



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, June 1, 2025

Diverse Is Who We Are As A Country

Unless you are a Native American, you or your ancestors came to the United States from other parts of the world – from Europe, Latin America, Central America, Asia, Canada, Africa, and elsewhere. This makes our country rich in diversity. **The unique cultures we bring are cause for celebration, not fear. Fear is substituted for celebration when we are primed to see those different from us as “the other.”** They are no longer a part of who we are. The results are deportation, closed borders, intimidation, and violence. The “other” is seen as subhuman and thus it is okay to persecute and alienate them.

“A Jesuit attorney working in detention centers for detained immigrants once reported a client saying, ‘No somos animales, Padre’ (‘We are not animals, Father’). The immediate response to such a statement is ‘of course not,’ and yet **the evidence of how our world treats migrants indicates that we don’t think of them as fully human or possessing equal rights and dignity.**”

On their journey to a safer or better life, they are preyed upon, bought and sold, trafficked, sexually violated and discarded. If they reach their destination, they are treated with contempt and as criminals.” (Arturo Sosa, *America*, 5/12/25)

“**Fearing deportation, some undocumented immigrant parents in South Jersey have been pulling their children out of schools** to limit potential family exposure to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, advocates say. Other undocumented immigrants in the area are securing power-of-attorney documents so friends or relatives can look after their children if the parents are removed from the country.” (Alfred Lubrano, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 5/19/25)

“**For Christians, this way of thinking and acting is unacceptable, since it sets certain political preferences above deep convictions of our faith: the inalienable dignity of each human person** regardless of origin, race, or religion, and the supreme law of fraternal love” (Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #39).

“On March 24, Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso organized a rally in support of immigrants, describing the administration’s policy toward immigrants as a hardening of hearts. He noted, ‘I’m very concerned. You might even say **I’m more concerned about us than them, than the immigrants among us, because we’re losing something that is essential for us to be who we are,** to have our own particular identity as a country of immigrants that welcomes people who are different than ourselves.’” (*America*, May 2025).

Jesus makes it clear. “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another.” (Jn 13:34-35) “**...love does not care if a brother or sister in need comes from one place or another.** For love shatters the chains that keep us isolated and separate; in their place, it builds bridges. **Love enables us to create one great family, where all of us can feel at home....**” (Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #62)