

PAPERS PLEASE



When we die and stand before the Gates of St. Peter, St. Peter is not going to ask to see our papers.

Instead, as people of faith we are called to see Christ in every one we meet and, as our brothers' and sisters' keeper, we lovingly meet the needs of our neighbors.

How we responded to our brothers and sisters will be the question St. Peter asks.

As people of faith we believe that good government has two duties, both of which must be carried out and neither of which can be ignored.

The first duty is to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. People have the right to immigrate and thus government must accommodate this right to the greatest extent possible, especially a financially-blessed government such as America.

The second duty is to secure one's border and enforce the law for the sake of the common good. The United States has the right to enforce its laws and all people must respect the legitimate exercise of this right.

As people of faith we believe that our world is a better place when life is respected and families are strong.

Life is respected and families are stronger when people can survive and support themselves and their families. When people cannot find employment in their country of origin to survive and provide support, they have a right to find work elsewhere.

The United States should provide ways to accommodate this right. The more powerful economic nations have a stronger obligation to accommodate migration flows.

The U.S. Bishops call for one such way: Comprehensive Immigration Reform that respects life, strengthens families, welcomes the foreigner out of charity and recognizes America's right to secure its border: The USCCB support immigration reform that

- Provides a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country;
- Preserves family unity;
- Provides legal paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States;
- Restores due process protections to our immigration enforcement policies;
- Addresses the root causes (push factors) of migration, such as persecution and economic disparity.

A Comprehensive Immigration Reform that respects life, strengthens families, welcomes the foreigner out of charity and recognizes America's right to secure its border reminds both us and all countries that the United States of America is a country where we lovingly acknowledge our responsibility to all brothers and sisters through our charity and our due process of our laws and respond with Christian love.



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