

### Why Advocacy for Just Immigration Policy is Important for Catholics & the Common Good

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### Mission of the WSCC

The Washington State Catholic Conference is the common voice of the Catholic Bishops of the Archdiocese of Seattle, the Diocese of Spokane and the Diocese of Yakima.

Our mission is rooted in the Catholic community's belief in the inviolate dignity of the human person, its tradition of service to the most vulnerable of society, and its firm commitment to a just and peaceful world.



### Mission of the WSCC (cont.)

The Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC) attempts to identify the moral and human dimensions of public issues in order to help Catholics and all people of good will to seek the common good.



How do we as Catholics respond to human needs and seek the common good?

### Charity

Provide direct and indirect service





### **Advocacy for Life & Justice**

• Seeking <u>structural change</u> through advocacy

"But...A (charity) is not enough... You will want to seek out the structural reasons which foster or cause the different forms of poverty."

- Pope St. John Paul II

## Forming Consciences Faithful Citizenship

### **Conscience Formation**

"We recognize that the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience..."

- Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB

### Faithful Citizenship, Advocacy & Public Policy

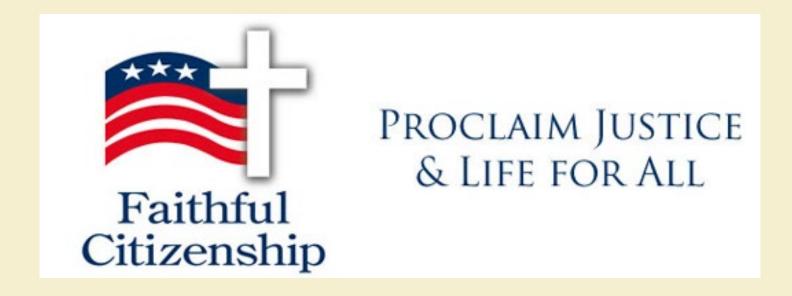
"In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation."

- Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB





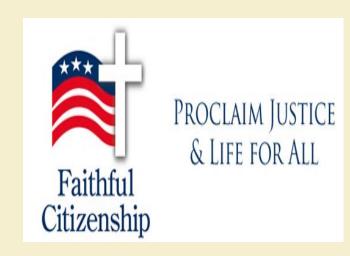
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What are the values / principles that guide us on issues?

### **Key Elements of Catholic Social Teaching**

- Life & dignity of the human person from conception to natural death
- Call to family, community, & participation
- Rights & responsibilities
- Option for the poor & vulnerable
- The dignity of work & the rights of workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's Creation
- **❖ Immigration is on 2022 Legislative Priorities list for WA Bishops**





## • The Catholic Church in the United States is an immigrant Church with a long history of embracing diverse newcomers and providing assistance and pastoral care to immigrants, migrants, refugees, and people on the move.

• Our Church has responded to Christ's call for us to "welcome the stranger among us," for in this encounter with the immigrant, the migrant, and the refugee in our midst, we encounter Christ.

https://www.usccb.org/committees/migration/immigration

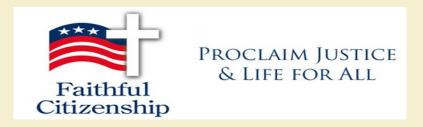
### Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration





"It is increasingly apparent that major public issues have clear moral dimensions and that religious values have significant public consequences."

- Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB



### **Federal Immigration Laws/Actions of Note**

- Starting from 1790 over 30 major laws passed in US
- ❖Immigration Reform and Control Act 1986 2.7 million legalized
- ❖Bracero Agreement of 1942
- ❖ Violence Against Women Act 1994 (3 yr. process for naturalization)
- ❖ Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals 2012
- ❖Title 42 Expulsion Policy 1944
- ❖Immigration Act of 1990 20 million entries in 20 years

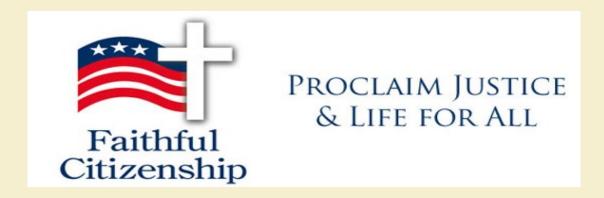
### What Can You Do?

- Visit the USCCB Website and sign up for their immigration email newsletter at https://www.usccb.org/committees/migration/immigration
- Join the WSCC Catholic Advocacy Network at <a href="https://www.wacatholics.org/">https://www.wacatholics.org/</a>
  - ➤ Sign up for our Bulletins & Alerts
  - ➤ Training and Conscience Formation— we can help
  - > Year-Round Advocacy Statewide Planning Committee
- Advocate on issues of concern form a local work group we can help
- Help organize local legislative forums or town hall meetings we can help
- Contact Your Legislators Be sure they know you and contact them at crucial times by phone, email, letter, the state legislative website at **leg.wa.gov** or, for federal representatives at their personal websites.
  - ➤ Be Polite
  - ➤ Be Brief

### **Year-Round Catholic Advocacy**

- Values-based advocacy on behalf of others
- Requires sound conscience formation
- Networks with other Catholic advocates
- Non-partisan
- Knows and uses accurate information
- Requires local involvement on local issues
- Promotes civility





### **Helpful Information**

- Catholic Social Teaching Videos from CRS https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101
- United State Conference of Catholic Bishops https://www.usccb.org
- WSCC is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & at <a href="https://www.wacatholics.org">https://www.wacatholics.org</a>

### Remember.....

# EACH ONE OF US CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. TOGETHER WE MAKE CHANGE.

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Barbara Mikulski American Politician