



MIGRATION

"Every foreign place is our home, yet every native land is foreign to us.
Though we live on earth, our true citizenship is in heaven." – Pope Francis

The Catholic Church on Migration

- The Catholic Church teaches that **people have a right to migrate** for safety, opportunity, and a dignified life.
- The Church recognizes that not all people who migrate do so legally, but she still calls Catholics to **treat all people with dignity**, regardless of their immigration status.
- The Church upholds true justice and the need for a nation to establish policies surrounding migration. Simultaneously, the Church recognizes the need for a **comprehensive reform of immigration policies**, while emphasizing that immigration laws should be applied with justice and compassion.

Core Tenets of This Teaching

- **The Right to Remain:** People have a right to find safety and opportunity in their homeland.
- **The Right to Migrate:** When those conditions are absent, people have a right to migrate to support themselves and their families.
- **The Right to Opportunity:** Migrants have a right to build a stable life and support themselves.
- **The Right to Regulate Borders:** Pope Leo XIV stated that a human being's inherent dignity does not instantly override the sovereignty of nations, and that states have a sacred duty to protect the political common good, which includes the right to regulate borders and restrict entry.
- **Human Dignity:** Every person must be treated with dignity, regardless of immigration status.

Practical Application

- **In parish life**, the Church calls us to welcome all newcomers into our community, regardless of their ethnicity, race or legal status. Migrants should be offered the same spiritual and material support as any other parishioner. The Church is universal, and we are one in Christ.
- **In the public sphere**, people are called to support migrants at work and in the professional field. We should also actively engage in reforming immigration policies to advocate for our brother and sister migrants.
- **Personally**, people are called to uphold the human dignity of all people. They should show love to migrants through hospitality, support and compassion, in their daily conversations and interactions.