



Kinship

STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

“Mother Theresa diagnosed the world’s ills in this way: we’ve just ‘forgotten that we belong to each other.” Kinship is what happens to us when we refuse to let that happen. With kinship as the goal, other essential things fall into place; without it, no justice, no peace. I suspect that were kinship our goal, we would no longer be promoting justice – we would be celebrating it.” (Gregory Boyle, *Tattoos on the Heart*, 2010)

“In November, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) held in detention an average of about 17,000 persons each day. If Congress extends 2020 levels of funding into [this] year, they will have the capacity to detain three times the number of people currently detained. Even in the midst of a pandemic, ICE and CBP (Customs and Border Protection) continue to detain thousands of immigrants in crowded, unsanitary jails, endangering their lives and health.... Now is the time to transition funding away from detention, and into humane, community-based alternatives.” (Sisters of Mercy Justice Team, *Immigration Action Alert*, December 15, 2020) Now is the time to recognize our kinship.

From shelters and improvised camps across Central America, families who lost everything in the severe flooding set off by the two recent major hurricanes are making the arduous journey, often on foot, to the United States. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, more than 4.3 million Central Americans, including 3 million Hondurans, were affected by Hurricane Eta alone. In Honduras, Jarlin Antonio Lorenzo has been living for days under a San Pedro Sula overpass in an encampment without any bathrooms after being flooded out of his home. He said there was no other option but to migrate. “You’re going to see all of these faces in the caravan,” he said, pointing to those around him. “We’re going because we can’t stand the poverty, the hunger.” (Taken from New Exodus Expected in Central America, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Claudio Escalon and Maria Verza ASSOCIATED PRESS, November 28, 2020)

“People migrate for different reasons—protection, family, work, or a combination of these—and the Catholic Church believes that the U.S. immigration system must provide fair, orderly, and stable legal pathways for all these justifications. Yet over 11 million people in the U.S. remain undocumented without a pathway to legal status and many others face obstacles to attaining or maintaining legal status.” (Justice for Immigrants, December 2020)

“So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God’ (Eph 2:19). It is not just about migrants: it is about building the city of God and man.” –Pope Francis, 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (2019)

“Kinship – not serving the other, but being one with the other. Jesus was not ‘a man for others’; he was one with them. There is a world of difference in that.” (Gregory Boyle, *Tattoos on the Heart*, 2010)