

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

March 2025

Seeing with the Eyes of Our Heart

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Over the last months, there has been an active national conversation about immigrants. It is a difficult topic and one that raises deep emotions for many people. If we step back and reflect, we learn that the issues regarding immigration are complex. However, sisters and brothers, we are not called to solve the complexities of legal immigration. We are called to love. We are called to live our lives in keeping with the teachings of our Holy Catholic Church and the guidance from our Beloved Saint Francis and the Rule of Life he gave us. Those foundations teach us that every person has inherent dignity and worth. Every life is sacred. The image of God is present in every person, no matter their circumstances.



Compassionate, Loving Action

We are called to reach out in love in whatever way we collectively and individually feel called. In our region and around the country some Franciscans have felt called to serve food to immigrants on their journeys. Some have been called to public witness, others to serve in a variety of capacities with Catholic Charities. Explore what awakens your hearts and share your love in one way this month.



Let Us Pray

Most loving and compassionate Lord, we know from our scripture that we are called to welcome the stranger. Teach us how to do this while respecting the rights of all for safety and security. Help us to see where you are leading us to carry Your Divine light and love, and relieve the suffering of the most vulnerable among us. We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus. Amen.



Let Us Sing

We invite the councils of each fraternity to choose a song that would awaken the loving and welcoming hearts of your fraternity members. Three of the songs we sang at the prayers and procession for Immigrants, convened by our Bishop in San Diego were "The Cry of the Poor" by John Foley, S.J., "Here I Am, Lord" by Dan Shutte, and "Be Not Afraid," by John Michael Talbot.

May we pray, act, and sing as we carry God's Hope and Love into the world.