



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, January 19, 2025

Towards An Ever Wider "We"

Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Solidarity means that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world. (Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice)

“For the 107th World Day of Migrants, Pope Francis adopted the theme *Towards An Ever Wider 'We'*.... In his 2021 message, the pope traced the history of our common origin and destiny, highlighting how we are redeemed as a people, not as individuals, **‘that all may be one,’** Jn 17:21. (Kristin Heyer, *America*, January 2025).

“As [Catholics], we are called to act in kinship with all creation and protect the dignity of all people, particularly the marginalized. Jesus taught that his followers must welcome the stranger, and Francis of Assisi called his followers to be peacemakers in our personal lives and in society. Therefore, **we are called to act in solidarity with all our community members**, including the migrants and refugees coming into our country.” (*Franciscan Action Network*, 1/7/25)

“In the closing days of the Biden administration and in preparation for the incoming Trump administration, advocates have the opportunity to **learn how to protect migrants in our neighborhoods and wider community....**

Visit and bookmark our page with [resources for immigrants](#) and those assisting immigrants, including preparation to know your rights, how to find legal assistance, and steps to take immediately.” (Sisters of Mercy, *Mercy Justice Team*, 1/9/25)

Another resource is Catholic Social Services, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Immigration Legal Services, 222 North 17th Street, Suite 901, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
Contact: (215) 854-7019, <http://cssphiladelphia.org/immigration-legal-services/>

“When we’re talking about mass deportations, we’re not talking about deporting violent criminals, we’re talking about deporting people, the majority of whom have been here more than 15 years... almost all of them working or in school.”

– Jeremy Robbins, Executive Director of the *American Immigration Council for CBS News*

As Martin Luther King said, ***“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”***

“Heavenly Father, as we remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we thank You for his witness of justice, peace, and love. May we be inspired by his example to work for justice and to serve all our sisters and brothers with compassion and respect. Amen.” (*Catholic Climate Covenant Newsletter*, January 2025)

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