



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, January 14, 2024

We Are Closer to Jesus When We Are in Solidarity with One Another

“We are a society that has forgotten how to weep, how to share sufferings. The globalization of indifference has taken from us the ability to weep. Who among us has wept for these people who were on the boat? For young mothers carrying their babies? For these men who were seeking a means of supporting their families?” (Pope Francis, *In Viaggio: The Travels of Pope Francis*, 2022)

“A December 2023 report from the Bipartisan Policy Centers found that it’s hard to definitively conclude how any single U.S. immigration policy over the past decade has influenced illegal immigration. The numbers alone don’t explain demographic changes or the factors that push people to leave their home countries. **Continued fluctuation in numbers of arrivals at the border is expected, if there is no consistent immigration policy to address the ongoing migration crisis.**” (Maria Ramirez Uribe, *What immigration data can and can’t tell us about border policy*, PolitiFact.com)

A recent change in policy to cheer us on in Philadelphia is the 14-1 vote by Philadelphia City Council Members to pass a **first-in-the-nation bill to end the practice of private medical deportation**. “Medical deportation has become a unique method of U.S. immigration enforcement that is produced through restrictive healthcare laws and policies that bar irregular im/migrants from accessing long-term healthcare coverage” (Tia Kattler, *McGill Journal of Global Health*, April 2, 2023).

The bill (No. 230649) --

- *Provides much needed oversight of the practice of medical repatriation by requiring reporting from hospitals to monitor how widespread the practice of medical deportation is.
- *Ensures patients and families get the information they need in the language of their choice to make the best decision for their care and fully consent to any medical repatriation.
- *Creates a pathway for the city to enforce legislation and levy fines on those who violate patients' rights.

“**No hospital in Philadelphia can force a patient to return to their country of citizenship without their consent or the consent of their caregiver.** This bill also makes sure there are ways to hold bad actors accountable. If a patient is medically deported without consent, they have the right to sue the hospital and to report the hospital to the city.” (Free Migration Project via Action Network, 12/20/23)

“It is not the culture of egoism, of individualism which frequently governs our society, that builds and leads to a more livable world. It is not this, but the culture of solidarity. **The culture of solidarity is to see in another not a competitor or a number, but a brother or a sister.** And we are all brothers and sisters!” (Pope Francis, *In Viaggio: The Travels of Pope Francis*, 2022)

In his homily on The Feast of the Three Kings, Fr. Grogan noted that the cause for celebration is that Jesus is actually with us in Mt. Airy. But we must search for him among all those we meet. As we interact more with him, we get changed, and we go back another way than the way we were before.

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