

Justice, Peace and Life

February 2025

We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved.

- [Pope Francis](#)

Love Your Neighbors– All of Them



"Jesus Christ is always waiting to be recognized in migrants and refugees, in displaced persons and in exiles, and through them he calls us to share our resources"
Pope Francis

Click on the names of these regional organizations to learn more about how to stand with immigrants:

[Catholic Charities Family and Community Services](#)

[Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga](#)

[Worker Justice Center of New York](#)

[Alianza Agricola](#)

Stand up for people FROM other countries:

Catholics are standing up against the recent changes to federal immigration policies that are causing fear among our fellow Catholics and other people living in our diocese and across the country. Immigrants with and without documentation are afraid of being detained. Threats of mass deportations and the presence of heavily armed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in cities in central New York have a chilling effect on people's willingness to go out in public and to send their children to school.

Pope Francis and U.S. Catholic bishops have spoken out against mass deportation and the dehumanization of immigrants. Bishop Salvatore Matano wrote in his [recent letter](#) to the faithful about the injustice of painting a group of people with the same broad brush and the need for laws that are truly just. He writes:

"Because a very needed reform of immigration laws has yet to be achieved, persons who have come to this country to build a new life and who are contributing to society in many ways have found themselves in uncertainty. Like our ancestors who sought a new beginning in America, many hard-working immigrants desire a legal path to permanent residency and citizenship but a broken immigration system has not yet afforded them this possibility."

Let's remember Jesus' word that when we fail to welcome strangers, we fail to welcome Him.

Stand up for people IN other countries: Protest the Freeze on Humanitarian Assistance

From Catholic Relief Services: **"Your help is urgently needed! Let your members of Congress know that you are deeply concerned about the Administration's recent decision to stop work on almost all U.S. foreign assistance programs. This freeze will be detrimental to millions of our sisters and brothers who need access to lifesaving humanitarian, health and development assistance.**

The Administration has begun to issue immediate stop work orders on almost all foreign aid as they review State Department and USAID programs between now and April 20.

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Humanitarian Assistance Freeze....

Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are calling on us to denounce the president's executive order to freeze aid to low income countries. In a [backgrounder on international aid](#), the USCCB wrote:

International poverty-reducing humanitarian and development assistance makes up less than 1% of the annual federal budget. This small fraction of the budget supports the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the world.

Global health programs improve maternal and child health, reduce malnutrition, prevent malaria, and help orphans and vulnerable children affected and infected by HIV and AIDS. Development projects help farmers be more sustainable, increase access to and improve the quality of children's education, provide access to clean drinking water, prevent trafficking in persons, and build resilience in the face of climate change. Humanitarian interventions respond to urgent natural and human induced disasters, protect refugees and internally displaced persons, and provide U.S. grown commodities to people in need. Development finance mechanisms provide debt relief to the lowest-income countries and promote private investments that bolster health, agriculture, energy security, infrastructure, and small businesses in low-income countries.

Tell your members of Congress to engage with the Administration to reverse this life-destroying policy.

You can use this [link](#) (also linked on the home page of CRS at www.crs.org).

Unfortunately, there is no link on the White House web site to use to communicate via e-mail with the president or his staff. Letters to the president can be sent to:

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500



Photo by Erick Josue Hernández for CRS



New York State

Catholic Conference



Support for New York Families with Children

Join the New York State Catholic Conference is asking our State legislators in Albany to include Governor Kathy Hochul's [proposal](#) to increase the **NYS Child Tax credit** in the state budget. Tax credits are an effective way to help low and moderate income working families. Shamefully, the child poverty rate is around 18% in our state (nearly 1 in 5 children). This proposal will help struggling families to make ends meet. Go to [this link](#) to contact your State Assembly Member and State Senator on this issue.

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