

## Resources on immigration

The United States has a rich history of immigrants coming to his “New World” and in many ways we are truly a nation of immigrants.

Throughout that history, however, there have been difficulties and conflicts in determining how to welcome the newcomers.

We have seen that again recently as the issue of immigration becomes politically contentious and a reform of our immigration laws seems elusive.

As Christians, we should know what Jesus Christ and His Church teach about this important issue.

Here are some good resources on immigration.

The teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is very clear on the balance we need for nations to welcome immigrants, regulate the process reasonably, maintain sovereignty, and, on the flip side, for the immigrants to show gratitude and respect the laws and heritage of their host nation. (For every right there is a responsibility). Here is that teaching:

2241 The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him.

Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens.

Other resources:

A secular history of immigration to the Cincinnati area: <http://www.cincinnati-cityofimmigrants.com/>