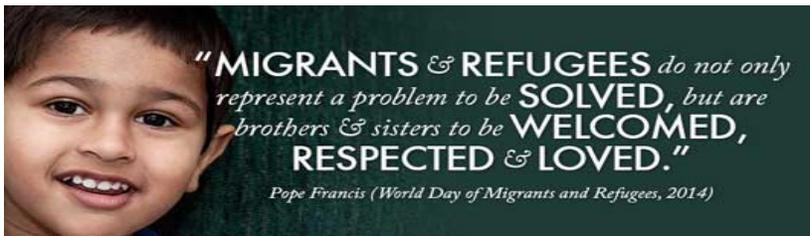


# Immigration and Refugees

You shall love...your neighbor as yourself ~ *Luke 10:27, NAB*

The Catholic Church for decades has called for federal immigration reform and state policies that treat immigrants and refugees with respect. People of faith are called to welcome the stranger among them, and “to be present to those in need of help, regardless of whether or not they belong to our social group.” Being present includes a willingness to advocate for measures that recognize the worth of immigrants, migrants, and refugees; supporting policies that keep families together; and reviewing legislation that addresses the root causes of migration. In 2021–2022, MCC will support:

- Upholding the human dignity of all persons and working against injustices that compromise the dignity of immigrants.
- Policies that prevent the separation of families.
- Policies that promote access to state identification.
- Continuing to welcome refugees and asylees to the state who have been admitted by the federal government.
- Recognizing and promoting the values that immigrants and refugees provide to Michigan’s culture and economy.<sup>1</sup>



- The Bible presents many examples, both in the Old and New Testaments, of refugees fleeing oppression. In fact, the Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the Holy Family departing for Egypt, seeking to escape the violence of King Herod. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus became refugees themselves, finding protection in a new place until they could safely return home.
- “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” **Leviticus 19:34**
- I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. **Matthew 25:35**
- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. **Luke 10:27**

<sup>1</sup> Catholic Advocacy Issues, MCC. <https://www.micatholic.org/advocacy/advocacy-issues/preferential-option-for-the-poor-and-regulatory-policies/> Accessed 10-6-22.

- For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. **Matthew 25:35-36**
- If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? **James 2:15-16**

“For it is not enough simply to welcome migrants, they must be welcomed, accompanied, promoted and integrated. Four steps: welcomed, accompanied, promoted and integrated.” – Pope Francis<sup>2</sup>

“Migrants trust that they will encounter solidarity, acceptance, solidarity, and help, that they will meet people who will sympathize with the distress and tragedy experienced by others, recognize the values and resources the latter have to offer, and are open to sharing humanly and materially with the needy and disadvantaged.” – Pope Francis<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Exauti Catholic News, 9/2022

<sup>3</sup> Sage Publications, 2019