



*“When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)*

## Christ Himself Knocking on Our Door

From ***For You Too Once Were Aliens***, [Statement of the NY State Catholic Conference](#):

[W]e recall that Christian charity ... demands we welcome the stranger and treat every individual with respect and dignity.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church makes this clear. ***“The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him.”***

***“Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants’ duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens.”*** (n. 2241)



Pope Leo XIV, like his predecessors, has already taught this truth and shown particular solicitude towards migrant refugees—those who leave their homes not simply to seek a better life abroad, but who are forced to take flight because of violence and oppression in their own nations. In his first apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te*, proclaimed on October 4, 2025, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, he wrote:

***“The Church, like a mother, accompanies those who are walking. Where the world sees threats, she sees children; where walls are built, she builds bridges. She knows that her proclamation of the Gospel is credible only when it is translated into gestures of closeness and welcome. And she knows that in every rejected migrant, it is Christ himself who knocks at the door of the community.”*** (Section 75)

In recent years, many such refugee migrants have come to New York. Some have arrived from war-torn countries like Ukraine and Afghanistan; others from Central or South America have fled poverty, authoritarian governments, and drug cartels that made life in their country of origin dangerous for themselves and their families. Some have been granted refugee or temporary protected status, while others have no legal status. **Most of these migrants – the majority, our neighbors – are good people who arrived on our shores seeking a better life.**

Sadly, as in any group, some have exploited the system and committed serious crimes and other misdeeds. Those immigrants or refugees who commit crimes should face the appropriate criminal and civil penalties, including deportation. At the same time, general enforcement of the immigration laws must be carried out in

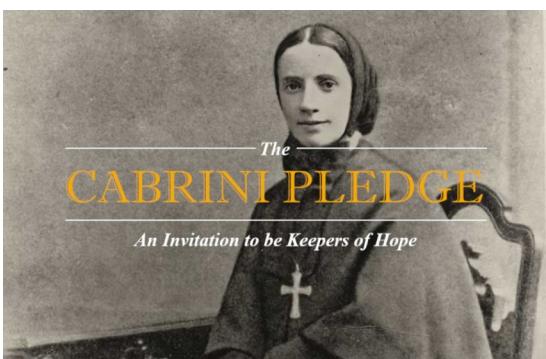
a humane manner that **does not target the hard-working and law-abiding; that does not permit the wanton and unnecessary separation of families; and that does not rely on campaigns of fear that cripple whole communities.**

As such, we do not support the sweeping revocation of the temporary protected status that was granted to many migrants who arrived in this country to escape the horrors occurring in their own, and who have justifiably relied upon the legal protections our government offered to them. Such persons should not be subject to the arbitrary cancellation of their legal status and threatened with a sudden return to the troubled and dangerous nations from which they fled.

Before the complex questions of immigration, we maintain, without question, that our government has a duty to secure our borders and ensure that those who wish to enter the United States do so lawfully. In union with our brother Bishops across the United States, we have **consistently urged our civil leaders to craft immigration laws that respect our borders and create an orderly process for those who wish to enter our nation, while offering a measure of forgiveness towards those who arrived here without legal status** but who have proven their contributions and loyalty to our country over a period of time.

These are all good points to ponder. However, most important to recall is the law of Christ set down in the Great Commandments: **To love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbor as ourselves.** All other imperatives are subject to this law of charity, and it is concerned neither with legal status nor country of origin. As individuals and as a society, we are bound to follow this supreme command and to make all our actions consistent with it, to the best of our abilities, even in difficult circumstances.

*Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York  
and all the Bishops, Auxiliary Bishops and  
Emeritus Bishops of New York State*



#### Stand with Immigrants: Take the Cabrini Pledge

I PLEDGE: *To affirm, in word and deed, the inherent dignity of every person, regardless of immigration status or country of origin, seeing each as a child of God before all else.*

See the rest of the pledge and sign it at this link:  
[www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge](http://www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge)

#### Support The Holy Land This Christmas

Please consider a donation to Catholic Relief Services

"The recent ceasefire in Gaza has brought a glimmer of hope to the more than 2.1 million Gazans who have been living in catastrophic conditions. Hunger and malnutrition are widespread and many people are returning to destroyed homes and living in makeshift shelters, in the ruins of buildings or in the open air. Despite staggering challenges, CRS and our partners across the Holy Land are reaching millions of people with food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, cash assistance and social and emotional support." Use this link to learn more and to give: [www.crs.org/where-we-work/middle-east-north-africa/jerusalem-west-bank-and-gaza](http://www.crs.org/where-we-work/middle-east-north-africa/jerusalem-west-bank-and-gaza)



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