



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, September 18, 2022

**"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." (Statue of Liberty)**

"Right now, **more than 100 million people across the globe have left their homes to seek refuge** from violent conflicts, climate change, and political persecution. That's roughly one percent of the world's population....

But despite this unprecedented need for sanctuary, our country still welcomes far fewer refugees than it could. Of the millions of refugees who fled violence and injustice in the past year, **only about 15,000 have been resettled in the United States**. That's merely a small fraction of the administration's 125,000 refugee admissions goal for Fiscal Year 2022....

President Biden is currently considering ways to increase our impact for the next fiscal year, which begins in October. With more than two million people expected to seek refuge in 2023, we must do everything we can to expand U.S. refugee resettlement programs....

To live up to our stated values and assist those seeking a better life, **we must strengthen our humanitarian and resettlement programs**.... An annual refugee cap of 200,000 would not only reflect our claimed commitment to human rights, but also allow us to better respond to this moment in history...."

[Sign the petition to tell President Biden to raise the refugee cap to at least 200,000 and invest in robust refugee resettlement programs!](#) (Stephen Miles, *Win Without War*, 9/9/22)

### **A Chance to Breathe More Free**

The 2019 **Public Charge Rule** that had the potential to deny green cards to certain legal immigrants if they relied too much on public programs **has been reversed**. Using Medicaid, CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program), and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) won't count against noncitizens seeking residency.

At the time of the rule, critics argued that the policies would dissuade immigrant families from accessing needed healthcare and nutrition assistance, thereby threatening the health of millions of adults and children.

In a recent press release, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra said that "people who qualify for Medicaid, CHIP, and other health programs should receive the care they need without fear of jeopardizing their immigration status." The final rule will take effect on December 23. (Shannon Firth, Washington Correspondent, *MedPage Today*, September 8, 2022)

**"It is time to recognize migrants not as interlopers and intruders but as people who reveal the face of Christ in their love and courage and who enrich us by their presence."**  
(Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas)