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a journey of hope

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Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform

Know Your Rights



*The human person is the clearest reflection of God among us. As the bishops said in their 1986 pastoral letter, every person "must be respected with a reverence that is religious. When we deal with each other, we should do so with the sense of awe that arises in the presence of something holy and sacred."
(National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy (Washington, DC: USCC, 1986), #28.)*

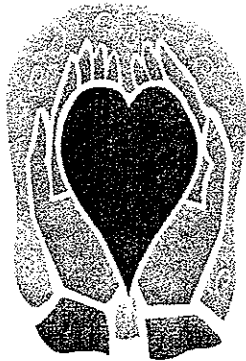
Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things. Every person is made In the Image and likeness of God. Because of this all deserve respect and reverence.

The measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Believing that God loves me, I am able to love others.



We are all in this together. As humans, as brothers and sisters. We are one family of God and we are responsible for each other. The borders of this world are artificial. When we look at the planet from outer space we see the world that God created without lines separating the nations. We see the world where all people live. We cannot close our eyes when we see others dying from hunger and injustice. hambre y injusticia.

Oración del caminante

Dios, que guías a tu pueblo
a lo largo de su historia,
nos volvemos a ti,
como hijos peregrinos,
en búsqueda de tu rostro y de descanso.

Tú Señor, como buen amigo,
siempre estás con los pobres
y te haces compañero de camino
para con nosotros caminantes:
indocumentados, refugiados,
migrantes, peregrinos,
y con todos los que caminamos hacia tí.

Tú nos llamas
a dar testimonio de tu amor
y ser ejemplo de nuestra fe,
allá en cualquier tierra que nos acoja.

Señor, que se renueve el espíritu de
Pentecostés:
que todos los pueblos,
razas e idiomas sean uno solo, en
comunión.

Amén

Solidarity

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society in all its dimensions -- economics, politics, law and more -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace together. If you want peace, then work for justice.



John Paul II speaks of solidarity as a moral and social attitude, a virtue. He tells us, "[Solidarity] is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all." (Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, 38)





Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met.

Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency (food, shelter, clothing, health care, a living wage, physical safety).

Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

The dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

As men and women who work we realize our dignity.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around.



- ❖ The family is sustained by the work of men and women. Work provides the basic necessities for life- food, shelter, medical assistance, education.
- Work allows us to share in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected -- the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.
- ❖ Wages should be sufficient to maintain and establish a family and security for the future.

We ought to help others find just wages to improve the lives of those who live in poverty.



What should you do if you have been accused of a crime?

Consult with an immigration attorney to make sure that the crime will not affect your immigration status. If you want to apply for citizenship or a permanent residency card (green card), talk to your lawyer.

What should you do if you need an attorney and you are facing deportation?

Find an attorney who specializes in deportation. Don't be tricked by people who are only after your money! Always keep with you the complete name and contact information of your attorney. Request a written contract from your attorney before paying him/her. Make sure that your family receives a copy of all the documents that your attorney will need to process your case.

RIGHTS CARD

I am giving you this card because I do not wish to speak to you or have any further contact with you. I choose to exercise my right to remain silent and to refuse to answer your questions. I want to speak with a lawyer before answering your questions.

I would like to contact a lawyer at this number _____

Le estoy dando esta tarjeta porque no deseo hablar o tener mas contacto con usted. Yo elijo ejercer mi derecho de mantehérme callado y me niego a contestar sus preguntas. Si me arresta, seguiré ejerciendo mi derecho a mantenerme callado y a negarme a contestar sus preguntas. Quiero hablar con un abogado antes de contestar cualquier pregunta.

Quiero contactar un abogado en este
Numero teléfono: _____

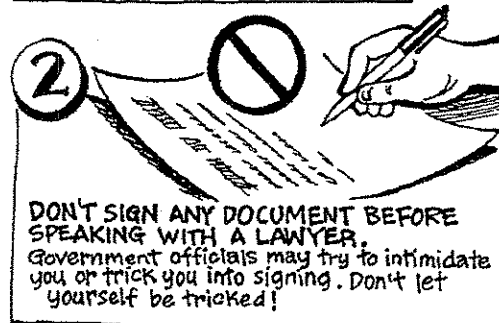
What to do if you are not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and have been arrested.



1 REQUEST A WARRANT IF AN OFFICIAL WANTS TO ENTER YOUR HOME
You have the right to see a warrant if the Police Department, FBI, Immigration or other government official tries to enter your home. The warrant will specify the areas that the official has the right to search. Observe whether the official searches any other areas that are not listed on the warrant.



3 THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.
It is your right to refuse to answer any question. DON'T LIE! Don't say anything or say only:
"I need to speak with my lawyer"



2 DON'T SIGN ANY DOCUMENT BEFORE SPEAKING WITH A LAWYER.
Government officials may try to intimidate you or trick you into signing. Don't let yourself be tricked!

4 PROTECT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

If you are undocumented, don't provide government officials information about your immigration status! If you do give this information, you may be helping the government speed up your deportation.

Rights and Responsibilities

Justice requires that every person has a basic level of participation in community life. The ultimate injustice is when a person or group is treated as if they are not part of the human race. To treat people like this is showing them they do not count as human beings. Economic justice is for everyone.

- ❖ We have basic rights as humans. These include the right to life, shelter, food, clothing, medical assistance, education.
- ❖ Human rights are the minimum conditions to live in community.
- ❖ If basic necessities are not taken care of for some reason, we have the responsibility to complete these.
- ❖ The community has the responsibility to care for those who are not able to care for themselves. The community is also responsible to help those others take the necessary steps they need to help themselves.

5 FIND OUT WHO HAS ARRESTED YOU
Write the name of the officers and their agency (Police Dept., FBI, Immigration), along with their identification numbers, and license plate numbers. You can find this information on their uniform or their cars.



6 DON'T ADMIT YOUR GUILT WITHOUT FIRST HAVING SPOKEN WITH AN IMMIGRATION LAWYER



7 MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILY HAS YOUR IMMIGRATION NUMBER (if you have one).

You will find this number on your work permission or your residency card. The number begins with a letter "A".

