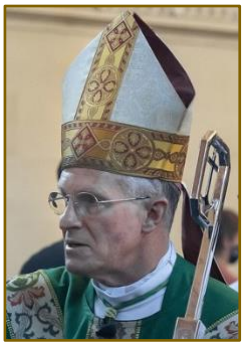
Luke 10, 29: "And who is my neighbor?"

JPIC Resource Bulletin 06/20/2025: Solidarity is not optional

Today is World Refugee Day, 06/20/2025: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has posted a brief video for World Refugee Day. We are all mindful of the irony, and have much to reflect on. There is time to watch this; it's under two minutes: https://youtu.be/r0F22U9mzbE?si=NlTR5HyMzPgaSEJM

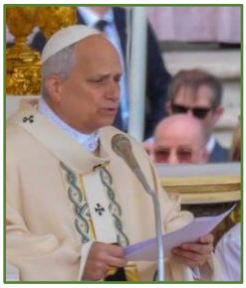
The USCCB sponsored *Justice for Immigrants* network has posted a World Refugee Day Toolkit .

USCCB statement on US immigration policy, June 17, 2025:



"Law enforcement actions aimed at preserving order and ensuring community security are necessary for the common good. However, the current efforts go well beyond those with criminal histories. In the context of a gravely deficient immigration system, the mass arrest and removal of our neighbors, friends and family members on the basis of immigration status alone, particularly in ways that are arbitrary or without due process, represent a profound social crisis before which no person of good will can remain silent." Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Link to the full statement: https://www.usccb.org/news/2025/count-commitment-all-us-stand-you-challenging-hour-says-archbishop-broglio.

Pope Leo XIV:



"No one is exempted from striving to ensure respect for the dignity of every person, especially the most frail and vulnerable, from the unborn to the elderly, from the sick to the unemployed, citizens and immigrants alike." Pope Leo XIV: *Audience to Members of The Diplomatic Corps…* 16 May 2025.

The words from Pope Leo above were highlighted by the US Bishops in their recent Letter to Congress, about the budget legislation in the US Senate: https://www.usccb.org/resources/Letter to Congress on Budget Reconciliation-05-20-25.pdf. This letter itemizes the moral issues with the current bill, which are many, but not complicated. It could serve as a list from which to make a selection on what to work on. At the USCCB action center, you can sign up for timely alerts to help keep track of the issues you choose: https://www.usccb.org/take-action This letter also could be an example of how to take public action based on Catholic Social Teaching, especially *solidarity.* Article 44 of our General Constitutions supports reflecting on public policies, while carefully keeping clear of partisan activity or debate.



Prayer and contemplation

When working for justice, we need to love and forgive everyone involved, and speak respectfully, always assuming positive intent, like our Holy Father and our bishops. The practice of contemplation prepares and strengthens us for this. Time in prayer is as essential for us as it was for Jesus, and for St. Francis.

Prayer for World Refugee Day:

Lord God, when families must flee war and violence and do not know where they will live,
When mothers cry out to you in their suffering and receive no answer
Help us to understand that we are the answer
Give to us the knowledge of the actions we must take in your name
To bring your light in the darkness. Amen

JM