for their families. Throughout our nation's history, immigrants have enriched our country, strengthened our communities, and contributed to the common good in countless ways.

At the same time, we acknowledge the responsibility of our nation to maintain secure borders and an orderly immigration system. Human dignity and the rule of law are not competing values. We can both uphold the security of our communities and ensure that those fleeing violence, poverty, and instability are treated with fairness, compassion, and respect. Meaningful immigration reform is needed to address a system that too often creates uncertainty, hardship, and division.

I urge all people of goodwill to reject rhetoric and any action that dehumanizes, scapegoats, or sows fear among our immigrant brothers and sisters. Every person is created in the image and likeness of God, and our public discourse and public policies should reflect that fundamental truth. We must approach one another not as adversaries, but as neighbors, seeking solutions that promote justice, mercy, and the common good.

We should also remember the sobering words of Jesus in Matthew 25:31-46. He reminds us that our salvation is bound up with how we treat those in need: "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." How we receive the stranger, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for the vulnerable is ultimately how we receive and care for Christ himself.

As we continue to show the compassion of Jesus to our immigrant families, we pray for those who face uncertainty and hardship, and work together to build a nation marked by peace, compassion, and hope.

Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic
Bishop of Cleveland



2 | Catholic Teaching on Immigration

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) provides the framework for understanding migration as an issue of human dignity and justice. Grounded in Scripture, Church tradition, and the teachings of bishops and popes, CST insists that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore possesses inherent dignity.

Because of this, immigration cannot be reduced to laws, borders, or economics. It concerns real people; families separated by hardship, workers seeking survival, and refugees fleeing violence. The core question is not simply “What is legal?” but “What is just and humane?”

CST offers key principles that guide the Church’s response:

Life and Dignity of the Human Person
Every migrant reflects God’s image and must be treated with respect, regardless of legal status.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation
Families should remain united and supported.

Rights and Responsibilities
People have the right to migrate to sustain life; nations must promote justice while protecting the common good.

Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
Migrants and refugees often face extreme vulnerability and deserve special concern.

Solidarity
We are one human family, called to care for one another across borders.

Subsidiarity
Local communities play an essential role in welcoming and integrating newcomers.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Grounded in these moral foundations, the Church supports comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform. The U.S. Bishops propose several elements:

- Address root causes including poverty, violence, and underdevelopment, so that migration becomes a choice rather than a necessity.
- Create a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants who demonstrate good character.
- Reduce family-visa backlogs to promote timely families unification.
- Establish fair worker programs that protect the rights and dignity of both migrants and U.S. workers.
- Restore due process protections within the immigration system.
- Ensure immigration enforcement that is humane, proportionate, and respectful of human dignity while promoting public safety.

Together, these priorities reflect a vision of immigration policy guided not only by rule of law but also by moral responsibility.

ADDITIONAL READING

- *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity*
- *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*
- *Juntos en el Camino de la Esperanza Ya No Somos Extranjeros*
- *Catholic Elements of Immigration Reform*
- *Catholic Principles of Migration*

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Below are a few available resources from trusted immigrant rights advocacy groups:

IMMIGRANT LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER
- Print **free "red cards"** in 39 different languages.

CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK (CLINIC)
- **A Guide to Workplace Rights for Immigrants**. Last updated 20 December 2016.

ADVOCATES FOR BASIC LEGAL EQUALITY, INC. (ABLE)
- ABLE has several **videos in English and Spanish**.

CASA
- **Protect Yourself and Your Family During Immigration Raids**. Detailed information on your rights in English, Spanish, and French. Updated October 2026.

3 | The Spiritual Praxis of Accompaniment

Increasingly, those involved in service and ministry have incorporated the spiritual praxis and ethic of accompaniment. This is especially important in situations where power differentials exist and when working with vulnerable populations, lest our service or ministry unintentionally reinforce those differences or reduce the individual to a problem to be solved. The words “accompany” and “companion” have their etymological roots in the act of breaking bread together and evoke the sense of those on a journey together. During a journey, companions walk side by side, sharing the uncertainty of the unknown road ahead. Both people are displaced and, in some ways, dependent upon each other. Thus, there is a mutuality in accompaniment: sharing resources, experiences, joys, and even troubles. Relationships are formed and bonds are forged. Other key principles of accompaniment include respect, relationality, trust, and prioritizing the experience and autonomy of those with whom we are interacting.



Accompaniment thus leads to a feeling of “being-with,” rather than “doing for.” This does not diminish the very necessary and crucial acts of service we do. Instead, it draws our attention to the fruitfulness and transformative potential of time spent together. Accompaniment creates a space for cultivating compassion for one another and for understanding that each person has something to give and something to receive. We may think of these God-graced encounters as gift exchanges. Those of you in ministry know how often you say, “I received so much more than I gave” or “I’ve grown so much because of this ministry.” This is the way God works.

Finally, the experience of accompaniment teaches us to examine the world (and ourselves) from the standpoint of suffering. It leads us to a better understanding and awareness of the realities of unjust situations or oppressive structures and moves us towards solidarity with those who are suffering. Pope John Paul II offers the classic description of solidarity as “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all” (*Solicitudo Rei Socialis*, 39). Just as Jesus declared his mission to the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed (Luke 4:18), so too does our faith call on us to work for justice and to become allies with and advocates for those who are in need.

4 | Conversation in the Spirit

Conversation in the Spirit is a prayerful process of communal discernment rooted in listening, reflection, and shared openness to God's voice. This approach provides a structured way for communities to engage in respectful dialogue on immigration and other emerging issues. Participants first reflect prayerfully on their own experiences, then listen deeply to one another without debate or persuasion. Through attentive listening, the community seeks to recognize what themes are resonating, where the Spirit may be speaking through the voices of others, and what invitations or calls to action are emerging. This process helps foster trust, participation, transparency, and a culture in which all can contribute to the mission of the Church.

The following framework for parish discernment is recommended:

- Prepare through prayer and reflection by inviting participants to place themselves in God's presence, reflect on Scripture or Church teaching, and ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Share and listen deeply by creating space for each person to speak from their experience while others listen attentively and respectfully. The focus is not on discussion or debate, but on hearing how God may be speaking through the experiences of the community.
- Discern together by reflecting on what resonated in the conversation, identifying common themes, and asking: What is the Spirit inviting us to recognize, embrace, or change?
- Identify next steps by considering concrete and practical responses that flow from the discernment process and represent the most loving and faithful response to the needs of the community.

112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees | 27 September 2026

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has chosen *"Even just one of these children"* as the title for his message for the ***112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees***, making clear reference to the Gospel according to Matthew: *"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me"* (Mt 18:5). With this choice, the Holy Father intends to express the Church's concern for minors directly involved in migration, recalling the duty to welcome each one of them as the Gospel teaches us.

This is not the first time that the Popes have spoken authoritatively on this issue, but the current migration situation presents new challenges that seriously threaten the rights and dignity of the youngest among us and require urgent and effective responses. Therefore, this is not a matter of discussing numbers or percentages, because "even just one" has the highest value.



STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

Participants should enter the conversation with an openness to listen, learn, and discern together what the Holy Spirit is calling them to as individuals and as a community at this moment. They should then follow the Conversation in the Spirit process outlined below.



Personal Preparation

By entrusting oneself to the Father, conversing in prayer with the Lord Jesus and listening to the Holy Spirit, each one prepares his or her own contribution to the topic. Read the reflection materials provided in advance on your own or together in a small group. How are you feeling after reading the materials? What are you thinking? What do you desire?

SILENCE, PRAYER AND LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD



Taking the Word and Listening

In small groups of 6-8 people, each person takes turns speaking from his or her own experience and prayer. When others are speaking, remember to listen with an open and humble heart.

SILENCE AND PRAYER



Making Space for Others and the Other

From what the others have said, each one shares what has resonated most with him or her or what has aroused the most resistance in him or her, allowing himself or herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit: "What am I hearing the Holy Spirit saying to us?" This time when sharing, do not add anything new to the conversation - just your response to what you have heard already shared.

SILENCE AND PRAYER



Building Together

Together we dialogue on the basis of what emerged earlier in order to discern and gather the fruit of the conversation in the Spirit: to recognize intuitions and convergences; to identify discordances, obstacles and new questions; to allow prophetic voices to emerge. It is important that everyone can feel represented by the outcome of the work. "To what steps is the Holy Spirit calling us together?" Once everyone has shared their ideas for action, identify 2-3 emerging actions which could be taken.

Final Prayer of Thanksgiving

5 | Common Questions about Immigration

FACTS, FAITH, AND THE COMMON GOOD

What Should We Know About Immigrants in the United States?

- Approximately 52 million immigrants live in the United States, representing about 15% of the population.
- Nearly half are U.S. citizens, and many others are lawful permanent residents.
- Refugees, asylees, and many other immigrants are present through legal pathways established under U.S. law.
- Seeking asylum is a legal process recognized under both U.S. and international law.
- Many immigrants come seeking safety, family reunification, employment, or relief from violence and persecution.

Does the Church Support Open Borders?

No. The Catholic Church teaches that governments have the right and responsibility to secure their borders and protect the common good. At the same time, nations should treat migrants humanely and provide reasonable opportunities for those seeking safety and a better life.

Catholic teaching seeks a balance between:

- The right of nations to regulate migration.
- The duty to protect human life and dignity.
- The importance of family unity.
- Compassion toward those fleeing violence, persecution, or extreme hardship.

How Do Immigrants Affect the Economy?

Research generally shows that immigrants make significant contributions to the U.S. economy.

- They help fill labor shortages in industries such as healthcare, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and technology.
- Immigrants participate in the workforce at high rates and are more likely than native-born Americans to start new businesses.
- Numerous studies find little long-term negative effect on wages for most U.S.-born workers.
- Many innovations, patents, and businesses in the United States have been developed by immigrants.

Do Immigrants Contribute Through Taxes and Public Life?

Yes. Immigrants contribute not only economically but also as parishioners, volunteers, military personnel, community leaders, and neighbors.

- Immigrants, including many undocumented immigrants, pay sales, property, payroll, and income taxes.
- Many undocumented immigrants contribute to Social Security and Medicare through payroll taxes even though they are generally unable to access those benefits.
- Refugees and asylees contribute billions of dollars annually through their work and tax payments.

What Does the Research Say About Immigration and Crime?
Concerns about public safety are understandable and deserve serious attention. At the same time, extensive research has generally found that:

- Immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born Americans.
- Immigration is not associated with increased violent crime rates.
- Communities with larger immigrant populations often experience lower levels of violent crime.

Every crime is a tragedy, regardless of who commits it. The evidence, however, does not support the belief that immigration itself is a major driver of crime.

Do Immigrants Assimilate?
Throughout American history, similar concerns have been raised about Irish, German, Italian, Polish, and many other immigrant groups. Over time, these communities became integral to American society.

Today, immigrants continue to contribute as:

- Workers and business owners
- Military service members
- Community leaders
- Parents and parishioners
- Citizens and future citizens

American culture has long been strengthened by people who bring different experiences while embracing a common commitment to their communities and country.



A CATHOLIC RESPONSE

Catholics can disagree about specific immigration policies. Reasonable people may differ on questions such as border enforcement, visa limits, detention practices, or pathways to legal status. What should unite us is our commitment to:

- The dignity of every human person
- The rule of law
- The sanctity of family life
- Compassion for those in need
- The pursuit of the common good

As Pope Francis often reminded the Church, our response to migrants and refugees is ultimately not only a political question but also a question about how we recognize Christ in our neighbor.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Mt. 25:35)

Sources: Global Refuge [globalrefuge.org], George W. Bush Presidential Center [bushcenter.org], Humane Borders [humaneborders.org], and Minsky, McCormick & Hallagan, P.C. [mmhpc.com].



6 | Prayers

In times of uncertainty and challenge, we are called to come together in prayer. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, prayer is the "small flame" that gives us strength to resist indifference and injustice. May these prayers help our parishes, families, and communities keep alive a spirit of welcome, respect, and love for our immigrant brothers and sisters.

Prayer for Migrants

For all those who see "home" and all it means
disappear behind them;
for all those who cannot see a home
in the days ahead of them;
for all those who dwell in daily insecurity;
for all those who are weary and
without a safe place to rest their heads;
for all families in migration we pray.
May the image of the Holy Family
fleeing oppression stay with us as we enter a new year,
and stay with us each night as we are blessed
with returning to a home.
May we also be blessed
with compassion for those
still weary, still seeking,
still with so far to go.

Jane Deren, 2007. Retrieved on July 7, 2025 from
https://educationforjustice.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/01/Prayer-for-Migrants_12914.pdf.

Prayer for Refugees and Migrants

Merciful God,
we pray for families and individuals
who have left or fled their homes,
seeker safer and better lives.
We lift up to you their hopes, fears, and needs,
that they may be protected on their journeys,
their dignity and rights may be honored and upheld,
and they may be welcomed with open arms
into generous and compassionate communities. Amen.

Retrieved on July 7, 2025 from https://files.catholiccharitiesusa.org/general/Prayer-for-Refugees-and-Migrants.pdf?mtime=20170404090738.



God's Heart: A Reflection on Compassion

“It is very important to realize that compassion is more than sympathy or empathy. When we are asked to listen to the pains of people and empathize with their suffering, we soon reach our emotional limits. We can listen only for a short time and only to a few people. In our society we are bombarded with so much "news" about human misery that our hearts easily get numbed simply because of overload. But God's compassionate heart does not have limits. God's heart is greater, infinitely greater, than the human heart. It is that divine heart that God wants to give to us so that we can love all people without burning out or becoming numb. It is for this compassionate heart that we pray when we say: "A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit" (Ps 51). The Holy Spirit of God is given to us so that we can become participants in God's compassion and so reach out to all people at all times with God's heart.”

From *Here and Now by Henri Nouwen, Crossroad,* 1994, pp. 109-110. Retrieved on July 7, 2025 from https://www.chausa.org/news-and-publications/publications/health-progress/archives/january-february-2001/prayer-service-a-compassionate-heart.

Scripture: The Model of a Compassionate Community (Colossians 3:12-17)

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Retrieved on July 7, 2025 from *https://bible.usccb.org/bible/colossians/3*.

A Prayer for Immigrants

God of the journey, God of the traveler,
we pray for those who leave their homes
in search new beginnings and possibilities,
may they know your presence with them.

We pray that those who seek
to make a home in this country
may find us welcoming and willing
to help them find a path toward citizenship.

We pray that our legislators,
as they craft new immigration legislation,
may find the wisdom and courage
to enact new policies
that do justice for our country
and for those who would immigrate here.

We pray that those who fan the flames
of fear and discrimination
against the undocumented
may be touched with your divine compassion.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Retrieved on July 7, 2025 from https://pvm.archchicago.org/documents/87254/88701/PrayersIntentionsComplete_en.pdf/8cc76ade-81b0-4910-8587-e4ddd3234bce.



7 | Important Contacts and Referrals

NON-LEGAL RESOURCES

First Call for Help (211)
Provides referrals to all community
Resources in the country.
Call 211 from your phone.
Phone interpretation available
Website: 211oh.org

Catholic Community Connection
Provides information on all Catholic services in the Diocese.
Tel. (216) 337-4358
Website: catholiccommunityconnection.org

BAR ASSOCIATIONS BY COUNTIES

Ashland
Tel: (419) 282-4219
Website: lawlibrary.ashlandcountyoh.us

Cuyahoga
Tel: (216) 696-3525
Website: clemetrobar.org

Geauga
Tel: (440) 286-7160
Website: geaugabar.org

Lake
Tel: (440) 350-2180
Website: lakecountyohiobar.com

Lorain
Tel: (440) 281-8000
Website: loraincountybarassociation.org

Medina
Tel: (330) 725-9794
Website: medinabar.org

Summit
Tel: (330) 253-5007
Website: akronbar.org

Wayne
Tel: (330) 287-7721
Website: waynecountybarassociation.com

CONSULATES

El Salvador
8605 W Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 310
Chicago, Illinois 60631
Tel: (888) 301-1130
Email: consuladochicago@rree.gob.sv
Website: rree.gob.sv

Guatemala
2105 S. Hamilton Road, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43232
Tel: (614) 762-8119
Emergency: (614) 897-3208
Email: consohio@minex.gob.gt
Website: minex.gob.gt

Honduras
812 W Van Buren St STE. 101-102,
Chicago, IL 60607
Tel: (773) 340-8485
Website: hondurasemb.org

Mexico
1403 East 12 Mile Road, Building E
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071
Information line: (248) 336-0320
Fax: (248) 336-0315
Email: detroit@sre.gob.mx
Website: consulmex.sre.gob.mx

Philippines
122 South Michigan Avenue, Ste. 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Tel: (312) 583-0621
Fax: (312) 583-0647
Website: philippineembassy-dc.org

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Akron / Canton / Youngstown / Ashtabula Area

Asian Services in Action (ASIA)
Tel: (330) 535-3263
Website: asiaohio.org

Community Legal Aid
Tel: (866) 584-2350
Website: communitylegalaid.org

International Institute of Akron
Tel: (330) 376-5106
Website: iiakron.org

Cincinnati Area

Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio
Tel: (513) 241-7745
Website: ccswoh.org

Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati and SW Ohio
Tel: (800) 582-2682
Website: lascinti.org

Cleveland Area

Asian Services in Action (ASIA)
Tel: (216) 881-0330
Website: asiaohio.org

Building Hope in the City
Tel: (216) 241-9400
Website: buildinghopeinthecity.org

Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services
Tel: (216) 939-3737
Website: ccdocle.org

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Tel: (888) 817-3777
Website: lasclev.org

USCRI
Tel: (216) 250-1574
3167 Fulton Rd, Ste. 306, Cleveland

Columbus Area

Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS)
Tel: (614) 635-5747
Website: crisohio.org

Legal Aid Society of South East and of Central Ohio
Tel: (614) 221-7201
Website: lasco.org

US Together
Tel: (614) 437-9941
Website: ustogether.us

Vineyard Community Center
Tel: (614) 259-5238
Website: vineyardcommunitycenter.org

Dayton / Toledo Area

Advocate for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE)
Tel: (800) 837-0817
Website: ablelaw.org

Moshannon Valley Detention Center

Aldea People's Justice Center
Tel: (484) 877-8002
Website: aldeapjc.org

Franklin County Legal Services
Tel: (717) 262-2326
Website: fcls.net

Seneca County Detention Center

Ohio Center for Strategic Immigration Litigation & Outreach (OCSILIO)
Website: ocsilio.org

PRIVATE ATTORNEY REMOVAL REFERRALS

Attorney fees will be charged, the following are NOT free or low cost services.

Alabasi & Associates Co, LPA
Serving all Ohio Immigration Detention Centers (Butler, Geauga, Hubbard, Seneca)
Staff speaks Spanish
Tel: (216) 432-1910

Aljijakli, Kosseff & Prendergast, LLC
Tel: (440) 519-1979 (Nadeen Aljijakli)
Tel: (216) 352-3452 (Heather Prendergast)
Website: akpimmigration.com

Bhagat Immigration Law
Tel: (216) 789-3286
Website: bhagatimmigration.com

Elizabeth Ford, LLC
Serving Geauga County Immigration Detention Center
Interpreters available for Spanish and Portuguese
Tel: (440) 487-5697
Website: ebfordlaw.com

Herman Legal Group, LLC.
Tel: (216) 696-6170
Website: lawfirm4immigrants.com

Law Offices of Farhad Sethna
Serving Geauga, Hubbard, and Seneca Immigration Detention Centers
Staff speaks Hindi and Spanish
Tel: (330) 384-8000

MJB Immigration
Tel: 216-328-9878
Website: mjbimmigration.com

Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper
Tel: 216-621-7227
Website: nicola.com

Okuh & Ibara-Cech Law, LLC
Tel: (216) 377-1333
Website: oiclaw.com

Robert Brown, LLC
Serving all Ohio Immigration Detention Centers (Butler, Geauga, Hubbard, Seneca)
Staff speaks Spanish, French, Serbian, Russian, Croatian, Romanian, and Mandarin
Tel: (888) 861-4414
Website: brown-immigration.com

Tanya M. Linetsky & Assoc., LLC
Serving Geauga County Immigration Detention Center
Staff speaks Russian
Tel: (216) 291-5200
Toll Free: (866) 606-3811
Website: linetskylaw.com

American Immigration Lawyers Association
For additional referrals, please reference:
Website: ailalawyer.com

8 | Detention Facilities in Ohio

BUTLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
705 Hanover Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

CORRECTION CENTER OF NW OHIO
3151 Co. Rd. 2425
Stryker, OH 43557

GEAUGA COUNTY SAFETY CENTER
12450 Merritt Road
Chardon, OH 44024

MAHONING COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
110 Fifth Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44503

NORTHEAST OHIO CORRECTION CENTER
2240 Hubbard Road
Youngstown, OH 44505

SENECA COUNTY JAIL
3040 South State Route 100
Tiffin, OH 44883

HELPFUL INFORMATION

To locate facilities in Ohio and around the country:
www.ice.gov/detention-facilities

If someone is detained by ICE or CBP:

- Contact his/her attorney. If they do not have an attorney, there is a list of recommended legal representatives on page x.
- Contact the consulate. A list of phone numbers is included on page x.
- Use this locator to find out where someone is being detained: ***locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search***

9 | Helpful Resources

To view resource, click on the link or visit **dioceseofcleveland.org/immigration**.

GENERAL
From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB):
- *Catholic Elements of Immigration Reform* (2025)
- *Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration*
- *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity* (2000)

From Catholic Charities:
- *Immigration Legal Services*
- *Immigration 101 Presentation(PPT)*

From Justice for Immigrants:
- *Bishops' Statements on Migration*
- *Immigration Reform and the Church: 4-Lesson Module for Adults* (2023)
- *Framework for Acting in Solidarity with Migrants* (Welcome, Protect, Promote, Integrate)
- *"One Part of the Body: The Potential Impact of Immigration on American Christian Families"* (2025)

From Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC):
- *Find a Local Affiliate with CLINIC*
- *"Frequently Asked Questions on Trump Administration Policies Affecting Parolees" (Last updated April 3, 2025)*
- *Know Your Rights Flyers*, downloadable in numerous languages
- *"Rapid Response Toolkit: To Help Advocates Prepare for ICE Raids and Detentions"*

ADVOCACY
- *Legislative Advocacy from Catholic Charities USA*

INTERESTING ARTICLES AND STUDIES
- "*Our Pathway to a Brighter Future*," Ohio's New Americans, 2018
- "*Webinar on New Undocumented Population Report: Fact-Based Demography and Just Policies in Challenging Times*," Center for Migration Studies, 11 June 2025

PASTORAL CARE
- *"Preparing Your Family for Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights," Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE)*
- *"Psychological First Aid: A Guide for Field Workers,"* World Health Organization
- *"How to Talk to Children About Deportation or Separation", National Child Traumatic Stress Network*

SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER
- *Visit to Lampedusa: Homily of Holy Father Francis*
- *Prayers and Intentions for Immigrants and Immigration Reform*

10 | Glossary of Terms

To view and download the full Immigration 101 presentation of immigration terms, click **here** or visit **dioceseofcleveland.org/immigration**.

Immigrant - A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country. You can use this term for people that have permission to be in the United States and for people that have entered the United States without permission.

Migrant - Someone who leaves their home country freely, by their own choice. Generally, any immigrant who is not a refugee or an asylum seeker is a migrant.

Refugee - Someone who leaves their home country because they were forced or compelled. The only people who are considered refugees in the United States are people who have been screened by the United States and granted refugee status BEFORE they enter the United States.

Asylum Seeker - Asylees must meet the same legal definition of 'refugee'. The only difference is when they apply. Asylum Seekers enter the United States and then ask the government for asylum. Refugees make their request to the United States government and are approved for refugee status before entering the country.

Humanitarian Parolee - A temporary authorization that allows foreign nationals, who are otherwise ineligible to enter the United States, to be paroled into the country for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) - A temporary immigration benefit that allows eligible foreign nationals from designated countries experiencing unsafe conditions to remain in the United States. These conditions can include armed conflict, natural disasters, and other extraordinary and temporary conditions.

Undocumented - A person who does not have a Visa or other document granting permission to be in the United States. This could mean they entered without inspection or they had a Visa that expired but they stayed past the expiration date. This is the preferred term for people who do not have status in the United States.

Illegal Alien - Normally, this refers to the same group of people as the term 'Undocumented'. We do not use the term 'Illegal Alien' because it has a negative connotation and is considered derogatory.

Permanent Resident - Someone who has permission to reside in the United States permanently, but is not a United States Citizen.

Citizen - A person can become a United States Citizen by: 1) birth in the United States; 2) birth in another country to United States citizen parents; or 3) naturalization (application for citizenship).

