

JPIC Resource Bulletin, February 11, 2025

Immigration

Pope Francis has issued a letter to the US Bishops on immigration, dated yesterday, 02/10/2025. It praises and encourages the bishops, and it contains a passage addressed to all of us:



“... I exhort all the faithful of the Catholic Church, and all men and women of good will, not to give in to narratives that discriminate against and cause unnecessary suffering to our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters. With charity and clarity we are all called to live in solidarity and fraternity, to build bridges that bring us ever closer together, to avoid walls of ignominy and to learn to give our lives as Jesus Christ gave his for the salvation of all.” You can read the Pope’s letter here:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2025/documents/20250210-lettera-vescovi-usa.html>.

The Church’s position is very succinctly summarized by the OFM Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in its [recent statement](#): “As a nation, let us choose a path forward that effectively secures our borders, even as it protects the dignity of all who come to our shores, through an immigration system governed by mercy and justice.” The friars list a variety of actions that could be taken:

- “Oppose mass deportation as the means to achieve needed and effective immigration reform
- Support orderly border management that is humane, proportional and respects the right to seek asylum
- Reject non-emergency immigration enforcement in schools, places of worship, social service agencies and healthcare facilities
- Take action to protect the “dreamers,” those brought to the US as children who have lived here most of their lives
- Endorse efforts to protect vulnerable groups through such programs as TPS, DED, humanitarian parole and the US Refugee Admissions Program
- Denounce anti-immigrant rhetoric that has no basis in truth”

That last bullet has particular relevance for the followers of St. Francis, because he had a horror at hearing anyone denigrated by one of the brothers. He considered “the vice of detraction” a ghastly sin. In one instance, he commanded an investigation on the spot, with a severe correction if it proved not to be true. He was reported by Bonaventure to have believed “*a detractor feeds on the blood of souls...*”¹ We cannot be the ones practicing detraction toward anyone, especially whole categories of people. No matter how common it becomes, we must recoil from it as Francis did and show a better way. Our forgiveness of everyone, our love for everyone, especially those rejected and marginalized, must be made visible by our actions and words.

The US Bishops have many tools to help with the actions listed above. If you would like to learn more about taking action on public policy using their resources, send an email to the address below.

Statement of the Texas bishops conference:

<https://txcatholic.org/texas-bishops-call-for-just-and-humane-approach-to-migration/>



¹ Bonaventure, Major Life, VII:4