



Prayer & Reflection

Immigration Reform

The Ohio Catholic Bishops' Statement: *God's Welcoming Presence: A Call To Stand In Solidarity With Ohio's Immigrants* (February 2001) includes the following reflections:

“God’s love transcends every human barrier, language, culture, and country border. The Gospel calls us to welcome immigrants with compassion and hopeful expectation. “ I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matt. 25:35). These words challenge each of us to see the dignity and sacredness of God that is reflected through people of all cultures and nations, regardless of legal status.

Pope John Paul II stated: “Who is my neighbor? The neighbor is every human being, without exception. It is not necessary to ask his nationality, or to which social or religious group he belongs. If he is in need, he must be helped...

We believe each person has opportunities to reach out in welcome to immigrant workers. Consider the following questions:

1. Are we as a society, as church, as employers, as consumers treating immigrants with dignity and justice?
2. Do my own attitudes toward immigrants reflect God’s love and concern for all persons?
3. How am I involved in reaching out to new immigrants in support of their pastoral and material needs?
4. What am I willing to do on behalf of the justice needs of immigrants?”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages that the following prayer be prayed daily.

A Justice Prayer

Come, O Holy Spirit!

Come, open us to the wonder, beauty, and dignity of the diversity found in each culture, in each face, and in each experience we have of the other among us.

Come, fill us with generosity as we are challenged to let go and allow others to share with us the goods and beauty of earth.

Come; heal the divisions that keep us from seeing the face of Christ in all men, women, and children.

Come, free us to stand with and for those who must leave their own lands in order to find work, security, and welcome in a new land, one that has enough to share.

Come, bring us understanding, inspiration, wisdom, and the courage needed to embrace change and stay on the journey.

Come, O Holy Spirit, show us the way.