


Justice for Immigrants

CFM Meeting

Opening Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. 

Scripture Reflection:

Have group members look up and read the following passages from Scripture.

Exodus 12:48-49

Deut. 10:17-19

Matt 22: 35”

Matt 25: 40

Hebrews 13:2

Romans 13: 1-4

- Do you think St. Paul’s teaching about “the governing authority” applies today the same way it did when the Roman Empire controlled his country? What has changed since that time?
- What is the difference between showing hospitality and defying the law?
- When might one command take precedence over the other?

SOCIAL INQUIRY

Begin your gathering of information for the Observe section of this meeting by visiting www.justiceforimmigrants.org for information about this issue. Review the “Learn the Issues section.”

Since the founding, the United States has received immigrants from around the world who have found opportunity and safe haven in a new land. The labor, values, and beliefs of immigrants from throughout the world have transformed the United States from a loose group of colonies into one of the leading democracies in the world today. From its founding to the present, the United States remains a nation of immigrants grounded in the firm belief that newcomers offer new energy, hope and cultural diversity....

Our common faith in Jesus Christ moves us to search for ways that favor a spirit of solidarity. It is a faith that transcends borders and bids us to overcome all forms of discrimination and violence so that we may build relationships that are just and loving.

-- Excerpts taken from *Strangers No Longer, Together on the Journey of Hope*, A Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration From the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States.

The Church recognizes the right of sovereign nations to control their territories but rejects such control when it is exerted merely for the purpose of acquiring additional wealth. More powerful economic nations, which have the ability to protect and feed their residents, have a stronger obligation to accommodate migration flows....

The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected. Regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all people, possess inherent human dignity that should be respected.

-- Excerpt from the Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration, co-written by the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the US.

OBSERVE

1. What surprised you when you reviewed the background information on www.justiceforimmigrant.org?
2. Who are the immigrants in your city, town or neighborhood? What work do they do?
3. What are the laws that govern immigrants in your state?
4. What is the current news about the immigration reform question?
5. How would you state the opposing sides of the immigration reform question?

JUDGE

1. How can we reconcile the Christian imperative to welcome the stranger with respect for legal authority?
2. In what circumstances must a person disobey a law?
3. Based on the principles in Scripture and Church teaching, how should we make choices on this question?

4. What solutions can you see to these challenging issues that balance government concerns with Christian principles?

ACT

1. Become more educated about the concerns of immigrants.
2. Contact your senators and representatives and voice your views.
3. Reach out to potentially vulnerable groups in your parish or community.
4. Participate as a catechist for immigrant workers.
5. See “Twenty Things We Can Do to Support Immigrants”
<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/Immigration/what/20things.cfm>
6. Visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org for more Action ideas

Closing Prayer

Our God, you have given us your word.
The stories of persons who needed to leave their
homelands—Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Moses.

You have chosen that the life of Jesus be filled with
events of unplanned travel and flight from enemies.
You have shown us through the dealing of Jesus
How we are called to relate to persons from
different nations and cultures.

You have called us to be teachers of your word.
We ask you, our God, to open our minds and hearts
to the challenge and invitation to model
your perfect example of love. Amen.

www.JusticeforImmigrants.org