

## Info Alert 205

May 9, 2023

I would like to draw attention to the tens of thousands of children who migrate alone, unaccompanied, to escape poverty and violence. This is a category of migrants from Central America and Mexico itself who cross the border into the U.S. under extreme conditions and in pursuit of hope that in most cases turns out to be in vain. Pope Francis July 14, 2014

### Immigration

On May 11, as an immigration policy known as Title 42 is lifted, it is likely we will see another surge of immigrants and asylum seekers attempting to cross our southern borders. In the past few weeks, I have seen reports about unaccompanied migrant children who have entered our American borders by the thousands and gone missing due to a lack of oversight by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. We know that many of these children have been exploited and they are a cause for real concern. As we personally and congregationally grapple with asylum seekers and immigrants who are seeking a better way of life in our country, I would like to share with you the latest message from our Catholic Bishops and some pertinent information from Church World Service.

To date our government's response to the end of Title 42 includes: increasing the number of refugees resettled from Latin America and the Caribbean, creating regional processing centers in several countries, and intensifying immigration enforcement efforts. The White House's latest action will be the deployment of 1500 active-duty service men and women to maintain order.

### USCCB

Bishop Mark Seitz, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, expresses the Church's real concern that without long-term policies addressing the root causes of migration while promoting policies that promote a better quality of life throughout the Americas, nothing sustainable can happen here. The Church also calls for the creation of a new system of handling immigration.

### Committees in the U.S. House of Representatives

Recently the Judiciary, Homeland Security and Foreign Affairs Committees have worked on a partisan basis to advance bills concerning immigration. There are three bills which place more restrictive and impossible conditions upon immigrants who are coming to our country and upon those who are already residing here. The USCCB Committee on Migration expressed strong opposition to these bills. You can read their objections in the attachment provided.

### Child Protection

Church World Service provides some steps we can take to address the situations many of the unaccompanied immigrant children may be enduring today. They urge us to contact our members of Congress with a list of asks which include the strengthening and enforcing of the child labor law. You can access this here:

[https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-urge-members-of-congress-to-support-unaccompanied-children-and-their-families/?utm\\_source=rss&u](https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-urge-members-of-congress-to-support-unaccompanied-children-and-their-families/?utm_source=rss&u)

### Haiti Connection - Medicines for Humanity Perseveres in Haiti Despite the Latest Challenges

Medicines for Humanity is a non-profit organization to help save children's lives from fatal illnesses that could be treated and prevented. The nation of Haiti continues to struggle and seems to be on the verge of civil war. The committed staff and partners are determined to keep Medicines for Humanity projects running. Medicines for Humanity is working to provide medicines, supplies, and water treatment to combat cholera. Medicines for Humanity has partnered with The Little Sisters of St. Therese to develop a project to teach Catholic Sisters the critical life-saving skills for lowering the number of deaths of children and pregnant women across Haiti.

### Prayer and Action

Pray for these issues. Act on whatever you can.

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