

# Immigration Toolbox

## “We Stand in Firm Solidarity with Our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters”

*The following is a statement by Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Migration.*

*January 22, 2025*



“The Catholic Church is committed to defending the sanctity of every human life and the God-given dignity of

each person, regardless of nationality or immigration status. Church teaching recognizes a country’s right and responsibility to promote public order, safety, and security through well-regulated borders and just limits on immigration. However, as shepherds, we cannot abide injustice, and we stress that national self-interest does not justify policies with consequences that are contrary to the moral law. The use of sweeping generalizations to denigrate any group, such as describing all undocumented immigrants as ‘criminals’ or ‘invaders,’ to deprive them of protection under the law, is an affront to God, who has created each of us in his own image. Pope Francis has stated, ‘No one will ever openly deny that [migrants] are human beings, yet in practice, by our decisions and the way we treat them, we can show that we consider them less worthy, less important, less human. For Christians, this way of thinking and acting is unacceptable.’

“While an emphasis on anti-trafficking is welcomed, several of the executive orders signed by President Trump this week are specifically intended to eviscerate humanitarian protections enshrined in federal law and undermine due process, subjecting vulnerable families and children to grave danger. The open-ended deployment of military assets to support civil immigration enforcement along the U.S.-Mexico border is especially concerning. Meanwhile, policies barring the consideration of any humanitarian claims—including those of unaccompanied children and trafficking victims—have repeatedly failed to reduce irregular migration in a legal, sustainable, and humane manner.

“Preventing any access to asylum and other protections will only endanger those who are most vulnerable and deserving of relief, while empowering gangs and other predators to exploit them. Likewise, indefinitely halting refugee resettlement is unmerited, as it is already proven to be one of the most secure legal pathways to the United States. Even non-humanitarian legal immigration and naturalized persons are targeted by these policies in support of a so-called ‘unified American identity.’ Finally, the proposed interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment to limit birthright citizenship sets a dangerous precedent, contradicting the Supreme Court’s longstanding interpretation.

“We urge President Trump to pivot from these enforcement-only policies to just and merciful solutions, working in good faith with members of Congress to achieve meaningful, bipartisan immigration reform that furthers the common good with an effective, orderly immigration system. My brother bishops and I will support this in any way we can, while continuing to accompany our immigrant brothers and sisters in accordance with the Gospel of Life.”

### Family Toolkit Resources Included:

**Know Your  
Rights Training**

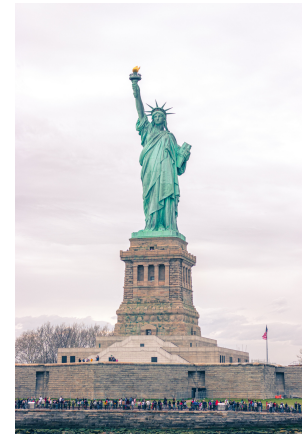
**Safety Kits for  
Families**

**How to Identify  
Scams**

**Legal Services**

**Catholic Social  
Teaching and  
Immigration**

**Prayers for  
Migrants**



All people in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, have Constitutional rights and protections. Neither immigration nor the police will assume you want to exercise your rights. You are in charge of asserting them by showing your Know Your Rights card or by telling the officer you are exercising your rights. These flyers explain your rights in various places and contexts.

## Know Your Rights

- You do not have to open the door for an immigration agent without a signed warrant.
- You do not need to answer any questions from an immigration agent.
- You do not need to sign anything without speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak to a lawyer.
- An “ICE warrant” is a form issued by certain immigration officers that names an allegedly deportable non-citizen and directs various federal immigration enforcement agents to arrest that individual.
- In public spaces, remember to remain calm and ask if you have permission to leave.
- If you are outside your home, you can ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say yes, leave calmly.

**See following pages for more resources**  
**Or Visit: <https://www.cliniclegal.org/issues/know-your-rights>**

In order to build the civilization of love, dialogue between cultures must work to overcome all ethnocentric selfishness and make it possible to combine regard for one's own identity with understanding of others and respect for diversity.- John Paul II, *World Day for Peace Message*



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN PUBLIC SPACES

All people in the United States, *including undocumented immigrants*, have Constitutional rights and protections. Neither immigration nor the police will assume you want to exercise your rights. You are in charge of asserting them by showing your Know Your Rights card or by telling the officer you are exercising your rights.

If you are in a public space, such as a street or sidewalk, and ICE (immigration officer) approaches, you have rights that protect you.

## You should ask if you are free to leave.

If ICE approaches you in public, you may ask if you are free to leave. If the answer is “yes,” calmly, slowly, and quietly walk away. Do not run or speak. If they say “no,” do not walk or run away. Stay where you are.

## You have the right to refuse a search.

You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings. State clearly that you do not consent. **Refusing consent may not stop the officer.** An officer may pat you down above your clothes if they suspect, for example, you have weapons or drugs in your possession. If the officer proceeds to pat you down or conduct a full search, stay calm, do not resist the inspection, and keep your hands where the officer can see them. Stating your objection preserves your rights. Thereafter, the officer cannot arrest you without a warrant or proof you have committed a crime.

## You have the right to remain silent.

You do not have to answer any questions without the presence of your legal representative. (In some states, you may be required to state your name if an officer asks

you to identify yourself and an officer may arrest you for refusing to do so.) You can show the officer your Know Your Rights card or tell the officer you are exercising your right to remain silent. If you must speak, only say that you would like to speak to your legal representative before answering questions

- Only provide your identification when the law requires you to do so.\*
- Do not tell the officer your country of nationality.
- Do not answer questions.
- Do not sign paperwork.
- Do not carry false documents.
- Do not physically interfere with the search.

## You have the right to speak to a lawyer.

If the officer tells you that you cannot walk away, you have been detained. You should ask to speak to a lawyer and then remain silent. You have the right to speak to a legal representative. It is okay if you have not hired a legal representative; you still have the right to consult with one.

\*Talk to a local advocate about whether and when you must produce identification. For example, in most states, you must show a driver's license if you have one and you are pulled over; you also must show your immigration identification to an immigration officer who requests it if you have lawful status and are not a U.S. citizen.



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN YOUR HOME

All people in the United States, **including undocumented immigrants**, have Constitutional rights and protections. Neither immigration nor the police will assume you want to exercise your rights. You are in charge of asserting them by showing Know Your Rights card or by telling the officer you are exercising your rights.

If you are home and ICE (immigration officer) knocks on your door, you have rights that protect you.

## **You do not have to open the door.**

If ICE comes to your door, generally there are only two ways in which they can lawfully enter your home:

1. With your permission or the permission of someone in your home; or
2. With a search warrant issued by a judge.

## **You should not invite the officer into your home.**

If ICE tells you they are there to arrest someone or search the home, do **not** open the door or invite them into your home. Opening the door may give them permission to enter. It is important to also tell this to others in your home, including children. If your child opens the door, that may give ICE permission to enter the home.

## **If the ICE officer says they have a warrant, ask for their identification and review the warrant. It must be issued by a judge and not just the agency.**

ICE cannot enter your home without a valid search warrant. Talk with the officers through the door and ask them to show you their identification and the warrant. Review the warrant to determine if it is valid:

## **The warrant must be a search warrant.**

There are search warrants and arrest warrants. ICE cannot enter your home with an arrest warrant. They must have a search warrant.

## **The warrant must have the correct address.**

If the address on the warrant is incorrect, ICE cannot search your home, unless you grant them permission.

## **The warrant must have a judge's signature.**

To be valid, search warrants must be signed by a **judge**. If an **immigration officer** signs the warrant, it is **not** a valid search warrant. Without a warrant signed by a **judge**, ICE cannot search your home, unless you grant them permission.

## **You have the right to remain silent.**

If ICE has a valid warrant and enters your home, you can choose to remain silent. If you must speak, tell the agent that you would like to speak to a lawyer before answering questions.

- Only provide your identification when the law requires you to do so.\*
- Do not tell the officer your country of nationality.
- Do not answer questions.
- Do not sign paperwork.
- Do not carry false documents.
- Do not physically interfere with the search.

\*Talk to a local advocate about whether and when you must produce identification. For example, in most states, you must show a driver's license if you have one and you are pulled over; you also must show your immigration identification to an immigration officer who requests it if you have lawful status and are not a U.S. citizen.



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN YOUR CAR

All people in the United States, *including undocumented immigrants*, have Constitutional rights and protections. Neither immigration nor the police will assume you want to exercise your rights. You are in charge of asserting them by showing Know Your Rights card or by telling the officer you are exercising your rights.

If you are pulled over while in a car, you have rights that protect you.

## Stop the car as soon as safely possible.

After stopping, turn off the car, turn on the internal light, open the window part way, and place your hands on the wheel.

## There must be a reason to stop you.

If a police officer stops you, they must have reasonable suspicion that someone in the car committed a local or state violation or crime. If an immigration officer stops you, they must have reasonable suspicion that someone in the car committed an immigration violation or federal crime. You can ask:

- Am I free to leave?
- Are you the police/immigration?
- Why did you stop me?

## If you are driving, upon request, provide your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance, if you have it.

If you do not have these documents, you can tell the officer you do not have them or that you are exercising your right to remain silent. In some states, if you are driving without a license, this is an arrestable offense, so failure to provide a driver's license could result in arrest. The officer may ask for other identification, and you may refuse to provide it.\*

## Passengers do not have to provide identification.

Generally, if an officer asks a passenger for identification, they do not have to provide it.\*

## Generally, you do not have to provide other identification.

If you are stopped by state or local police, you may choose to provide proof of lawful immigration status, if you have such proof. If you are stopped by an immigration officer, you must provide proof of lawful status if you have status and are not a U.S. citizen. If you do not have lawful status, you should **not** provide foreign identification.

## If the officer says they have a warrant, ask for identification and review the warrant.

**Search warrant:** Officers can search your car if (1) you give consent, (2) they have a search warrant that specifies the exact car to be searched and the warrant is signed by a judge (**not an immigration officer**), or (3) they believe your car contains evidence of a crime.

**Arrest warrant:** If an ICE officer has an arrest warrant, they can arrest the person named on the warrant. An arrest warrant does **not** give ICE permission to search your car.

## You have the right to remain silent.

You can exercise your right to remain silent by showing your Know Your Rights card or telling the officer you are exercising your right to remain silent. If you must speak, say you would like to speak to a lawyer before answering questions.

- Only provide your identification when the law requires you to do so.\*
- Do not tell the officer your country of nationality.
- Do not answer questions.
- Do not sign paperwork.
- Do not carry false documents.
- Do not physically interfere with the search.

\*Talk to a local advocate about whether and when you must produce identification. For example, in most states, you must show a driver's license if you have one and you are pulled over; you also must show your immigration identification to an immigration officer who requests it if you have lawful status and are not a U.S. citizen.

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## FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Every family should have a Family Preparedness Plan in case of an emergency. It is critical for immigrant families to think ahead and set more concrete plans for immigration emergencies that can arise.

Below is information that will assist you with a Family Preparedness Plan

### **Items to consider in case of an emergency:**

- Do all of your children have Passports? (It is critical that all U.S. born children have a passport in case of emergencies.)
- Put a plan in place on who will take care of your child if you are unable to do so.  
Items to consider:
  - Make sure your child and school know the appointed adult caring for your child.
  - Does your children's school have information for an adult who can be responsible for your children in the event that you cannot pick them up?
  - If you can't get in touch with each other, is there someone outside of the family whom you could contact? Does everyone in the family know this person and how to reach them?
  - Provide copies of important documentation such as medical records, birth certificates, and all important contact information for the child and caregiver.
- Do you know all of the full names, birth dates, and social security numbers or A-numbers for everyone in your family? Do you have this information memorized or written down somewhere safe?
- Where would you find all of your family members in an emergency? Do you know how to find them or contact them at home, work, school, or other places where your family spends time?

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The following pages can be filled out and kept in a safe spot in case of an emergency.  
It may be helpful to keep a copy in other places as well,  
such as a car or at another trusted adult's home.

## Family Information

| Name | Date of Birth | Social Security | A-Number |
|------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
|      |               |                 |          |
|      |               |                 |          |
|      |               |                 |          |
|      |               |                 |          |
|      |               |                 |          |
|      |               |                 |          |
|      |               |                 |          |

## Where to Find Family Members During an Emergency

| Places where family spends time<br>(School, work, home, etc) | Address | Phone Number |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
|                                                              |         |              |
|                                                              |         |              |
|                                                              |         |              |
|                                                              |         |              |
|                                                              |         |              |

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The following pages can be filled out and kept in a safe spot in case of an emergency.  
It may be helpful to keep a copy in other places as well,  
such as a car or at another trusted adult's home.

Medical Information

|                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| First Name                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Last Name                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DOB                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Doctor<br>Contact<br>Info. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Medical<br>Conditions      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prescription               |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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The following pages can be filled out and kept in a safe spot in case of an emergency.  
It may be helpful to keep a copy in other places as well,  
such as a car or at another trusted adult's home.

## Our Non-Family Emergency Contact

Name of Non-Familial Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Emergency Meeting Place

Family Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



# How to Avoid Immigration Scams and Get Real Help

**Scammers know the immigration process is complicated. They use the confusion it causes to try to take advantage of people looking for help. Here are some examples of common immigration scams, advice on how to spot and avoid them, and where to get real help.**

## **Examples of Immigration Scams**

### ***Notario or immigration consultant scams***

In the United States only an immigration attorney or someone authorized by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) can give you immigration advice. But scammers try to confuse immigrants, by calling themselves notario, notary public, accountant, or consultant. In Latin American countries, the word notario or notary public means that the individual is an attorney or has legal training, but that's not true in the United States.

**Only attorneys and people who have been accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice working for a recognized organization can give you legal advice.**

Anyone else is just taking your money. Sometimes, their bad advice will hurt your chance to immigrate lawfully or adjust your legal status. The DOJ has a full list of accredited individuals and recognized organizations.

Read this graphic novel, also available in Spanish, to learn more about how to spot and avoid notario scams. Order free copies to distribute in your community.

#### **What to know**

- Don't go to a notario, accountant, or consultant for immigration or legal help. See the advice below on how to get real help.
- Don't sign blank immigration forms, or forms that have false information about you or your situation. A dishonest notario, accountant, or consultant might ask you to do this.
- Don't pay for immigration forms. The official forms from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) are free.
- Don't let a notario or anyone else keep your original documents.

### ***Fake Immigration Websites***

When you look for immigration help, you might find websites that look like they're connected with USCIS — but they're not. They may use names like "U.S. Immigration" and show pictures of American flags or the Statue of Liberty. But if the website address doesn't end in .gov, it's not a federal government website and not connected with USCIS. The site might charge you for forms that are free from the government and might also steal your personal information.

#### **What to know**

- Real U.S. government website addresses end with .gov.
- USCIS forms are free. If you have to pay to download government immigration forms, you're not on a legitimate website.
- You'll find real immigration information at the USCIS website.

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## How to Avoid Immigration Scams Continued

### **Get Real Help**

Choosing the right person to help you is almost as important as filling out the right form, or filling it out the right way. Even people who mean well, like a friend or a family member, who want to help you with the immigration process, might cause problems for you later. For example, someone who helps you with forms might be able to write or translate what you ask them to, but not be qualified to give you advice on what to say or which forms to use. Take some time to find the real help you need for your immigration situation.

### **Find people authorized to help**

Only an attorney or an accredited representative working for an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice is authorized to give you legal advice about the immigration process. Working with them can also help protect you from people who might cheat you.

- An attorney must be a member of the professional association in their state. Be sure the attorney you choose is in good standing with the association.
  - To find a free or low-cost immigration attorney, check out this state-by-state list from the U.S. Department of Justice.
  - Check this list from the American Immigration Lawyers Association to find an immigration attorney in your area. These attorneys will charge you a fee.
- An accredited representative is not a lawyer but is someone authorized to give immigration advice. The organizations they work for may charge you a fee.
  - An accredited representative must work for an organization recognized by DOJ.
  - Find the recognized organizations in your area on the Recognition & Accreditation Program page on DOJ's website.



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF INDIANAPOLIS

**Catholic Charities**  
*Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.*

## **Not For The Profits (May require income verification)**

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### **Catholic Charities**

#### **Archdiocese of Indianapolis**

- Immigration Legal Services
- <https://helpcreatehope.org/>
- Email [ccimmigration@archindy.org](mailto:ccimmigration@archindy.org) to schedule an appointment

#### **Exodus Refugee Immigration Indianapolis**

- Immigration Legal Services
- <https://www.exodusrefugee.org>
- (317) 921-0836

### **Mariposa Legal Services**

- Non-profit legal services for detained immigrants
  - <https://www.mariposalegal.org>
  - Call or Text: (317) 426-0617
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### **Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic**

- Immigration Legal Services
- <https://www.nclegalclinic.org>
- (317) 429-4131

### **Indiana Legal Service**

- Immigration Legal Services
- <https://www.indianaleglservices.org/>
- 1-844-243-8570 or apply online

## **Private Attorneys**

### **Broyles, Kight, & Ricafort, PC (private attorneys)**

- Deportation defense, adjustment of status involving waivers, consular processing
- Naturalization involving criminal conduct
- [www.bkrlaw.com](http://www.bkrlaw.com)
- (317) 571-3601

### **Adams Immigration Law (private attorney)**

- <https://adamsimmigration.com/>
- (317) 967-6000

### **Flora Legal Group (private attorney)**

- Removal defense, Asylum, U Visa, family based immigration
- (317) 487-4652

### **Kevin Munoz (private attorney)**

- (317) 796-4337



JANUARY 2025

# Catholic Elements of Immigration Reform

“What is clearly true, and what the Church and many others have called for, is the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of our country’s immigration system. The U.S. immigration system is overly complex and unjust, often keeping family members apart; it must be fixed.”

—Statement of the USCCB Administrative Committee (March 17, 2022)

For decades, the Catholic bishops of the United States have been consistent and steadfast in their calls for a just reform of the nation’s immigration system. The elements of reform articulated below are grounded in [Catholic social teaching generally](#) and the [Church’s teaching on migration specifically](#), including the joint pastoral letter released by the American and Mexican bishops, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope* (2003).

## Element 1: Enforcement efforts should be targeted, proportional, and humane

Safeguarding American communities and upholding the rule of law are laudable goals. At the same time, a country’s rights to regulate its borders and enforce its immigration laws must be balanced with its responsibilities to uphold the sanctity of human life, respect the God-given dignity of all persons, and enact policies that further the common good. Whether along an international border or in the interior of the country, enforcement measures should focus on those who present genuine risks and dangers to society, particularly efforts to reduce gang activity, stem the flow of drugs, and end human trafficking. Just enforcement also requires limiting the use of detention, especially for families, children, pregnant women, the sick, elderly, and disabled, given its proven harms and the pervasive lack of appropriate care in detention settings. Military personnel, resources, and tactics should not be used in immigration enforcement. Deportations and other enforcement actions should always be carried out with due regard for families, community ties, and religious liberty interests.

## Element 2: Humanitarian protections and due process should be ensured

From refugee resettlement, asylum, and temporary protected status, to visas for victims of trafficking and abused youth, humanitarian protections are essential components of an immigration system that furthers the common good. Reforms to the U.S. asylum system in particular should not raise what is already a high bar for relief, given the potential threats to human life if refoulement were to occur. Meanwhile, third-country resettlement is a durable and mutually beneficial solution for refugees who cannot safely return to their country of origin. Immigration processes, whether affirmative or defensive, must also be subject to due process. The dehumanization or vilification of noncitizens as a means to deprive them of protection under the law is not only contrary to the rule of law but an affront to God himself, who has created them in his own image. Further restricting access to humanitarian protections will only endanger those who are most vulnerable and deserving of relief.

### **Element 3: Long-time residents should have an earned pathway to citizenship**

History does not support the belief that opportunities for long-time undocumented residents to regularize their status significantly increases illegal immigration. Today, nearly 12 million people are estimated to be living in the United States without legal status. This number has remained between 10 and 12 million since 2005. Almost one-third of the undocumented population consists of those brought to the United States as children, commonly known as “Dreamers”. It also includes approximately 300,000 farmworkers, about half of the U.S. agricultural workforce. A significant majority of the undocumented population has lived in the United States for over a decade (some estimates place this percentage at upwards of 80%). Meanwhile, the population already contributes an estimated \$100 billion in federal, state, and local taxes each year. Providing legal processes for long-time residents and other undocumented immigrants to regularize their status would strengthen the American economy, provide stability to communities, and keep families together.

### **Element 4: Family unity should remain a cornerstone of the U.S. system**

Catholic teaching maintains that families are the foundation of society, and the success of any civilization hinges on the well-being of its families. For generations, families living in the United States have included combinations of citizens and noncitizens. Immigration reform measures should be evaluated according to whether they strengthen families and promote family unity. U.S. citizen members of mixed-status families should not be penalized with restrictive policies that require eligibility for programs or services to hinge on an entire family being comprised of citizens.

### **Element 5: Legal pathways should be expanded, reliable, and efficient**

An enforcement-only approach to immigration disregards the benefits of immigration and the contributions of immigrants, as well as the many legitimate motivations people have for migrating, including family reunification, educational opportunities, employment, and humanitarian needs. Meanwhile, limits on legal immigration pathways established several decades ago are no longer responsive to the social, economic, and geopolitical realities of today. Unreliable processes and inadequate legal pathways have merely contributed to an increase in irregular migration, even as enforcement efforts have been steadily intensified. Improving and increasing opportunities for people to lawfully enter the United States, on both a temporary and permanent basis, are necessary steps to address several pressing issues, from family separation to regional labor shortages. New legal pathways should be created, and backlogs resulting in decades-long wait times should be eliminated.

### **Element 6: The root causes of forced migration should be addressed**

Migration has been a consistent phenomenon throughout human history. The Bible itself depicts a series of migrations, including that of the Holy Family fleeing persecution. An effective and sustainable response to increased migration must include efforts to address its root causes, especially in the case of forced migration. The preeminent right to life provides that people should be able to flourish in their homeland, with migration being a free choice (known in Catholic teaching as the right not to migrate). However, when the conditions for a dignified life are absent, people have the natural right to migrate, and countries have a duty to accommodate that right to the extent possible. There are a multitude of factors causing people around the world to migrate in large numbers today, often as the only way to sustain or protect human life. This cannot be addressed unilaterally (i.e., a domestic overemphasis on deterrence) or by shifting responsibility (i.e., externalization of borders) but requires meaningful cooperation between the United States and other countries.

## Prayers For Immigrants

Give Us Hearts

God of love and compassion: may we always recognize your spirit:

in the refugee family, seeking safety from violence;

in the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables;

in the asylum-seekers, seeking justice for their families;

in the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world.

Give us hearts that break open whenever our brothers and sisters turn to us.

Give us hearts that no longer turn deaf to their voices in times of need;

Give us eyes to recognize a moment for grace instead of a threat.

Give us voices that fail to remain silent but which decide instead to advocate prophetically.

Give us hands that reach out in welcome, but also in work, for a world of justice until all homelands are safe and secure.

Bless us, O Lord...

- Fr. Dan Hartnett S.J.

### **Prayer for Healing and Wholeness in our Country of Immigrants**

Lord God, Giver of Life, Source of all healing,

You alone can help us grow in wholeness:

Be with us as we welcome the immigrant and listen to their voice.

Guide us as we work for immigration reform in our country.

Hear our prayer as we pray

with those being deported and with their families, broken and separated.

Lord, God Giver of Life, Source of all healing,

who alone can help us grow in wholeness: Deepen our faith,

Strengthen our hope,

Heal our divisions,

Be our guiding light.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

-Kathy McGourty

### Ideas for Community Prayer

- Organize a Bible study or reflection centered around migrants in the Bible and throughout history
- Educate yourself more about the Catholic Church's teachings on immigration and our duties as Catholics
- Consider hosting a prayer service, a rosary, or a holy hour to pray for migrants in your community and around the world

# Prayers For Immigrants

## Justice Prayer

O God, we pray for all those in our world who are suffering from injustice:  
For those who are discriminated against because of their race, color or religion;  
For those imprisoned for working for the relief of oppression;  
For those who are hounded for speaking the inconvenient truth;  
For those tempted to violence as a cry against overwhelming hardship;  
For those deprived of reasonable health and education;  
For those suffering from hunger and famine;  
For those too weak to help themselves  
and who have no one else to help them;  
For the unemployed who cry out for work but do not find it.  
We pray for anyone of our acquaintance who is personally affected by injustice.  
Forgive us, Lord, if we unwittingly share in the conditions  
or in a system that perpetuates injustice.  
Show us how we can serve your children  
and make your love practical by washing their feet.

## Prayer for Migrant Families

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the gift of families.  
We are grateful for all of the joy and love that they bring into our lives, and we ask that you provide special protection for all families, particularly those who face hardships as they move in search of a better life.  
Show mercy to those who travel in danger, and lead them to a place of safety and peace.  
Comfort those who are alone and afraid because their families have been torn apart by violence and injustice.  
As we reflect upon the difficult journey that the Holy Family faced as refugees in Egypt, help us to remember the suffering of all migrant families.  
Through the intercession of Mary our Mother, and St. Joseph the Worker, her spouse, we pray that all migrants may be reunited with their loved ones and find the meaningful work they seek.  
Open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality for all who come in search of refuge.  
Give us the courage to welcome every stranger as Christ in our midst.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.