

MODERN CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ON IMMIGRATION



“...No one would exchange his country for a foreign land if his own afforded him the means of living a decent and happy life.” (#47) Pope Leo XIII 1891

“We cannot insist too much on the duty of giving foreigners a hospitable reception. It is a duty imposed by human solidarity and by Christian charity, and it is incumbent upon families and education institutions in the host nations. . .[T]hey should be welcomed in the spirit of brotherly love” Pope Paul VI 1967

“Solidarity... is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” Pope John Paul II 1987

“It is necessary to restate that, for migrants or refugees as for all other human beings, rights are not based primarily on juridical membership in a determined community, but, prior to that, on the dignity of the person” Pope John Paul II 1990

“Each celebration of the Eucharist makes sacramentally present the gift that the crucified Lord made of his life, for us and for the whole world. In the Eucharist Jesus also makes us witnesses of God’s compassion towards all our brothers and sisters. The Eucharistic mystery thus gives rise to a service of charity towards neighbor. . .

” Pope Benedict XVI 2007



“Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.”

Pope Francis 2013

“Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women, and men who leave or are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more.”

Pope Francis 2013

“The Church without frontiers, Mother to all, spreads throughout the world a culture of acceptance and solidarity, in which no one is seen as useless, out of place, or disposable.”

Pope Francis 2014

“Closeness to the poor, the refugee, the immigrant, the sick, the exploited, the elderly living alone, prisoners and all God’s other poor, will teach us a different way of resting, one which is more Christian and generous.” Pope Francis 2015

