



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, February 2, 2025

Neighbors Not Enemies

As we are aware, “**the long-standing ban on immigration raids and arrests in ‘sensitive locations’ like schools, churches, courthouses, and hospitals has been lifted.** Also suspended is all refugee resettlement, including blocking the entry of thousands of refugees who’d already been approved to enter the U.S. after going through intense vetting processes.... The constitutional right to birthright citizenship has been undermined, but a federal judge has temporarily blocked this unconstitutional order.

The Justice Department argued that Native Americans should also be stripped of citizenship.... The Navajo Nation is warning its citizens to know their rights if ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents stop them on the street or knock on their door.

Instead of demonizing immigrants, our government representatives must protect the millions of immigrants who already live in our communities, as well as those who are fleeing violence to seek safety here.... Two representatives just reintroduced the **Neighbors Not Enemies Act** in Congress, which would close the legal loophole that enabled the ... targeting and internment of Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants during World War II. The Neighbors Not Enemies Act would finally repeal the ... xenophobic Alien Enemies Act of 1798, which gave presidents the power to detain or deport non-citizens based on their country of origin, without basic due process, which is being used now to implement a mass deportation plan. (Judith LeBlanc, *Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund*, 1/26/25)

[Please sign and send a quick message to your members of Congress to support and pass the Neighbors Not Enemies Act.](#)

It may seem hopeless to oppose the federal government’s policies, but do not despair. **There are actions we can take locally.** In Philadelphia, on January 25th, hundreds expressed their neighborly support for their sisters and brothers in a “Choose Love” rally march from Arch Street United Methodist Church to LOVE Park. The rally was organized by the New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia which includes 33 regional churches, and our own Olivia Sharkey and SSJ Welcome Center staff and supporters were also on the move.

“We do not need to live in the borderlands to accompany migrants and refugees. Undocumented immigrants live throughout the United States. [**Philadelphia, the nation’s sixth-largest city, is home to an estimated 50,000 undocumented immigrants.**] We must stand with them and follow the command Jesus gives his disciples in the Gospel of John: ‘Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another’ (13:34)....

Deportation is not love. It is antithetical to the Gospel—effectively the opposite of the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Deportation is finding the stripped and beaten traveler on the side of the road, loading him up on a Border Patrol bus and dumping him on the other side of the border.

We are the body of Christ. We must not stand by quietly while our members are deported.” (J.D. Long García, *America*, 1/23/25)

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.
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