



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, October 20, 2024

### *Path to Citizenship - Not Mass Deportations*

Mass deportations are not only against our Christian beliefs, but they would have a significant impact on our economy.

“As Catholics, we are called to welcome the stranger and promote the dignity of every human being. [Asylum and deportation policies] run counter to Catholic social teaching, which emphasizes concern for the vulnerable, as they leave individuals and families at greater risk.” (Anna Gallagher, executive director of the *Catholic Legal Immigration Network*)

“For the thousands of undocumented farm workers, immigration and a clear pathway to citizenship is an issue that cannot be ignored. **Half or more of our nation’s farm workers have lived and worked in the U.S. for years, even decades, providing food on our tables without a reasonable path to citizenship.** In support of Farm Workers across the country, [click here to sign a petition from National Farm Workers Ministry](#) telling Congress to create a reasonable path to citizenship for essential workers like Farm Workers.” (*Franciscan Action Network*, 10/8/24)

In Florida alone, “in the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, rebuilding efforts will require significant people power. Immigrants will be critical to those efforts. **Over 38% of all construction workers in Florida are immigrants.** The roofing industry in particular relies heavily on immigrants – nearly 70% of all roofers in the state are immigrants.” (This Week In Immigration, *American Immigration Council*, 10/13/24)

[Across the nation], “households containing DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients pay \$5.6 billion in federal taxes and \$3.1 billion in state and local taxes each year.... The Center for American progress **estimated in 2020 that roughly 202,500 DACA recipients are what the Department of Homeland Security terms *essential critical infrastructure workers*** who work in healthcare, education, and food-related industries.” (*American Immigration Council*, 9/30/21)

“Mass deportations are not a realistic economic strategy. They would leave us all worse off, facing a collapsing construction industry, rising food prices, and destabilizing labor shortages across the supply chain.” – Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, Senior Fellow, for MSNBC

“Immigrants are real people who’ve demonstrated courage to travel far from home, often fleeing for their lives or simply seeking to provide a better life for themselves and their families. **Despite the risks of the journey and the vulnerability of being in an unfamiliar place, they believe in the American dream and want this country to succeed.** Our success becomes their success, and their presence is our gain.” (*Mercy Justice Team*, 9/25/24)

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