



*Integrity of Creation*



*Prairie Fire News*

*October 2018*

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**J**esus First,  
**O**thers Next,  
**Y**ourself Last.

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Looking for program items for your ongoing formation; here are two ideas from the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, & Human Development.

***New Video on the Two Feet of Love in Action***

*As missionary disciples, we are called to respond to God's love through both Charitable Works and Social Justice. [This brand new video on the Two Feet of Love in Action](#), which includes narration in English and Spanish, is perfect for sharing on social media and in your networks.*

**World Day of the Poor (November 18)**

A pastoral aid (also in Spanish) marking the Second Annual World Day of the Poor, is available for this day and includes a homily help, Prayers of the Faithful, a sample bulletin announcement, and more. This pastoral aid contains much good information, some of which could be used during ongoing formation at a Fraternity Gathering.



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## INTERESTING CURRENT DATA ON IMMIGRATION



According to a recent Pew Research Center survey,

**45%** of the adults in the U.S. believe the majority of immigrants are here legally  
(In fact, **75%** of immigrants are in the U.S. legally)

**72%** of Americans oppose separating families who cross the border illegally

**60%** of Americans oppose building a wall across the entire US Mexico border

**60%** support legal status for "Dreamers"



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**47%** of adults in the US view Immigrations and Customs Enforcement *unfavorably* -  
- the worst of 9 federal agencies. (for example, **36%** view the IRS unfavorably)

**71%** of adults in the US say undocumented immigrants mostly fill jobs citizens *do not want*

**67%** disagree that giving people who are in the US illegally a way to gain legal status is rewarding them for breaking the law

**65%** say undocumented immigrants are *not more likely than US citizens to commit serious crimes*

[Learn more](#)

(NOTE: taken from an article on Social Justice Resource Center—June 2018 Newsletter)

*“We still have a choice today: Non-violent coexistence  
or violent co-annihilation....*

*Let us rededicate ourselves to the long and  
bitter—but beautiful—struggle for a new world.”*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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### **CCHD National Collection Weekend**

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, will hold the yearly national collection the weekend of November 18, 2018 to coincide with the Second World Day of the Poor. This collection helps to fund the work 200+ community groups working to fight poverty locally. CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people

*The more committed to Christianity that I have become, the more I recognize that in every decision I am asked to choose that which brings life. Following God's law ought not to be reduced to a scheme to win brownie points but rather a simple recognition that no other path brings life to us. That is why choosing what is profitable is never an adequate substitute for choosing what is prophetic. It is why arguing over degrees of sin is never a fruitful endeavor. Sin is not life-giving, so when we know we are committing a sin we ought to refrain from quibbling; acknowledge our sin, appeal to God's boundless forgiveness, and move on. To those who choose life, God grants the seemingly impossible. I am reminded of a quote attributed to St. Francis, "first do what is necessary, then do what is possible, and soon you are doing the impossible." Doing God's work is attuning ourselves to wisdom, it is a spiritual assent to be a channel to what has not been seen or heard or entered the human heart. We know that we are channeling the Spirit of God when we scrutinize everything, and when we refuse to let our actions be someone else's problem. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.*

*Rhett Engelking, OFS  
Franciscan Earth Corps Program Manager*



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### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEGAL IMMIGRANTS INTO THE US**

#### **Public Charge:**

This week the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published in the Federal Register a proposed regulation change to public charge. DHS is asking for public comment on the proposed change. The rule targets *legal* immigration to the United States and will have dramatic negative impacts on economic security, public health and the ability of families to stay together. The comment period is open until December 10, 2018.

#### **What is public charge?**

"Public charge" is a term used by the federal government to determine the likelihood of an immigrant becoming dependent on the government for public assistance. Individuals seeking admission to the United States or seeking to adjust status to that of an individual lawfully admitted for permanent residence (green card) are inadmissible if the individuals, "at the time of application for admission or adjustment of status, is likely at any time to become a public charge."

#### **What changes are being proposed?**

The administration is proposing to drastically expand the number of public benefits considered in public charge determinations.

#### **Who does this impact?**

- Legal immigrants seeking lawful permanent resident (LPR) status who receive social services from the federal government and are seeking immigration visas or legal permanent residency.
- Immigrants seeking to enter the U.S. or obtain lawful permanent residence.

#### **Who is excluded from changes?**

The following groups are excluded from public charge: refugees, asylees, survivors of trafficking, domestic violence, or other serious crime, VAWA self-petitioners, special immigrant juveniles certain people paroled into the U.S.

#### **Catholic Charities USA response**

Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), in response to the proposed rule said, "We have witnessed babies separated from their parents at the border. Now we watch legal migrants who followed the rules face possible deportation or non-renewal of their green card merely because they or their sponsor, often



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an American citizen, lost their job or are working class." CCUSA is continuing to review the rule and weigh the potential impact on immigrants, families, and our agencies. You can read the full statement [here](#).

Earlier this week CCUSA participated in a webinar outlining public charge and some of the potential impacts we are projecting. View the webinar [here](#).

CCUSA is planning on submitting comments on the rule ahead of the deadline.

**What you can do?**

- **Pray** - for the families who will be impacted by these potential changes. Here is a [pray-er](#) from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- **Submit Comments** - this is an invaluable way to exercise good citizenship. You can submit comments [here](#).
- **Get Involved** - You can sign up for the Justice for Immigrants National Conference in December. Sign up [here](#). If you can't make it to DC, then join the Share the Journey campaign and organize a solidarity walk in your community. Learn more about the campaign [here](#).

**SEE THE NEXT PAGE TO UNDERSTAND BETTER WHAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS.**





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## BENEFITS CONSIDERED FOR PUBLIC CHARGE

### CURRENT BENEFITS

- SSI
- TANF
- State/local cash assistance programs
- Public assistance for long-term care in an institution (including Medicaid)

### PROPOSED BENEFITS

- SSI
- TANF
- Federal, state, or local cash assistance programs
- SNAP
- Section 8 Housing Voucher Program
- Section 8 Rental Assistance
- Medicaid  
*(except for emergency Medicaid, certain disability services related to education, and benefits received by foreign-born children of U.S. citizen parents who will be automatically eligible to become citizens)*
- Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy Program
- Institutionalized long-term care at government expense
- Subsidized public housing
- DHS requests public comment on whether to include CHIP as a public benefit.