



## Transitioning to a New Administration: How Can We Assist Immigrants and Refugees?

### What is Catholic Church's perspective on immigration and refugees policies?

- *The Bishops and the Catholic Church support immigrants and refugees:*  
The US Bishops are committed to ensuring that refugees and immigrants are humanely welcomed to the United States without sacrificing our nation's security. "We will work to promote humane policies that protect refugees and immigrants' inherent dignity, keep families together, and honor and respect the laws of this nation." Read the full statement [here](#).<sup>i</sup>
- *Our Catholic community provides welcome, understanding, and spiritual guidance:* The Catholic community stands with immigrants and refugees. We welcome them and offer them spiritual support and comfort during this period of uncertainty.

### What guidance can we provide to undocumented immigrants?

- *Meet with an immigration legal services provider to get screened for forms of relief:*  
We remind parish staff to coordinate all immigration questions and referrals to one of our three Catholic Charities Member Agencies: Catholic Charities of Solano, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services and Northern Valley Catholic Social Services:

#### **Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services**

Chelsea Sachau (916) 313-7604

or [immigration@sacramentofoodbank.org](mailto:immigration@sacramentofoodbank.org)

#### **Northern Valley Catholic Social**

Mariela Hernandez, Immigration BIA

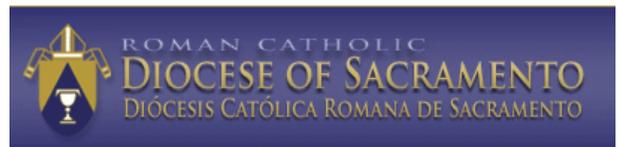
530-824-4039 or [mhernandez@nvcss.org](mailto:mhernandez@nvcss.org)

#### **Catholic Charities of Solano**

Teresa Alonso-Bray, Immigration Dir.

707-644-8909 or [teresa@csssolano.org](mailto:teresa@csssolano.org)

- *Apply for citizenship if you are eligible:* According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), [over 8 million](#) immigrants in United States are eligible for citizenship<sup>3</sup> but have yet to [apply](#).
- *Avoid immigration scams and notario fraud:* Individuals need to be particularly vigilant about immigration scams at this time. You can share the following information and resources with undocumented individuals in your community:



- *Legal Assistance: Individuals should be careful to obtain assistance from a qualified immigration attorney or legal services provider. Visit the [Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.](#) (CLINIC)<sup>5</sup> website to locate a reputable organization near you.*
- *Learn about your rights in an enforcement situation:* Undocumented individuals should educate themselves on their rights when interacting with immigration officers.
  - If an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer comes to their residence, the individual may refuse to open the door until the officer presents them with a warrant with their name and address on it. The individual can ask the officer to slide the warrant under the door.
  - Individuals have the right to remain silent and do not have to answer the officer's questions.
  - Individuals can demand to speak to their legal counsel and can refuse to sign any documents until they have spoken with their attorney.
  - Detailed information on immigrants' rights can be found in English [here](#)<sup>9</sup> or in Spanish [here](#).<sup>10</sup>
- *Organize your family's documents and points of contact:* Undocumented individuals should ensure that they are organized and that they gather identification documents, and documents related to any interactions with immigration officials, law enforcement, or courts of law. They should make copies of these documents and confirm that family members or trusted friends can access to them. They should memorize or carry the phone number of a person they trust and, if applicable, their legal representative. They should make sure their children also carry a trusted contact's number.

### **How can we be supportive of immigrants and refugees at this time?**

- *Contact your local Catholic Charities agency to organize an immigration information forum at your parish:* If you are interested in hosting an information forum at your parish contact the Office of Catholic Charities & Social Concerns at 916-733-0253 or email Carolina Estrada at [cestrada@scd.org](mailto:cestrada@scd.org)
- *Engage in dialogue about Catholic Social Teaching on migration:* Start a dialogue with your community around Catholic Social Teaching on migration. Share a copy of and discuss the pastoral letter [Strangers No Longer Together on the Journey of Hope](#).<sup>16</sup>
- *Join the Diocesan Immigrant Support Network:* The Diocesan Immigrant Support Network (DISN) was created in 2008 to build a network of support for immigrant parishioners throughout the Diocese. This network will provide reliable and timely information, provide access to immigration services and advocate for immigration reform.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact Carolina Estrada at 916-733-0253 or email [cestrada@scd.org](mailto:cestrada@scd.org).