

Justice, Peace and Life

March 2024



CNS photo/Paul Haring

From its founding to the present, the United States remains a nation of immigrants grounded in the firm belief that newcomers offer new energy, hope, and cultural diversity.

“While every nation has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration, a country should regulate its borders with **justice and mercy**.

Any attempt to “regulate” the border through enforcement-only measures will inevitably fail. Such efforts will have the unintended consequence of further empowering smugglers, traffickers, gangs and other bad actors who seek to exploit vulnerable persons, most often women and children.”

[Congress Could Quickly Fix ‘Border Crisis’](#)

-Archbishop Thomas Wenski
Catholic Archdiocese of Miami

Bordering on Indecent:

Rhetoric on Immigration and How Catholics Can Respond

Drug dealers. Gang members. Criminals.

People from mental institutions. Poisoning the blood of the country.

Invasion

“Illegals”



These are just some of the ways people are describing their fellow human beings who are trying to escape poverty and violence. This rhetoric sounds a lot like what was said of Irish, Italian, and Polish immigrants earlier in this country’s history. As Catholics, we’re called to rise above this cruel misrepresentation of our sisters and brothers. Catholic teaching, based on Jesus’ own words, makes it clear that we must welcome the stranger. The U.S. Catholic Church continues to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform and to serve immigrants, despite backlash.

One shelter for migrants in El Paso Texas, called Annunciation House, faces a lawsuit by the Texas Attorney General, who claimed the nearly 50-year-old institution was involved in human smuggling. Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso responded: “We will not be intimidated in our work to serve Jesus Christ in our sisters and brothers fleeing danger and seeking to keep their families together.”

What can we as Catholics do? Don’t tolerate dehumanizing descriptions of immigrants. Recognize that no human being is “illegal”. Support Catholic Charities and other agencies serving immigrants. Click to connect with [Justice for Immigrants](#). Advocate on the issues described here: ➡

Urge Congress to Reject Harmful Changes to Immigration Law

Click [here](#) to stand against efforts to “make it even more difficult ...for those with bona fide asylum claims to pursue protection in the United States.”

Support Anti-Human Trafficking legislation

Click [here](#) to write to your Senators in support of H.R. 5856, a bill that would fund prevention efforts in the US and Global South and provide education and employment opportunities for trafficking survivors.



Supporting a Better Life Around the World

By donating to your CRS Rice Bowl throughout Lent, you're helping people live dignified, healthy lives in their home countries, making it less likely that they'll feel compelled to make the difficult and often dangerous decision to migrate.

See crsricebowl.org for stories of people empowered by the work of CRS, including this one:

Pictured to the left, Evita Tiro Wada adjusts a drip irrigation system in Indonesia. Drip irrigation systems help farmers in Lewobele Village adapt to disasters and climate change, ensuring all-year-round planting of vegetables.

Located between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Indonesia has more than 17,000 islands. Many of the islands are in the Ring of Fire, where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common. Climate-related disasters such as cyclones also threaten communities here.

These natural disasters make it difficult for people like Evita Tiro Wada to grow food. To help her family and community, Evita participated in a Catholic Relief Services' program. She joined a disaster preparedness group, which helps people stay safe during emergencies. The group also maintains a community garden, using special farming methods to grow vegetables even during a drought. They teach people how to start their own gardens and care for their community by planting trees.

Stand Up for Life:

Continue to Speak out Against Physician-Assisted Suicide

From the New York State Catholic Conference:

With the 2024 legislative session underway, advocates and the bill sponsors of physician-assisted suicide ("PAS") are pushing hard for a vote to legalize this deadly practice in New York State. Lawmakers need to hear from their constituents if we hope to avoid yet another assault on human life here. Assisted suicide is dangerous for patients, caregivers, and vulnerable populations such as the elderly and people with disabilities. Suicide is not medical care. Please tell your State Senate and Assembly representatives that you oppose this dangerous and deadly practice

Contact them now by using this [link](#) or by calling them via the Assembly Switchboard (518-455-4100) and State Senate Switchboard (518-455-2800).



Join the Catholic Action Network

We'll need thousands of people advocating against Physician-Assisted Suicide if the bill moves forward, so stay up to date on it and other important issues.

Sign up for alerts through the Catholic Action Network [here](#) or text the letters CAN to **50457** to receive text alerts. Be a voice for justice, peace and life!

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