



Immigration and the Vincentian Call to Service

Vincentians are called to be Christ and to see Christ in all we serve, including the increasing migrant population in the St. Louis Archdiocese. Missouri has an estimated 60,000 undocumented immigrants. Some of these will call on our conferences for help, and our response must be to treat each as our brother and neighbor. In his *Letter of the Holy Father Francis to the Bishops of the United States of America* (2/10/2025), Pope Francis called upon the faithful to consider the “legitimacy of norms and public policy in the light of the dignity of the person and his or her fundamental rights, not vice versa.” When our immigrant neighbors call for help, we are called to respond with the love and charity of Christ.

The following resources are intended to provide opportunities for prayer and reflection on this important issue. They also provide concrete paths to introduction and service to our immigrant brother and sisters.

1. **Read and reflect upon *Night Will Be No More* (Bp. Mark Seitz, 2019):**
<https://www.hopeborder.org/nightwillbenomore-eng>
2. **Read and reflect upon *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope* (USCCB, 2003):**
<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/strangers-no-longer-together-on-the-journey-of-hope> (Shortened link: bit.ly/StrangersNoLonger)
3. **Read and reflect upon *Letter of Hispanic/Latino Bishops to Immigrants* (2011):**
<https://www.ncronline.org/news/letter-immigrants-33-hispanic-latino-bishops>
(Shortened link: bit.ly/LetterToImmigrants)
4. **Pray the Novena for Migrant Families:** <https://jsri.loyno.edu/sites/loyno.edu.jsri/files/NovenaBookletDigital.pdf>
(Shortened link: bit.ly/MigrantNovena)
5. **Pray the Rosary with Our Lady of Guadalupe and Tales of Immigrants:**
<https://www.cliniclegal.org/resources/catholic-social-teaching/praying-rosary-our-lady-guadalupe-and-tales-immigrants-luminous> (Shortened link: bit.ly/RosaryGuadalupe)
6. **Attend Mass in a language and culture other than English:** See <https://www.archstl.org/join-us/mass-times/> and search by language.
7. **Immigrant & Refugee Ministry: Accompany our immigrant and refugee neighbors in South City:** Contact Kevin Kuehl, MigrantMinistrySTL@gmail.com, 314.632.6521.
8. **Host or attend a Welcome Neighbor Supper Club at your church:** Visit <https://welcomeneighborstl.org/> to fill out an interest form.
9. **Volunteer with Welcome Neighbor in their refugee resettlement work:** <https://welcomeneighborstl.org/>
10. **Volunteer with the Bilingual Youth Program after school or during summer at St. Francis Community Services (SFCS) Southside Center:** Contact Jazmin Pintor, jpintor@ccstl.org
11. **Do a collection drive for Abriendo Puertas, SFCS Southside Center:** Contact Esteban Bakx Bermudez, ebakxbermudez@ccstl.org
12. **Go on a Border Immersion Trip to El Paso:** Contact Marie Kenyon, mariekenyon@archstl.org
13. **Become an IHELP tutor to teach English:** <https://ihelpstl.org/>
14. **Get involved with Housing Immigrant Families Coalition:** Contact Marie Kenyon, mariekenyon@archstl.org, 314.792.7062.
15. **Sign up for action alerts from the US Catholic bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign:**
<https://justiceforimmigrants.org/>