



ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

A Culture of Encounter: Migration and Refugee Parish Toolkit

#ArchDBQ4Migration

Table of Contents

Best Practices for Hosting an Event that Fosters a Culture of Encounter.	Page 1
Schedule for an Event.	Page 2
Opening Prayer Cards in English and Spanish.	Pages 3 & 4
Announcements to Promote an Event at Your Parish.	Page 5
Migration Fact Sheet.	Pages 6 & 7
National Migration Week Talking Points (January 7-13, 2017).	Page 8
Iowa Catholic Conference - Senate File 481 and similar legislation.	Page 9
DREAM Act of 2017.	Page 10
Best Practices for Letters to the Editor	Page 11
Printable Postcards to Iowa Legislators (1st and 4th Congressional Districts)...	Pages 12 & 13
Printable Mailing Labels for Postcards (1st and 4th Congressional Districts). . .	Pages 14 & 15
Social Media Posts	Page 16
Sample Liturgy Petitions	Page 17

A Culture of Encounter: Migration and Refugee Parish Toolkit

Started by Pope Benedict XV in 1915, World Day of Migrants and Refugees occurs every year in January to promote solidarity with all peoples who are migrants and refugees. This year's theme is "Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees".

Coinciding with this day the USCCB promotes National Migration Week in the United States. This year the week is January 7-14, 2018. We invite you to participate as a community in hosting an event at your parish sometime during National Migration Week (or sometime between January and March).

In Pope Francis' message for 2018 he once again invites us to "foster a culture of encounter in every way possible". This event should focus on sharing the stories of migrants and refugees, creating an opportunity for people to encounter one another in a culture of life and love, and show participants how to advocate for the rights and needs of migrants and refugees.

Step 1 – Identify a person or people who would like to share their story

Are there people in your community who have a migration story and would like to share theirs with the community? As Pope Francis reminds us, when we are talking about migrants and refugees we are not talking about numbers, we are talking about people.

Creating space for migrants and/or refugees to share their story helps others to see the issues related to migration in a personal way; they see how decisions affect real people.

Be mindful of the fact that some immigrants and refugees do not wish to share their experience and be respectful of their decision.

If you cannot identify any migrants or refugees for your event, fear not! In our list of resources provided in the pages that follow there are You-

Tube videos as well as written testimonials that can be shared instead.

Step 2- Find a space and publicise your event

Hold the event at your parish or a community center; somewhere that allows enough space for food and socializing. The space will need to have ability to show a video to those gathered and should be comfortable enough for the anticipated group that gathers.

Make the space welcoming and decorate with materials directed at sharing the stories and lives of migrants and refugees

Step 3 – Prepare your speakers

"Make sure the people who agree to share their stories know how long the event will be, what the aim is, if there will be questions. Show them the Frequently Asked Questions about the campaign and the Guide to Action. Ask them if they'd be happy to be photographed or if quotes from what they can say can be shared on social media on or after the launch date, or if you could invite a journalist from a local paper to listen and report on the event." (from

Caritas Share the Journey resource)

Step 4 – "Reaching out." Share photos and quotes on social media

Share your event on social media! Take pictures, live tweet, go on social media with a live video feed! When sharing on social media use the hashtag #ArchDBQ4Migration and #NMW Create photo booth area where people can have their picture taken and tag it #ArchDBQ4Migration and #NMW.

Be mindful of speakers' and migrants' wishes about having their photo, presentation, or quotes put on social media. If speakers wish to be photographed or are comfortable having a quote posted on social media then feel free. If they do not, make sure to announce to those gathered that this part of the event is not to be recorded, photos taken, etc.

In Pope Francis' message for 2018 he once again invites us to "foster a culture of encounter in every way possible".

A Culture of Encounter: Migration and Refugee Parish Toolkit

Proposed Timeline for Event

Opening prayer from *Justice for Immigrants* toolkit (5 minutes) - see next two pages for printables

Introduction to the event (10 minutes)

Play Archbishop Jackels Video (available soon at www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/migrantrefugeeparishtoolkit/)

Table Reflection (5 minutes)

1. Can you think of crises that are occurring in the world that would cause people to leave their homes or other countries?
2. Do you know your own family's immigration story?

Background video on the Catholic Church and Immigration from USCCB (7 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hWYfj28mLY&t=132s>

Share 1st Migrant story (5-10 minutes) ***

Table Reflection (5 minutes)

1. How might this story inspire you to learn more about migration to the United States?
2. Are there parts of this story you just heard that you were unaware of?

Share 2nd Migrant story (5-10 minutes) ***

Table Reflection (10 minutes)

1. How can you help to build a “culture of encounter”, one that is welcoming, protects immigrants’ intrinsic dignity, promotes solidarity and upward advancement of migrants, and integrates migrants into their new community without forcing assimilation?

Play Advocacy Video (available soon at www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/migrantrefugeeparishtoolkit/)

1. Share materials on SF 481 and legislation for Dreamers (15 minutes)
2. Sign post cards or go online and participate in action alert (10 minutes)

Socializing with food, entertainment, etc.

Closing prayer (5 minutes)

***If you do not have someone in your community who will share their own story, please use one or more of the following resources for the migrant stories.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wtns8xx5oN8> Share the Journey: Seme D. Ayawe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QEWj50SvR4> Share the Journey: Walaa Ali

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nby5F2KqY8> Alonso Guillen and his friend Tomas Carreon

“American Limbo”: a print story of a DACA recipient <https://magazine.lmu.edu/articles/american-limbo/>

Other videos you may choose to share on social media or at the event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvQgv9L1c0A> I am migration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTv2AWFDooY> Migration is an Act of Hope - USCCB

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwlyTiJpV7Y> Catholic Teaching on Welcoming Refugees – CRS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Km_cmb9SBtY Who is my Neighbor? CRS cartoon

Good and gracious God,

We pray for all people who are migrating particularly those who are forced from their homes or separated from their families because of threats of violence and persecution. We ask that you protect and keep them safe.

Although we come from different countries, and have our origins in different cultures, we were all created by you, and are made in your image, and therefore we all share an inalienable dignity that is deserving of respect.

Lord, we ask that you give us the strength to defend those who are marginalized, to give aid to those in need, to come to the defense of those who are poor or vulnerable, and to welcome those who are on the move into our homes and into our hearts.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

From the Justice for Immigrants campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Good and gracious God,

We pray for all people who are migrating particularly those who are forced from their homes or separated from their families because of threats of violence and persecution. We ask that you protect and keep them safe.

Although we come from different countries, and have our origins in different cultures, we were all created by you, and are made in your image, and therefore we all share an inalienable dignity that is deserving of respect.

Lord, we ask that you give us the strength to defend those who are marginalized, to give aid to those in need, to come to the defense of those who are poor or vulnerable, and to welcome those who are on the move into our homes and into our hearts.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

From the Justice for Immigrants campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Good and gracious God,

We pray for all people who are migrating particularly those who are forced from their homes or separated from their families because of threats of violence and persecution. We ask that you protect and keep them safe.

Although we come from different countries, and have our origins in different cultures, we were all created by you, and are made in your image, and therefore we all share an inalienable dignity that is deserving of respect.

Lord, we ask that you give us the strength to defend those who are marginalized, to give aid to those in need, to come to the defense of those who are poor or vulnerable, and to welcome those who are on the move into our homes and into our hearts.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

From the Justice for Immigrants campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Good and gracious God,

We pray for all people who are migrating particularly those who are forced from their homes or separated from their families because of threats of violence and persecution. We ask that you protect and keep them safe.

Although we come from different countries, and have our origins in different cultures, we were all created by you, and are made in your image, and therefore we all share an inalienable dignity that is deserving of respect.

Lord, we ask that you give us the strength to defend those who are marginalized, to give aid to those in need, to come to the defense of those who are poor or vulnerable, and to welcome those who are on the move into our homes and into our hearts.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

From the Justice for Immigrants campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Dios bueno y clemente,

Oramos por todas las personas que inmigran, especialmente, por aquellas que son forzadas a dejar sus hogares o a separarse de sus familias debido a amenazas de violencia y persecución. Te pedimos que las protejas y las pongas a salvo.

Aunque vengamos de distintos países, y nuestro origen se encuentre en diferentes culturas, todos hemos sido creados por ti y hemos sido hechos a tu imagen y semejanza, por lo tanto, todos compartimos una dignidad inalienable que merece respeto.

Señor, te rogamos que nos des las fuerzas para defender a los marginados para ayudar a los necesitados, para salir en defensa de los más pobres y vulnerables, y para acoger a aquellos que llegarán a nuestros hogares y a nuestro corazón.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo, en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Amén.

Dios bueno y clemente,

Oramos por todas las personas que inmigran, especialmente, por aquellas que son forzadas a dejar sus hogares o a separarse de sus familias debido a amenazas de violencia y persecución. Te pedimos que las protejas y las pongas a salvo.

Aunque vengamos de distintos países, y nuestro origen se encuentre en diferentes culturas, todos hemos sido creados por ti y hemos sido hechos a tu imagen y semejanza, por lo tanto, todos compartimos una dignidad inalienable que merece respeto.

Señor, te rogamos que nos des las fuerzas para defender a los marginados para ayudar a los necesitados, para salir en defensa de los más pobres y vulnerables, y para acoger a aquellos que llegarán a nuestros hogares y a nuestro corazón.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo, en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Amén.

Dios bueno y clemente,

Oramos por todas las personas que inmigran, especialmente, por aquellas que son forzadas a dejar sus hogares o a separarse de sus familias debido a amenazas de violencia y persecución. Te pedimos que las protejas y las pongas a salvo.

Aunque vengamos de distintos países, y nuestro origen se encuentre en diferentes culturas, todos hemos sido creados por ti y hemos sido hechos a tu imagen y semejanza, por lo tanto, todos compartimos una dignidad inalienable que merece respeto.

Señor, te rogamos que nos des las fuerzas para defender a los marginados para ayudar a los necesitados, para salir en defensa de los más pobres y vulnerables, y para acoger a aquellos que llegarán a nuestros hogares y a nuestro corazón.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo, en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Amén.

Dios bueno y clemente,

Oramos por todas las personas que inmigran, especialmente, por aquellas que son forzadas a dejar sus hogares o a separarse de sus familias debido a amenazas de violencia y persecución. Te pedimos que las protejas y las pongas a salvo.

Aunque vengamos de distintos países, y nuestro origen se encuentre en diferentes culturas, todos hemos sido creados por ti y hemos sido hechos a tu imagen y semejanza, por lo tanto, todos compartimos una dignidad inalienable que merece respeto.

Señor, te rogamos que nos des las fuerzas para defender a los marginados para ayudar a los necesitados, para salir en defensa de los más pobres y vulnerables, y para acoger a aquellos que llegarán a nuestros hogares y a nuestro corazón.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo, en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Amén.



Promote an Event at your Parish to your Parishioners

**Remember to be mindful of speakers' and migrants' wishes about having their photo, presentation, or quote put on social media. If speakers wish to be photographed or are comfortable having a quote posted on social media then feel free. If they do not, make sure to announce to those gathered that this part of the event is not to be recorded, photos taken, etc.*

If you cannot identify any migrants or refugees for your event, fear not! In our list of resources provided in the pages that follow there are You-Tube videos as well as written testimonials that can be shared instead.

Bulletin/Facebook Announcement Boilerplate Text

Come to a(n) [afternoon/evening/night] of listening, encouraging and political action in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of migrant and refugee status. Pope Francis has invited the faithful to “foster a culture of encounter in every way possible” with those who are migrants and refugees.

The event will focus on sharing the stories of migrants and refugees, creating an opportunity for people to encounter one another in a culture of life and love, and show participants how to advocate for the rights and needs of migrants and refugees. Attendees will have the option to sign and send pre-printed postcards to our local legislators.

[Insert event details: location, time, length of program and whether live speakers or the online videos provided in this packet will be used].

Twitter Announcement Boilerplate Text

Express your solidarity with our brothers and sisters of migrant/refugee status. Listen to personal stories and learn how to advocate for the rights and needs of migrants and refugees. [Event details: location, time, length of program and live speakers or online videos provided].



JFI Migration Facts:

Immigration Reform

Position: The Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Church support humane immigration reform. We must reform our broken system that separates families and denies due process.

Facts:

- Since 2010, 3.6 million immigrants have become naturalized U.S. citizens.
- Unauthorized immigrants also pay a wide range of taxes, including sales taxes where applicable and property taxes – directly if they own and indirectly if they rent. Estimates are that undocumented migrants pay \$11.64 billion every year in state and local taxes.
- In many cases, it can take over a decade for legal permanent residents to reunify with immediate family members from Mexico, the Philippines, and other countries (See Congressional Research Service).

Refugee Protection

Position: USCCB supports protection, humanitarian support, and durable solutions for refugees and other forcibly displaced people. USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services in collaboration with local Catholic Charities across the United State form the largest private, U.S. refugee resettlement network, and has helped welcome and resettle over one million refugees since 1975.

Facts:

- The U.S. resettled 53,716 refugees in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 including 20,232 from Africa, 5,173 from East Asia, 5,205 from Europe, 1,688 from Latin America, and 21,418 from the Near East.
- The top six populations resettled during FY 2017 were from : Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Burma, and Ukraine. Id.
- An estimated 21,027 Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011. Id.
- According to the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 65.6 million persons were displaced in the world at the end of 2016. (UNHCR)

Unaccompanied Children and Families from Central America

Position: The United States should provide child welfare protection, refugee protection, and safe, humane durable solutions for unaccompanied children arriving at our borders without their parent or legal guardian . In recent years, many of these children have been from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Most are fleeing grave, life-threatening violence and gang recruitment and are seeking to reunify with family in the United States.

Facts:

- In FY 2015, Mexico deported 165,000 Central Americans. The number detained in Mexico has tripled in the past four years amid growing pressure and economic support from the US to stem the flow. (The Guardian)
- In calendar year 2016, the United States and Mexico returned 216,872 people to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Immigrant Detention

Position: The United States should fix our broken immigration system instead of taking an enforcement-only approach to dealing with irregular migration. Immigrant detention is a growing industry in this country, with Congress allocating as much as \$2 billion a year to maintain and expand it. The Administration's FY 2018 budget requests even more funding for detention. Due to mandatory detention laws people who are not flight risks or risks to national security and are extremely vulnerable, such as asylum-seekers, families, and victims of human trafficking, are being held unnecessarily in detention. There are alternatives to detention that are more humane, more cost-effective, and more consistent with American values.

Facts:

- In FY2015 the Department of Homeland Security detained 406,595 immigrants compared to 486,651 in FY2014. (Department of Homeland Security)
- Over 200 county and city prisons contract with the federal government to detain immigrants and account for 67 percent of the population.
- Community-based alternatives to detention programs cost on average \$10.55 per person per day, as compared to \$164 per person per day for detention. (GAO)

Human Trafficking

Position: The United States must not only hold human traffickers accountable for their crimes, but also work to prevent trafficking and provide protection and healing to victims of trafficking.

Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. The Catholic Church has long condemned this practice as an affront to human dignity.

Facts:

- Estimates vary, but as many as 17,500 persons are trafficked into the United States annually.
- Although sex trafficking remains a serious problem, the two largest trafficking cases in the United States involved labor trafficking, in Guam and in New York (Long Island).



National Migration Week Talking Points from JFI

- Catholics are called to stand with immigrants and refugees as our brothers and sisters. This is who we are. This is what we do.
- Pope Francis invites us to be part of a culture of encounter as we welcome, protect, integrate, and promote immigrants and refugees in our midst.
- For all people of Catholic faith, we belong to the same Church no matter where we're from. Our Catholic identity isn't based on where we live but on our faith in Jesus Christ. We are one family, and the Catholic Church is always our home.
- For newcomers who are not of the Catholic faith, Catholics recognize their human dignity and welcome them as new neighbors and friends.
- In Pope Francis, we have a leader from Argentina, a country of immigrants. He is the son of immigrants and a native Spanish speaker. Issues for immigrants coming from Latin America to the United States are close to his heart.
- Immigration is about real people who are trying to find a better life and a new beginning. As Pope Francis stated, "Each migrant has a name, a face and a story."
- Welcoming immigrants is part of Catholic Social Teaching and reflects the Biblical tradition to welcome the stranger.
- The Catholic Church has been welcoming immigrants and refugees to the United States since the nation's founding and has been integral to helping them integrate into American culture.
- In addition to welcoming and caring for those in need, the Church continues to uphold the centrality of family reunification as a critical component of our immigration and refugee systems.
- America is a better country due to the contributions of immigrants and refugees.
- Forced displacement of people is at the highest level since World War II, with more than 65 million people displaced around the world and over 22 million refugees.
- Refugees are the most rigorously screened population coming into America. This screening happens before they ever set foot in our country. The United States has the most thorough background checks of immigrants of any nation in the world.
- The Administration recently determined that only 45,000 refugees could come to the United States in the coming year Fiscal Year 2018. That is the lowest refugee determination in U.S. history. We can and must do better by ensuring that all 45,000 be welcomed in 2018 and also that the U.S. welcome at least 75,000 refugees in 2019.



Iowa Catholic Conference

Oppose Senate File 481 and similar legislation

Senate File 481

- The bill forces local jails to comply with all ICE detainer requests
- Localities will lose state funds if found guilty of lack of compliance
- It's not a mandatory "show me your papers" law
- County attorney must investigate all complaints

The Catholic Perspective

- As a people of faith, we support the Scriptural commandment to "welcome the stranger," defend the God-given dignity of every person, and support public policies – merciful policies - that help immigrants provide for families.
- The human dignity and human rights of all people, including undocumented immigrants, should be respected.
- Immigration is not an abstract policy issue, it's a moral issue affecting our fellow parishioners (give examples). This bill could separate families unjustly and make it difficult for them to support themselves.
- Requiring local officials to enforce federal immigration law erodes community trust.
- We are all safer when immigrants feel they can trust police and are willing to report crimes and come forward as witnesses.
- We are concerned that local law enforcement would be required to police for immigration violations - thus diverting limited law enforcement resources away from serious criminals.
- A duty of government is to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. Persons have the right to emigrate and thus government, especially financially blessed nations, must accommodate this right to the greatest extent possible.
- Another duty of the federal government is to secure one's border and enforce the law with consideration of the common good.
- We support the right of local governments to exercise reasonable and appropriate discretion in the handling of immigrant detainees, consistent with their need to maintain public safety.

For more information contact: Tom Chapman, Iowa Catholic Conference, 515-770-1831 (mobile), tom@iowacatholicconference.org



DREAM Act of 2017

What is the Dream Act of 2017?

The **Dream Act of 2017** ([S.1615](#) / [H.R. 3440](#)) is bipartisan bill that was introduced in the Senate on July 20, 2017 and in the House on July 26, 2017. It would protect an estimated 1.8 million immigrant youth from deportation, including the approximately 790,000 [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#) recipients.

How does the Dream Act protect these youth?

The bill offers qualifying immigrant youth, including current DACA recipients, “conditional permanent resident status” and a path to full lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship. To receive the conditional status, the youth must, among other requirements:

- have entered the U.S. as a child;
- been continuously present in the United States for at least 4 years prior to enactment of the bill;
- meet certain admissibility and security requirements, including a background check; and
- been admitted to an institution of higher education or have obtained or be pursuing secondary education.

The bill allows recipients of this conditional status to obtain non-conditional lawful permanent residency if recipients satisfy requirements that include: background checks; demonstrated English proficiency, as well as knowledge of U.S. history and civics; and either education in a higher learning institution, honorable military service, three years of employment in the United States, or a hardship exception.

Why is a legislative solution needed?

On June 29, 2017, ten states urged the Administration to rescind the DACA program, [stating](#) that they would bring a lawsuit against the program if the Administration failed to do so. On September 5, the Administration rescinded the DACA program. Congress, however, could permanently protect DACA recipients and other immigrant youth who are contributing to our nation – and provide them with a path to citizenship – through legislation.

How is the Dream Act different than the BRIDGE Act?

While both bills seek to protect a similar population of immigrant youth, the “Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy (BRIDGE) Act,” [S. 3542](#), would only provide DACA eligible youth with temporary relief from deportation through “provisional protected presence.” This status would last from the date granted until three years after the BRIDGE Act is enacted. The bill is a stop-gap measure to protect DACA youth, but it does not provide long-term protection or the ability to eventually seek citizenship.

Does USCCB/MRS support the Dream Act?

Yes. USCCB’s Committee on Migration issued a letter in support of the bill, which you can read in full [here](#). Bishop Vasquez, Chairman of the Committee, stated: “The Catholic Bishops have long supported these immigrant youths and their families who are contributors to our economy, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes. These youths have grown up in our country, some even choosing to put their lives on the line to serve in our armed forces. They truly exemplify the extraordinary contributions that immigrants can provide to our nation.”

What can I do to help support the Dream Act?

As Catholics, we have long supported Dreamers as we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, especially that of our children. We ask you to:

- Voice Your Support for DREAMERS. We encourage you to issue a statement of support for DACA Youth and the existing DACA program. These statements are needed by Bishops and community leaders in all states.
 - Urge Republican Lawmakers to Support the Dream Act. As efforts continue to keep the Dream Act a bipartisan bill, further Republican support for the bill is essential. We encourage you to renew your support for Dreamers by sending a message to your U.S. Senators and Representatives urging them to co-sponsor S. 1615/ H.R. 3440. You can do so [here](#).
- 



Letters to the Editor Tips (from JFI toolkit)

Writing a letter to the editor (LTE) is the perfect way to add another perspective, offer a rebuttal, or express your appreciation for an already-published article or commentary piece. Please let us know if your letter to the editor is published! We'll deliver it to elected officials and promote it on our social media. Completing this final step in the letter to the editor process helps ensure that your letter's impact is even greater. Email us at migrationweek@usccb.org with a link to your published LTE.

Letter to the Editor Writing Tips

- Keep it short (150-250 words) – If you don't edit your LTE, the news outlet might edit it for you. Since they could cut out your main point, it's best to write something both punchy and brief.
- Speak in your own voice. Tell why the article matters to you. Talk about your faith, professional experience or knowledge of climate change. Be personal and authentic.
- Get local. Editors are generally more interested in letters that highlight local impacts. Can you relate the issues raised in a national piece on migration and immigration to issues impacting your own community?
- Get personal. Migration is about people on the move. Personalize your perspective with a story about people you know affected by migration- a family member or someone you know from your church.
- Follow these best practices:
 1. Reference a recent article (if possible). Your letter is most likely to be published if it responds directly to the newspaper's recent coverage of a specific migration issue. Mention the article you're responding to by its headline and date.
 2. Send your LTE in the body of your email, not as an attachment.
 3. Include contact information: Include your full name, contact information, location, and profession or expertise (if relevant) in the email as well. (The paper will not print your contact information.)
- Be timely – Try to get your LTE in within one to three days the relevant article is published

1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

- RETURN ADDRESS, MAILING ADDRESS AND POSTAGE ARE TO BE PLACED ON OPPOSITE SIDE -
- CUT ALONG THE GRAY LINES TO MEET THE MINIMUM POSTCARD SIZE REQUIREMENTS OF THE USPS -

Many Journeys, One Family

#ArchDBQ4Migration

Dear Senator Ernst,

As a Catholic, I believe in the human dignity of all immigrants and refugees. With more than 65 million people displaced from their homes and over 22 million displaced outside their countries as refugees, we are currently witnessing the worst forced displacement crisis since World War II. I celebrate the contributions of refugees and immigrants in our churches, communities and in our country. I ask that you, as an elected official:

- take this opportunity to meet an immigrant or refugee family in our community;
- initiate and support legislation that affirms the dignity of all migrants; and
- recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees in our community.

Sincerely,

Many Journeys, One Family

#ArchDBQ4Migration

Dear Senator Grassley,

As a Catholic, I believe in the human dignity of all immigrants and refugees. With more than 65 million people displaced from their homes and over 22 million displaced outside their countries as refugees, we are currently witnessing the worst forced displacement crisis since World War II. I celebrate the contributions of refugees and immigrants in our churches, communities and in our country. I ask that you, as an elected official:

- take this opportunity to meet an immigrant or refugee family in our community;
- initiate and support legislation that affirms the dignity of all migrants; and
- recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees in our community.

Sincerely,

Many Journeys, One Family

#ArchDBQ4Migration

Dear Representative Blum,

As a Catholic, I believe in the human dignity of all immigrants and refugees. With more than 65 million people displaced from their homes and over 22 million displaced outside their countries as refugees, we are currently witnessing the worst forced displacement crisis since World War II. I celebrate the contributions of refugees and immigrants in our churches, communities and in our country. I ask that you, as an elected official:

- take this opportunity to meet an immigrant or refugee family in our community;
- initiate and support legislation that affirms the dignity of all migrants; and
- recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees in our community.

Sincerely,

Many Journeys, One Family

#ArchDBQ4Migration

Dear Senator Ernst,

As a Catholic, I believe in the human dignity of all immigrants and refugees. With more than 65 million people displaced from their homes and over 22 million displaced outside their countries as refugees, we are currently witnessing the worst forced displacement crisis since World War II. I celebrate the contributions of refugees and immigrants in our churches, communities and in our country. I ask that you, as an elected official:

- take this opportunity to meet an immigrant or refugee family in our community;
- initiate and support legislation that affirms the dignity of all migrants; and
- recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees in our community.

Sincerely,

Many Journeys, One Family

#ArchDBQ4Migration

Dear Senator Grassley,

As a Catholic, I believe in the human dignity of all immigrants and refugees. With more than 65 million people displaced from their homes and over 22 million displaced outside their countries as refugees, we are currently witnessing the worst forced displacement crisis since World War II. I celebrate the contributions of refugees and immigrants in our churches, communities and in our country. I ask that you, as an elected official:

- take this opportunity to meet an immigrant or refugee family in our community;
- initiate and support legislation that affirms the dignity of all migrants; and
- recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees in our community.

Sincerely,

Many Journeys, One Family

#ArchDBQ4Migration

Dear Representative King,

As a Catholic, I believe in the human dignity of all immigrants and refugees. With more than 65 million people displaced from their homes and over 22 million displaced outside their countries as refugees, we are currently witnessing the worst forced displacement crisis since World War II. I celebrate the contributions of refugees and immigrants in our churches, communities and in our country. I ask that you, as an elected official:

- take this opportunity to meet an immigrant or refugee family in our community;
- initiate and support legislation that affirms the dignity of all migrants; and
- recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees in our community.

Sincerely,

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rod Blum
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

A Culture of Encounter: Migration and Refugee Parish Toolkit



Social Media Resources

Please consider posting on these dates:

December 18 - International Migrants Day
January 7-13 - National Migration Week
January 14 - World Day of Migrants and Refugees
February 8 - Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita
June 20 - World Refugee Day

Twitter (now supporting 280 characters)

Celebrate the human dignity of migrants this week as we celebrate National Migration Week (#NMW). Encourage those around you to know that #refugeeswelcome here. #ArchDBQ4Migration #ShareJourney

There are currently more than 65 million people around the world who have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to political instability, violence, and other reasons. We must continue to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters. #RefugeesWelcome #ArchDBQ4Migration #ShareJourney

As we celebrate National Migration Week #NMW we should remember Hebrews 13:2 “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Celebrate these words this week & throughout the year #RefugeesWelcome #ArchDBQ4Migration #ShareJourney

During this time of global displacement, we need to listen to our Catholic calling & welcome in the refugees who have been forced from their homes. As we look to the Bible for guidance we must remember that Jesus was also a refugee. #RefugeesWelcome #ArchDBQ4Migration #ShareJourney

Facebook: Please be sure to link Facebook posts to www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

Celebrate the human dignity of migrants this week as we celebrate National Migration Week (#NMW). Encourage those around you to know that #refugeeswelcome here. #ArchDBQ4Migration #ShareJourney

There are currently more than 65 million people around the world who have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to political instability, violence, and other reasons. We must continue to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters. #RefugeesWelcome #ArchDBQ4Migration #ShareJourney

As we celebrate National Migration Week #NMW we should be reminded of Hebrews 13:2 “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Celebrate these words during this week and throughout the year #RefugeesWelcome #ArchDBQ4Migration #ShareJourney

During this time of global displacement, we need to listen to our Catholic calling and welcome in the refugees who have been forced from their homes. As we look to the Bible for guidance we must remember that Jesus, our Lord and Savior was also a refugee. #RefugeesWelcome #ArchDBQ4Migration #ShareJourney



Liturgy Resources National Migration Week Sample Petitions from JFI

On Migrants

For all bishops in our Church, that each may be encouraged by our prayers and support to lead God's people in building a culture that respects the human dignity of all migrants, we pray to the Lord,

For all Catholics, that God inspire them to take action in their local communities to support and protect migrants and to advocate on their behalf, we pray to the Lord,

For our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they may grow in their awareness of the issue of migration and become a voice in the public square calling for greater protections for these populations, we pray to the Lord,

For migrants, refugees, and all other strangers in our midst, that they may find strength in our concern for justice and feel the warmth of our love, we pray to the Lord.

For the bishops, that they will continue in their commitment to refugee resettlement and provide in their communities a place of welcome, we pray to the Lord,

For all refugees who are forced to flee from their homes, that God bring peace to them and their country of origin, we pray to the Lord

For refugees in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and elsewhere who are experiencing great suffering, that God might bring them to a place of peace and safety, we pray to the Lord