

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE: A HIGHLIGHT ON

IMMIGRATION

Hello dear parishioners! During the month of August, the Respect Life Committee here at St. Joseph's wish to shine the spotlight on Immigration, re-echoing the words of Bishop Gainer:

Did you know?

- ⇒ The Catholic Church in the United States is itself an immigrant Church, populated by millions who brought their talent and faith to this great country. – *Immigration and the Catholic Church* | USCCB
- ⇒ The Holy Family were immigrants in Egypt after St. Joseph was warned by an angel to flee King Herod's wrath. – *Matthew 2: 13-15*
- ⇒ St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was the first United States citizen to be canonized and is the patron saint of immigrants. She herself was an immigrant to the U.S., having traveled from Italy to New York City in 1889 to work with the thousands of Italian immigrants living there. – *Google*.

"As a pro-life Church, not only do we support parents facing an unplanned or difficult pregnancy, we also continue our efforts to support the needs of the elderly, the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the refugee and immigrant, and those who have been marginalized."

The word "immigrant" elicits different feelings from different people, but What does the Church teach about immigrants and immigration? The Catechism of the Catholic Church 2241 says:

The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent that they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of security and means of livelihood that they cannot find in their country of origin. (...) Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens.

We are all made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and should recognize this fact in every human being we meet. Our Bishops remind us that we should affirm and recognize, through words and actions, the God-given dignity of every person (<https://www.usccb.org/civilizeit>).

As children of God, let us continue to look for ways to bring His love to our immigrant brothers and sisters, bearing in mind that every migration story is different, like the Holy Family's, or St. Frances Cabrini's. For example, a citizen today can be a refugee tomorrow. How would we want to be treated if that became our lot?

In the Respect Life Committee, we will keep working on sharing information about immigrants/immigration, and ways we can be more accommodating to all our brothers and sisters. In the meantime, if you are an immigrant in our parish and feel alone, unseen or lost, we want you to know we are here for and with you. Please contact the Respect Life Committee for spiritual guidance or if you just need someone to talk to and pray with.

In the words of Pope Francis, "The salvation which God has wrought, and the Church joyfully proclaims is for everyone. God has found a way to unite Himself to every human being in every age."

Let's see how we are connected!

Have you seen the World Map in the narthex?
Grab a pin and mark where you are from, to see how we at St. Joseph's may come from different places yet are one in Christ.



Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

Patron Saint of Immigrants



- ⇒ First United States citizen to be declared a saint.
- ⇒ Born in Italy in 1850.
- ⇒ Wanted to be a missionary in China and tell people about Jesus, but Pope Leo XIII sent her "Not the East, but to the West", to minister to the many Italian immigrants in New York City.
- ⇒ Came to the United States in 1889 and faced lots of challenges but kept working even when others gave up.
- ⇒ Founded many institutions dedicated to caring for the poor, the abandoned, the uneducated, and the sick.
- ⇒ Was granted citizenship in the United States in 1909.
- ⇒ Died in Chicago on December 22, 1917, in Columbus Hospital, Ohio, a hospital she herself had founded.
- ⇒ Was canonized in 1946 by Pope Pius XII and given the title of Patroness of Immigrants four years later, being an immigrant herself.