



How Is CLINIC's Work Grounded In Catholic Teaching?

Catholic social teaching (CST) is the area of Catholic doctrine concerned with human dignity and the common good in society. With respect to immigration, the Church's teaching is clear: **Christians have a fundamental duty to promote the dignity of migrants and refugees.**

Roots of Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration

- **Our Biblical History of Migration:** From the Israelites called out of slavery, to the Holy Family's flight to Egypt, to the early Church's migration following persecution, our biblical history helps us identify with vulnerable people on the move.
- **God Calls Us To "Welcome the Stranger:"** This call is repeated throughout the whole Bible and culminates in Matthew 25.
- **Fundamental Human Dignity:** We have a core belief that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, with equal and untouchable dignity.
- **National Responsibilities, Justice, and the Common Good:** Catholic teaching supports the rights of nations to maintain their borders, pursue justice, and enforce law, but always with an eye towards respecting human dignity, and protecting the vulnerable, and promoting the common good.

CST Themes of Focus in CLINIC's Work

- **Subsidiarity:** Guided by the concept that all decisions should be made at the most local level possible and the highest level necessary, CLINIC seeks to equip its network with the tools needed to best serve their clients and to make all Affiliates self-sustaining.
- **Dignity of the Human Person:** In the face of dehumanizing rhetoric, CLINIC speaks the Gospel truth about the inherent dignity of all persons, especially the most vulnerable.
- **Rights of Workers:** CLINIC helps foreign-born religious workers gain and keep legal status in the United States so they can continue serving the Church and our communities.

Our History

We were founded in 1988 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Today, our network includes both Catholic and non-Catholic organizations with a common mission to serve low-income and vulnerable immigrants through legal services.

Upholding Dignity. Protecting Rights. Following the Gospel Call to Welcome the Stranger.