

June 2017: LEARN

Learning about our global family, the issues they face, and how they relate to our parish family here at St. Susanna is an important first step in welcoming the newcomer to our country and our community.

We begin by learning the difference between REFUGEES and IMMIGRANTS.

Who is a refugee?

- A refugee is someone who has been *forced* to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence.
- A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.
- Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so.

(Source: USA for UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency)

There are **65.3 million forcibly displaced people worldwide**, refugees who left their home, where it was too dangerous to stay. More than **21 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18**, live in confinement in camps in adjacent countries, in squalor, amidst disease and deprivation. Some refugees are repatriated (returned home); others are nationalized (accepted as citizens and residents in the nation of their camps); but most remain refugees.

Less than 1% of refugees are resettled. Most live their lives in refugee camps.

(Source: [Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio Refugee Resettlement](#))

Who is an immigrant?

- Immigrants *move by choice* and due to the promise of a better life.
- The main reasons include better economic conditions, education, and family reasons.
- They still have a choice to return to their own country at any time.

(Source: http://www.diffen.com/difference/Immigrant_vs_Refugee)

Catholic Charities Assists Them Both

In 2004, the Catholic bishops of the United States committed to immigration reform as a priority of the U.S. Catholic Church, and to creating a culture of welcome in which all migrants are treated with respect and dignity.

(Source: [Justice For Immigrants](#))

Refugees who come to the U.S. are vetted and security-cleared by the US Department of State. Refugees are assigned by the US Department of State to one of 9 partner agencies for

resettlement in communities throughout the nation. **Catholic Charities is the only agency resettling refugees in Greater Cincinnati.**

- Catholic Charities resettles about 200 refugees a year in Cincinnati.
- More than 12,000 refugees have been resettled by Catholic Charities in this community since 1980.
- Last year, Catholic Charities resettled 333 refugees. Most came from Bhutan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(Source: [Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio Refugee Resettlement](#))

Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio also runs the Su Casa Hispanic Center.

- Founded in 1997, Su Casa is the primary provider of social, educational, language, employment and health care services to the Hispanic/Latino community in Greater Cincinnati.
- The mission is self-sufficiency for the poor and vulnerable of the immigrant community that comes to the U.S. looking for a better way of life for their families.

(Source: [Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio](#))

For Catholic Charities, the goal is to strengthen our community by assisting these New Americans so that refugees, migrants and people on the move are treated with dignity, respect, welcome and belonging.

(Source: [Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio Refugee Resettlement](#))