

“Nothing ‘Temporary’ about Our Moral Responsibility”: Protecting Our Haitian Neighbors



Until late July, 330,000 Haitian immigrants had been living in the United States legally under Temporary Protective Status. TPS is granted to people who pass criminal background checks and who come from specific countries deemed too dangerous or unlivable for them to return to. People with TPS are allowed to remain and work in the U.S. although that status does not grant them a path to citizenship.

After a protracted legal battle, the Trump administration has ended TPS for Haitians. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, along many other groups, is calling on the Senate to extend the protections again.

In a [recent op-ed](#), Fr. Reginald Jean-Mary, who serves in a parish in the Little Haiti neighborhood of Miami, wrote:

“Since it was created in 1990, TPS has uncontroversially and in bipartisan fashion been used to provide safety and status to people from other countries who cannot return to their homes because of perilous conditions. That all changed with a Trump administration that’s been belligerently striving to strip Haitians of these crucial protections without concern for the dangerous conditions from which they fled or the lives and families they’ve built here in the U.S. ...

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)



My argument is a moral one: Ending TPS for Haiti is a wound to families, to community stability and to the Christian conscience. Haitian residents are workers, business owners and parents. They are faith leaders and teachers. They are woven into the fabric of our society here in South Florida, but also around the country, and they belong here, in their homes.

The other half of the argument is that Haiti is not simply “struggling” — the country is in a sustained humanitarian emergency. Haiti’s capital remains profoundly unsafe for return. We can debate immigration systems, but we should not manufacture chaos for families who have done their part to belong

here and do not deserve to be sent to a state struggling with basic services and safety net, as well as growing gang violence. Worst of it all is the growing violence against women and children.

We cannot allow fear — fear of the unknown, fear of inconvenience — to stop us from doing what’s right and extending legal protections for Haitians fleeing danger back home. There is nothing “temporary” about our moral responsibility to those in need. The Bible is clear on that.

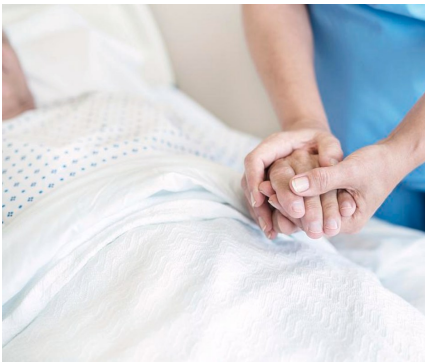
As a final vote approaches, may we choose courage over cruelty, solidarity over indifference and truth over noise. And may our public life and elected officials reflect what we proclaim in worship: that every human person is sacred, every family matters and hope is not canceled by a date on the calendar.



When that date comes, I pray that we are not found excusing ourselves. I pray that our leaders in the Senate are found standing with families.”

Speak out at [this link](#) to urge our Senators to be strong advocates on renewing TPS for Haitians.

Helping Ill People End Their Lives: NYS Catholic Conference on Assisted Suicide



Statement by Dennis Poust, executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference, as the state's physician-assisted suicide law goes into effect:

"On August 5, New York becomes the latest in a growing number of jurisdictions where state-sanctioned suicide is authorized. With this sad milestone, our elected officials have turned the notion of "death with dignity" on its head.

The truth is, human beings never lose their innate dignity, no matter how much their physical bodies betray them. Pushing suicide drugs on sick, disabled or dying New Yorkers does not enhance their dignity; it only enhances a coarsening of our culture and the bottom lines for insurers and medical facilities. It represents a failure of compassion, especially if lawmakers use this new law as an excuse to further delay appropriate investments in access to palliative and hospice care.

The unintended consequences of this new law are tragically predictable, since we already have seen them play out in other countries, including Canada, which in just a few short years expanded its law to apply not only in cases of terminal illness but in cases of chronic illness and, effective next year, mental illness. We would also expect the state's mixed messaging on suicide to lead to an increase in suicides in general, including by young, physically healthy people.

For Catholics, it is important to remember the [words of the Bishops of New York State](#) from December 2025: "While physician-assisted suicide will soon be legal here in New York, we must clearly reiterate that it is in direct conflict with Catholic teaching on the sacredness and dignity of all human life from conception until natural death and is a grave moral evil on par with other direct attacks on human life."

As our state enters this new era of assisted death on demand, the Bishops ask all New Yorkers to pray for those facing difficult health crises, depression, disability, and the end-of-life. They also ask for prayers that our state citizens reject the Culture of Death and embrace a Culture of Life."

Find resources on end-of-life issues at: www.nyscatholic.org/resources/end-life/end-of-life-decision-making



Urge Congress to fully fund and strengthen WIC

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supports the health, food security, and futures of pregnant and postpartum mothers, and children through age five.



As Congress decides next year's budget, ask your legislators to support WIC in two critical ways:

- ♦ Fully fund WIC so that all who apply and are eligible have access.
- ♦ Pass the House and Senate companion bills—the Modern WIC Act (H.R. 1464) and the 21st Century WIC Act (S. 3842)—that would make access to WIC more seamless for families with travel and resource constraints, especially in rural communities.

Go to this [link](#) on the Bread for the World web site, www.bread.org, to send your message.

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