



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

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Mario Villanueva
Executive Director

Washington State Catholic Conference

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 structural change 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



PROCLAIM JUSTICE
& LIFE FOR ALL

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**





Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration

- 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>





“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



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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 <https://www.wacatholics.org/>
 - 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





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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
<https://www.wacatholics.org>

Remember.....

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

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Barbara Mikulski
American Politician