



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, December 8, 2024

### *Who Are My Brothers and Sisters?*

The topic of immigration has once again captured our attention as a nation, and deportation is a looming response. What would be the result of mass deportation, and who are some of the groups affected?

“The annual cost of deporting one million immigrants per year would be a staggering \$88 billion, with most of that cost going toward building detention camps. It would take over 10 years to detain, process, and remove all targeted immigrants. **Mass deportation would remove more than 30% of the workers in major construction trades**, such as masons, roofers, and painters.” (Jeremy Robbins, *American Immigration Council*, 11/22/24) Further, “America’s food supply depends on immigrant workers, including those on H-2A visas and those who are undocumented. **In fruit and vegetable crop production, 49.6% of the workforce is comprised of immigrants.**” (This Week in Immigration, *American Immigration Council*, 11/24/24)

**Birthright Citizenship.** “The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that every child born “within the jurisdiction of the United States” is a U.S. citizen, regardless of their parent’s immigration or citizenship status.

For over a century, the U.S. Supreme Court has interpreted the Fourteenth Amendment as conferring U.S. citizenship automatically to anyone born on U.S. soil. Anti-immigrant factions, however, have pushed to restrict birthright citizenship, **attempting to deny it to children born in the United States to undocumented immigrant parents.**” (*American Immigration Council*, 10/16/24)

“Revoking this right would require amending the U.S. Constitution, or for the U.S. Supreme Court to diverge from centuries of established precedent and legal principles that date back to before the founding of this country.” (*American Immigration Fact Sheet*, October 2024)

“**Immigrants with humanitarian or temporary legal status** in the United States are at risk of being rendered effectively undocumented.... More than 1.5 million people can currently live and work in the country protected both by longtime programs including Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and ... innovations such as the parole processes for Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan (CHNV) migrants.” (Rafael Bernal, *The Hill*, 11/17/24)

“**We need a plan that supports cultural dynamism and protects American workers....** On deportations, take steps that build credibility and support, like expelling criminals and recent immigration-law violators.... Deporting people who’ve been living in the U.S. peacefully and productively for over a decade is guaranteed to spark damaging headlines, especially if they have citizen spouses or children, as many of them do.” (Reihan Salam, *The Free Press*, 11/19/24)

“If every human being possesses an inalienable dignity, **if all people are my brothers and sisters, and if the world truly belongs to everyone, then it matters little whether my neighbor was born in my country or elsewhere.** My own country also shares responsibility for his or her development.... It can offer a generous welcome to those in urgent need, or work to improve living conditions in their native lands by refusing to exploit those countries or to drain them of natural resources, backing corrupt systems that hinder the dignified development of their peoples.” (Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, #125)

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at [socialjustice@holycrossphl.org](mailto:socialjustice@holycrossphl.org).  
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