



JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS *a journey of hope*

QUOTES FROM CHURCH LEADERS AND OTHER CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Our common dignity as human beings calls us to respect the alien among us, regardless of their status or social position. A preferential love for the poor and disenfranchised is a sure sign of one's Christian identity.

-Most Rev. Robert N. Lynch, Bishop of St. Petersburg, Fla.,
"The Human Story Behind an INS Roundup,"
Origins 26:16 (October 3,1996): p. 245

In the Old Testament, the Torah teaches that strangers and the homeless in general, inasmuch as they are exposed to all sorts of dangers, deserve special concern from the believer. Indeed, God clearly and repeatedly recommends hospitality and generosity toward the stranger.... reminding Israel of how precarious its own existence had once been.

J o h n Paul H, "Developing Special Concern for the Homeless,"
Origins 26:30 (January 16,1997): p. 495

This atmosphere of welcoming is increasingly necessary in confronting today's diverse forms of distancing ourselves from others. This is profoundly evidenced in the problem of millions of refugees and exiles, in the phenomenon of racial intolerance as well as intolerance toward the person whose only "fault" is a search for work and better living conditions outside his own country, and in the fear of all who are different and thus seen as a threat.

J o h n Paul H, "Welcoming the Poor: Reigniting Hope,"
Origins 27:36 (February 26,1998): p. 605

We shall always insist upon giving a generous welcome to others which is at once a duty of human solidarity and Christian charity... [They should be] welcomed with brotherly love, [with] examples of upright living in which genuine and effective Christian charity and the highest spiritual values are esteemed.

-P a u l VI, Populorum Progressio: On the Development of Peoples
(March 26,1967), no. 67

In order to build the civilization of love, dialogue between cultures must work to overcome all ethnocentric selfishness and make it possible to combine regard for one's own identity with understanding of others and respect for diversity.

J o h n Paul II, World Day for Peace Message, January 1,
2001

Dialogue leads to a recognition of diversity and opens the mind to the mutual acceptance and genuine collaboration demanded by the human family's basic vocation to unity.

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Every human being has the right to freedom of movement and of residence within the confines of his own state. When there are just reasons in favor for it, he must be permitted to migrate to other countries and to take up residence there. The fact that he is a citizen of a particular state does not deprive him of membership to the human family, nor of citizenship in the universal society, the common, world-wide fellowship of men.

J o h n Paul H, Address to the New World Congress on the
Pastoral Care of Immigrants (October 17,1985)

The local people, moreover, especially public authorities, should all treat [immigrants] not as mere tools of production but as persons, and must help them to arrange for their families to live with them and to provide themselves with decent living quarters.

-Second Vatican Council, Gaudium et Spes: Pastoral Constitution on the Church
(December 7,1965),no. 66 (The Documents of Vatican II,
ed. Walter M. Abbott, SJ [Chicago: Follett Publishing Co, 1966])

All people have a right to life and to secure the basic necessities of life (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, safe environment, economic security).

- A Catholic Framework for Economic Life, A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops,

The Church has the right, indeed the duty, to proclaim justice on the social, national and international level, and to denounce instances of injustice, when the fundamental rights of man and his very salvation demand it. The Church ... has a proper and specific responsibility which is identified with her mission of giving witness before the world of the need for love and justice contained in the Gospel message, a witness to be carried out in Church institutions themselves and in the lives of Christians.

Justice in the World, Statement of the World Synod of Catholic Bishops
(November 30,1971), no. 36 (Vatican Council II:
More Post-Conciliar Documents, ed. Austin Flannery, OP
[Northport, N.Y.: Costello Publishing Co., 1982])