

“From the certainty that God’s grace is with us comes the strength to take courage in the present moment: the courage to carry forward what God asks of us here and now, in every area of our lives; ... courage to live out our faith without hiding or diminishing it.”

Pope Francis

Every Person Has Dignity

Standing with our immigrant neighbors on Long Island

As Catholics, we are called to love our neighbor without distinction, uphold the dignity of every person, and care for those who are vulnerable. More than 620,000 Long Islanders are foreign-born. They are our friends, neighbors, coworkers, parishioners, and members of our communities—people with families, hopes, dreams, gifts, and God-given dignity who enrich the life of Long Island and contribute to its economic vitality.

**This is not just an immigration issue. It is a human dignity issue.
It is a Long Island Issue.**

620,822 foreign-born Long Islanders
=21% of Long Island’s Population

Our Immigrant Neighbors Help Us Care for One Another

23% Registered nurses, pharmacists & health therapists	24% Technicians	32% Construction laborers	33% Food-preparation workers	21% Sales clerks & cashiers
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They Care for Our Loved Ones

Long Island has approximately 36,900 nursing and residential-care jobs. Immigrant workers are an important part of the healthcare and caregiving workforce.

They Help Build Our Homes

32% of construction laborers are immigrants.

They Help Nourish Our Communities

33% of food-preparation workers are immigrants.

When our immigrant neighbors are forced to leave our communities—or move because they no longer feel safe—their absence is felt throughout Long Island. Families, healthcare institutions, construction and home-repair businesses, restaurants, local farms, and immigrant-owned small businesses will most likely face significant challenges, affecting the services, care and vitality of communities across Long Island. Our economy will suffer. But more importantly, our immigrant neighbors, a vital part of the fabric and vitality of Long Island, will suffer.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Nassau-Suffolk Labor Market; Fiscal Policy Institute, New Americans on Long Island: A Vital Fifth of the Economy (2015). Long Island = Nassau + Suffolk counties. Occupational percentages and economic-output/business-owner figures are from the 2015 FPI study and are identified as such.

How can we be a Catholic voice for the Long Island immigrant community?

The Mass of “Welcome and Solidarity With Immigrants” is a call to live our Gospel values in our world. We encourage you to continue to follow the commandment to “love one another” by taking courageous steps to support our immigrant neighbors.

Here are some things you can do:

1



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Catholics Welcome Immigrants (CWI) will be hosting an October 14th Zoom workshop, 7:00-8:30, on how to conduct a discussion around the US bishops’ and NY State Bishops’ pastoral statements challenging mass deportations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

2



SUPPORT AN IMMIGRANT-OWNED BUSINESS

Seek out and support an immigrant-owned business in your community.

3



PRAY

Pray daily for immigrants in detention, those deported and those separated from their families, living in fear.

4



HELP A FAMILY

Donate to the Long Island Immigrant Justice Alliance (LIJIA) Friend Fund to aid detained immigrants and their families. The fund is managed alongside local nonprofit and faith-based groups, such as Centro Corazón de María.

To donate: Mail a check to 31 E. Montauk Highway, Hampton Bays, NY 11946.

Mark your check memo - LIJIA FRIEND FUND

5



SHOW UP & SPEAK UP

Attend the vigil marking the first anniversary of Santos Banegas Reyes’ death, just 24 hours after he was taken to the Nassau County Jail by ICE. It will be held on September 27 at 3 PM, at the Key Food Shopping Center, 386 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead.

6



MAKE YOUR CATHOLIC VOICE HEARD

Make a 3-minute call to your congressional representative to let your Catholic values be heard. Demand support for the Dream and Promise Act that protects immigrant children, pS44814 provides TPS for Haitians, and the No Shock Act – HR 10226 that bans ICE from using electric-shock gloves. (Tried to check those bill numbers but couldn’t find them online.)

Nick LaLota (NY-01) —
631-289-1097

Andrew Garbarino (NY-02) —
631-541-4225

Tom Suozzi (NY-03) —
516-861-1070

Laura Gillen (NY-03) —
516-739-3008



Catholics Welcome Immigrants is a grassroots movement of lay Long Island Catholics, religious sisters and clergy promoting Gospel values and Church teaching to inspire a faithful response to immigration.



For information email: rkmicahli@gmail.com

Or visit: <http://bit.ly/Catholics-Welcome-Immigrants>