



Strangers No Longer
presents

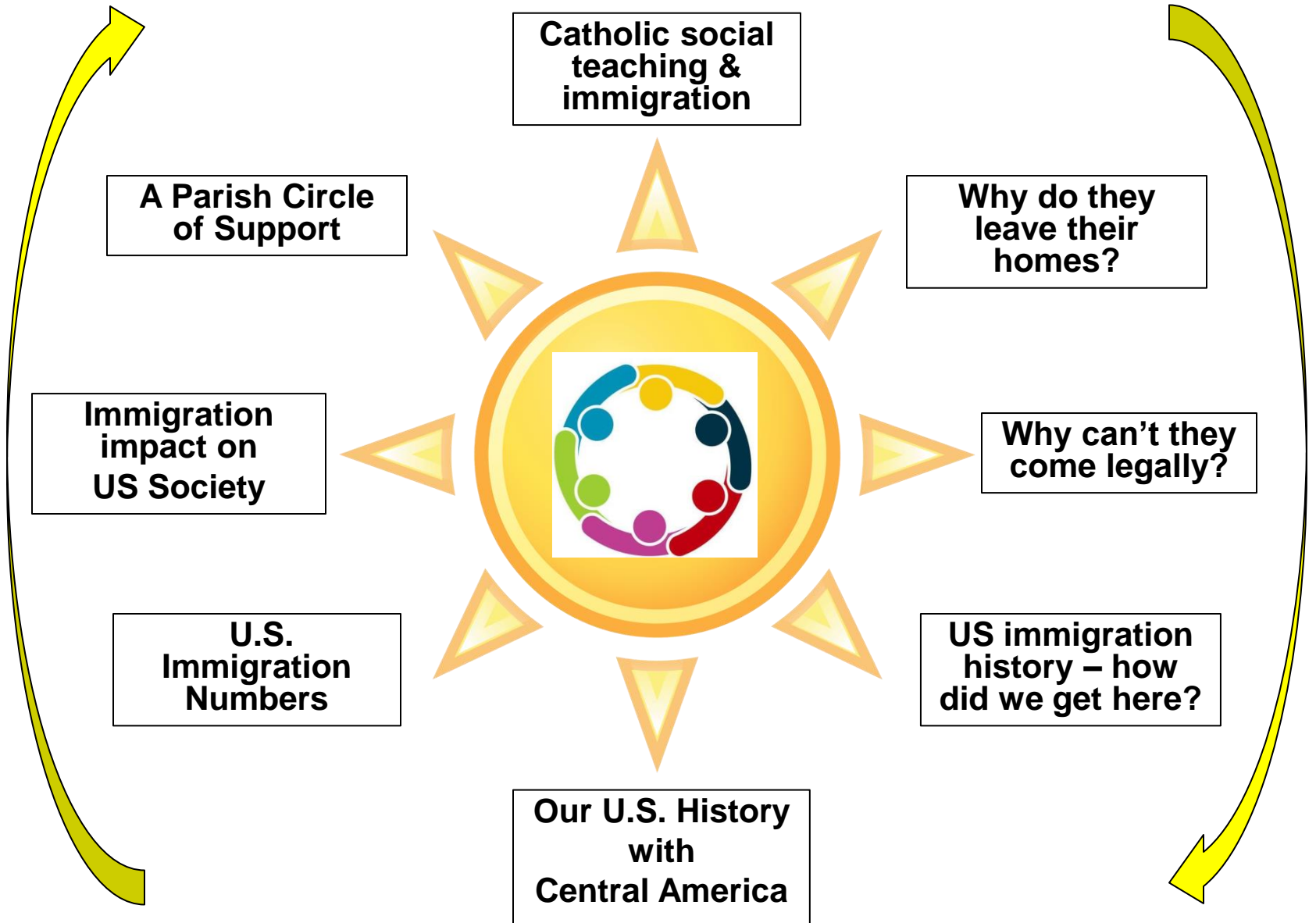
The Immigration Crisis & Our Faith

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Strangers No Longer

The Immigration Crisis & Our Faith





Catholic Social Teaching

Principle of Human Dignity

Every human person
is made in the image and likeness of
GOD
and is endowed with a **DIGNITY**
that is intrinsic,
inalienable and
inviolable.

Principle of the Common Good

*The sum total of conditions
are such that every person
finds that they can meet
their basic human needs -*

- *Social*
- *Economic*
- *Political*
- *Cultural*
- *Educational*

The Question

How is God calling me to help change social structures to protect and preserve human life and dignity?



**Why do they leave their
homes**

The Border Today

**Today many Central Americans
are desperate to
come to the United States.**



Why Do They Want to Come?



Their country is so beautiful.



Immigration in 1900s

From the late 1800s, people have immigrated to the United States because of:

- Crop failures and famine
- Land and job shortages
- Persecution
- Opportunity



Immigration Reasons Today

The immigrants coming from Central America have many of the same reasons as earlier immigrants:



Why they leave
their homes

GANGS AND VIOLENCE



↑
Gangs

Violence to families



Why they leave
their homes

The Dry Corridor



Has brought
more than
six years of drought



Why they leave
their homes

Severe Food Shortages

**Farmers in this entire region have always grown
CORN.**



Why they leave
their homes

Famine

. . . And CORN means LIFE.



So, Why Leave Everything

The These are
the reasons
they leave

- Mafia-like Gangs
- Violence & murders
- Years of Drought
- Famine & Hunger
- Poverty
- Desperation



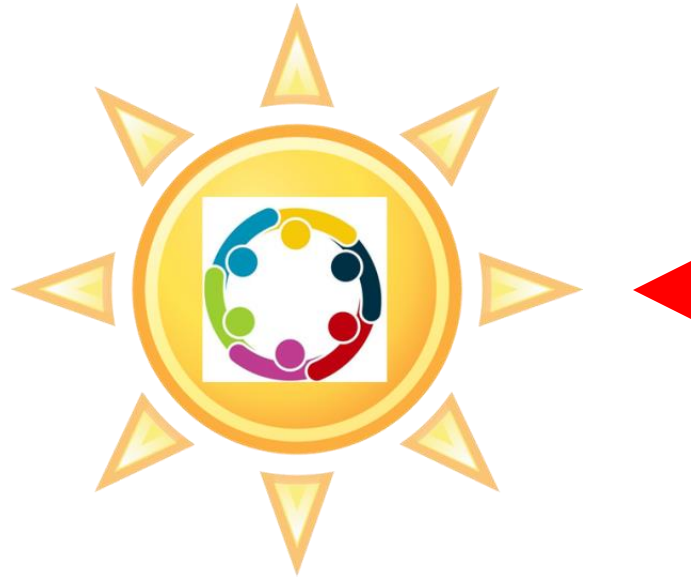
They Have a Desperate Hope



This Is What They Encounter



At the Border



Why Can't They Come Legally

Legal Residency Challenges

Very few of people meet the current restrictive immigration requirements.

And if they do meet them, they often face a wait of up to 20 years.



The Very Few Legal Paths

1. Green Card

Family-based * Permanent Resident Card

*Must be a relative of a **nuclear** family member.

Marriage

- Provides Green Card immediately)
- Permits person to remain in US indefinitely & seek citizenship

Approval Time:
Up to 21 years

2. Asylum

Applied for/ approved in U.S.

Only possible if:

An individual has/or may suffer persecution because of:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Member of a particular social group
- Political opinion

Approval Time:
12 months to 2.5+ years

3. Refugee

Approved in another country

Designated by the UN:

A person forced to flee his or her country because of violence, war, or persecution.

U.S. drastically reduces yearly

Quotas *

Approval Time:
2-2.5 months

*Refugees admitted to US:

2016: 85,000
2017: 53,716 (Trump)
2018: 22,491
2019: 30,000
2020: cap set at 18,000

4. Visa Lottery

**Win Permanent Resident Card *
(Green card)**

Millions apply each year. But 50,000 people are admitted each year.

* (Very small chance)

Approval Time:
Up to 12 months

Very Limited Opportunities

- Yes -
Legal Ways
to Immigrate

1. Related to:

- Permanent resident
- Nuclear family member
- A U.S. Citizen

Sponsored by employer

2. A victim of
political oppression

3. Refugee
designated by UN

4. Winner
of the
Immigration
Lottery

Suffer gang
violence

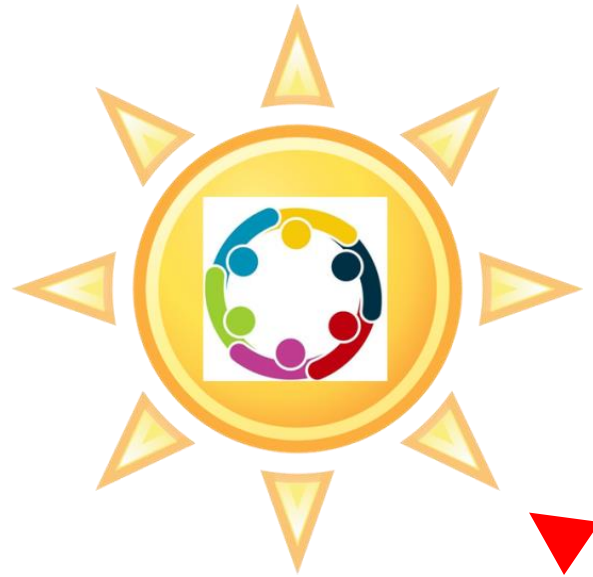
Women & children
fleeing rape,
Victims of domestic
violence

Fleeing drought
due to climate
change

Suffer
poverty & hunger

Want a better life
for your family

- No -
Asylum
Denial



The History of U.S. Immigration

U.S. Immigration

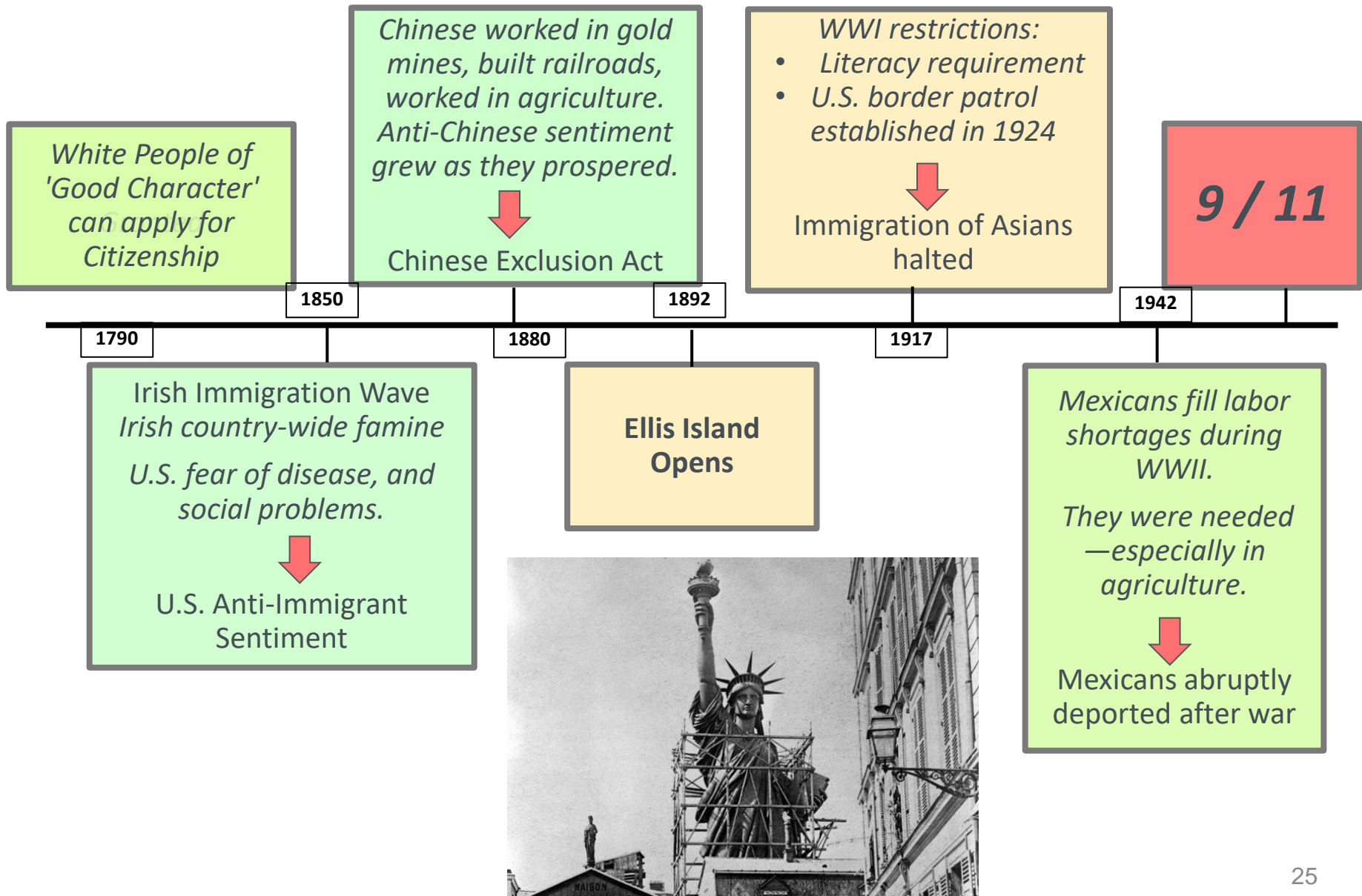


Though we pride ourselves
on being a

Melting Pot,

we have always struggled
to achieve an equitable
immigration policy.

Key Events U.S. Immigration History

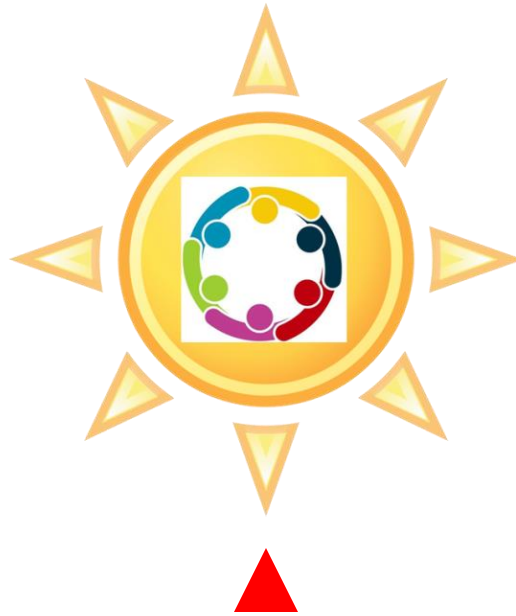


Fear of Others

The terrorist attack on
September 11, 2001 had
a sharp effect on
the public's perspective
on immigration . . .

FEAR of OTHERS.





The History of U.S. Policy with Central America

Mesoamerica

Mesoamerica has a long history filled with amazing accomplishments (domestication of corn, Mexico, 7000 BCE.)



The Mayan Civilization, starting 2600 BCE.

The Mayan Civilization (in the area of present-day Guatemala) developed great cities, with writing (since 3rd C. BCE) and:

- Amazing architecture
- Pyramids
- Skilled artisans



Cortez Conquers Mexico



Cortez, a Spanish conquistador, brought both his sword and Catholicism to the new world.



“The Catholic Church’s Friar Diego de Landa supervised the burning of hundreds of Maya codices—fig-bark books rich in mythological and astronomical information.”

([Smithsonian](#)). Catholicism spread to Northern Mexico, now known as the Southwest U.S.

DeSoto's Explorations

With the permission of the King of Spain, De Soto's explorations through Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi paved the way for establishments of Missions (many by the Franciscans) and spread Catholicism among Native Americans.



Manifest Destiny

The belief
that the United States
was destined
—by God—
to expand its dominion
and spread democracy
and capitalism
across the entire
North American continent.
Justified
Inevitable



(American Progress 1872, by John Gast)

The Border Crossed Us . . .

U.S. borders expand

“Governing the Louisiana Territory was more difficult than acquiring it. Its European peoples, of ethnic French, Spanish and Mexican descent, were largely Catholic. In addition, there was a large population of enslaved Africans who made up of a high proportion of recent arrivals.”

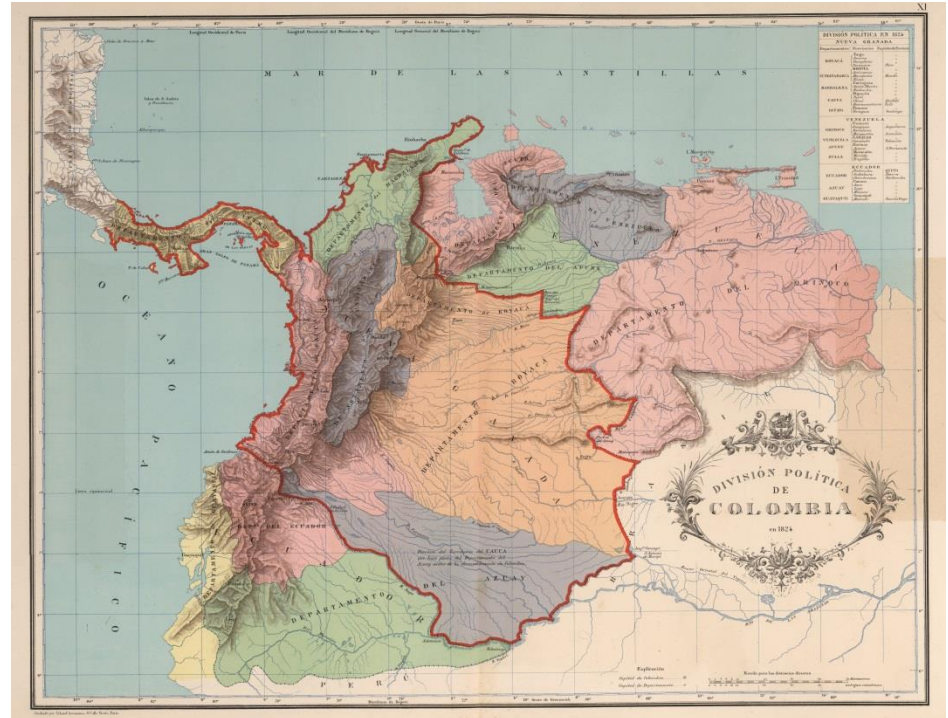
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase; Map by United States Department of the Interior - National Atlas of the United States, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=25610904>



Roosevelt's Big Stick Diplomacy



**An Example –
The Panama Canal**



Panama was originally a province of Colombia. President Theodore Roosevelt encouraged Panamanian secessionists. Then he backed them militarily, so the independent Panama government could give the U.S. permission to build the canal.

U.S. Interventions

1900 -1994

- The US successfully intervened to change the governments in Mexico or Central America – 21 times
- Direct intervention – 8 times
- Indirect intervention – 13 times
- The United States often supported dictators.

(Source: [ReVista, Harvard University Review of Latin America](#))

1980's in Central America

During this time, the United States often backed dictators.

(Example: Rios Montt killed 100,000 Mayans)



El Salvador

March 24, 1980

Archbishop Oscar Romero

As the Archbishop of San Salvador, **Archbishop Oscar Romero** spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations, and torture amid a growing war between left-wing and right-wing forces. He was slaughtered on March 24, 1980.

Four churchwomen were killed at the same time.



World Court Finds the U.S. Guilty

June 27, 1986

World Court decides on **Nicaragua v. United States of America**

“...the U.S.-sponsored military and paramilitary activities against Nicaragua, including the mining of Nicaragua’s harbors, constituted implicit violations of [the 1956 Treaty on Friendship, Commerce and Navigation].”



(Source: “Tribute to Professor Abraham Chayes, *Harvard International Law Journal* vol. 42, 2001, 15-46)

El Salvador

Nov. 16, 1989

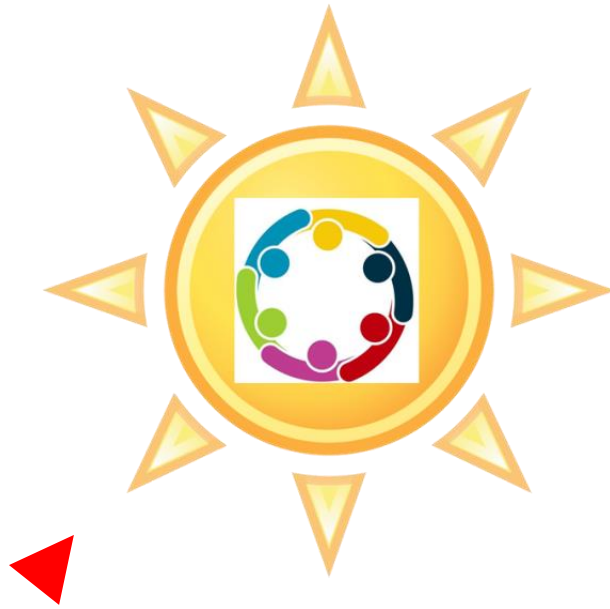
Six Jesuits,
along with their
housekeeper
and her daughter,
were killed
by Salvadoran military.



Why People Migrate to the US

- **NAFTA** (1993) and **CAFTA** (2003) Legislation
 - Benefited the U.S.
 - Ex: market for cheap U.S. exports
 - Ex: Can't sue US or Canadian companies for environmental damage
 - Created hardship for both Mexico and Central America for more than thirty years.
 - **Push factors:** Drought, starvation, political unrest, coffee rust
 - **Pull factors:** Jobs, hope for asylum, family unity

(Source: <https://www.axios.com/why-the-migrant-crisis-is-happening-now-eb2d38ee-8765-4a5f-a4ac-4c5ec36a868f.html>)

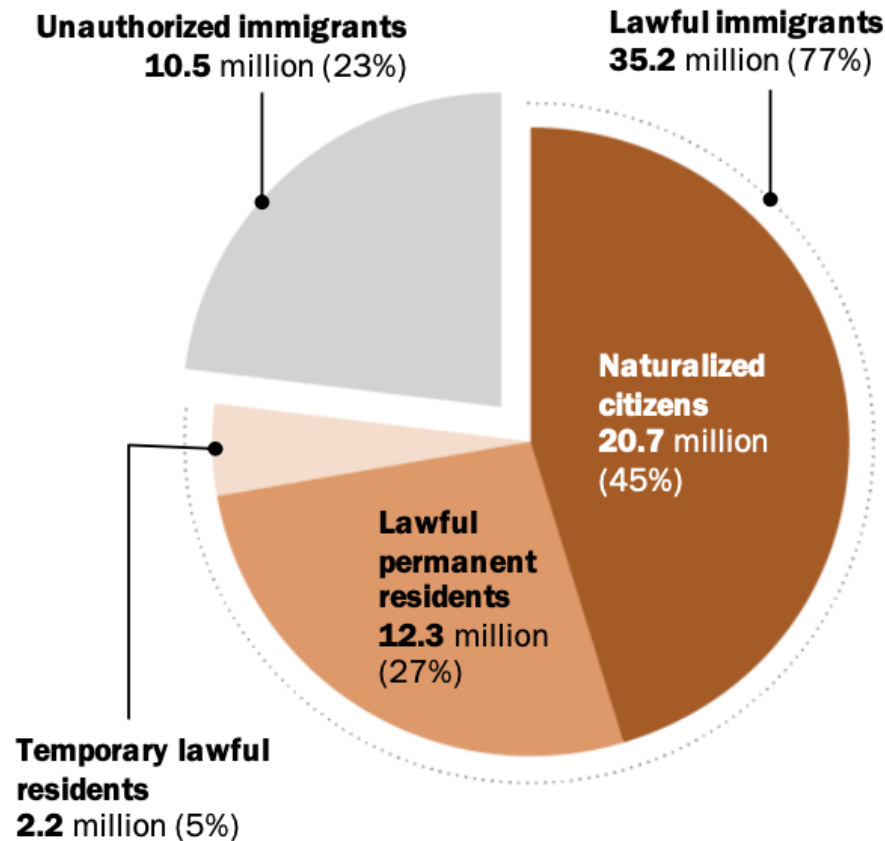


Immigration Numbers

The Immigration Numbers

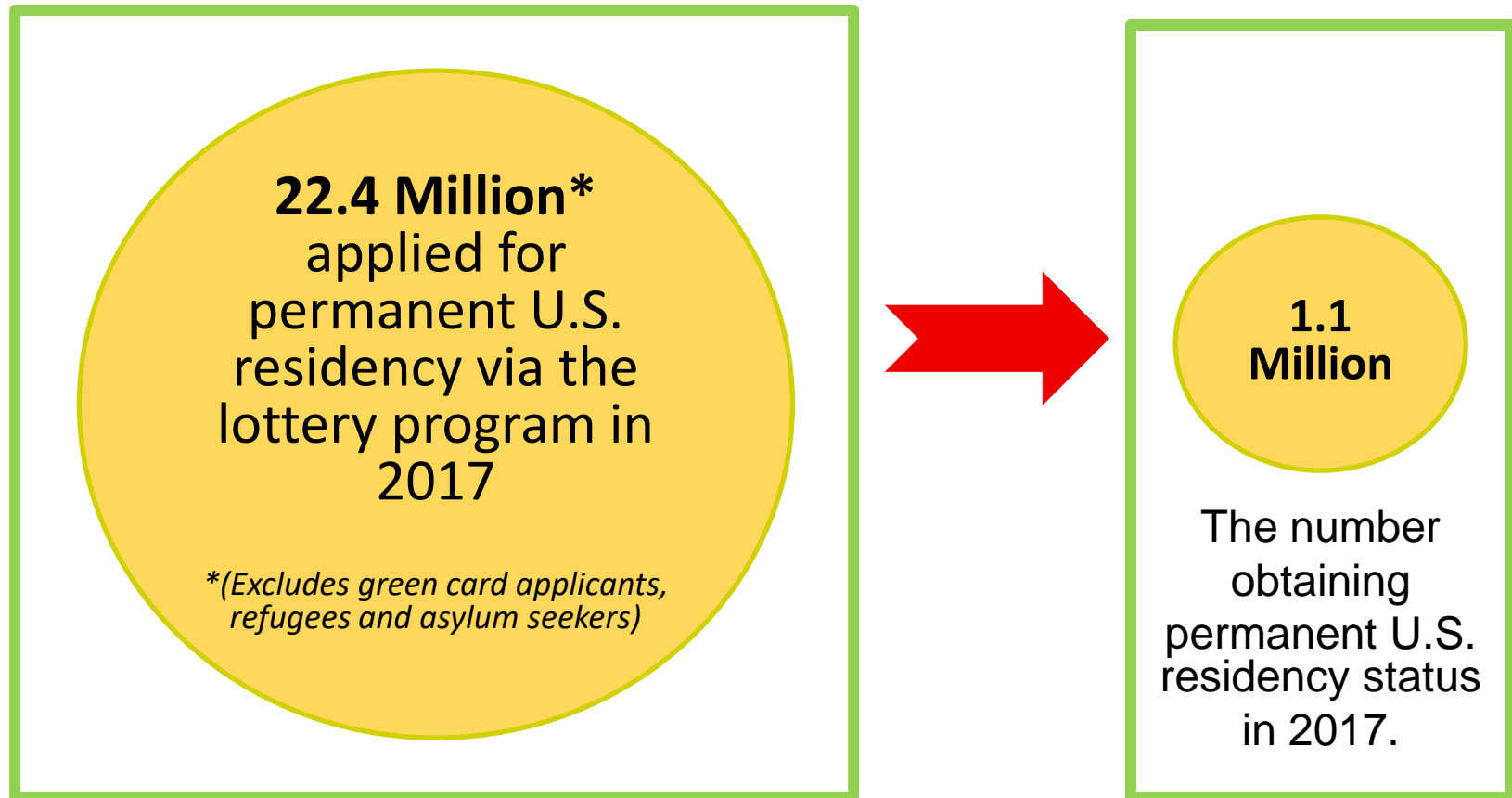
Unauthorized immigrants are almost a quarter of U.S. foreign-born population

Foreign-born population estimates, 2017



U.S. Population
328 Million (2019
Census)

Restricting Lawful Migration



Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

- TPS is a law enacted in 1990
- Provides temporary relief against deportation to eligible nationals of designated countries who are present in the United States
- Cannot safely return to their country of origin due to ongoing armed conflict, natural disaster, epidemics, or other extraordinary reasons.



Designated Countries with TPS

Close to 400,000 People have TPS

- El Salvador (195,000)
- Honduras (57,000)
- Haiti (46,000)
- Nepal (8,950)
- Syria (5,800)
- Nicaragua (2,550)
- Yemen (1,250)
- Sudan (1,040)
- Somalia (500)
- South Sudan (50)



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

DACA is an **executive order** written by President Obama in June 2012.

After a long campaign led by thousands of young undocumented leaders Obama admitted that he could use his power to:

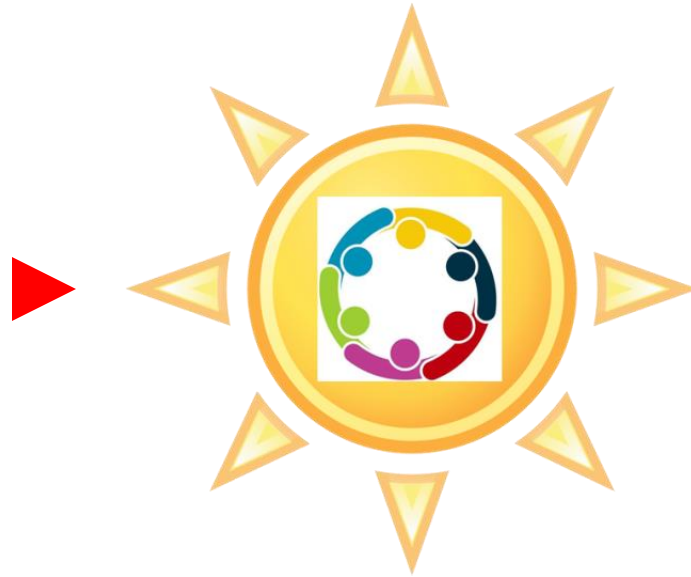
- 1) provide protection from deportation
- 2) grant work permit.

The program expires after two years, subject to renewal.



Who Gets DACA?

- People under 31 years of age as of June 15, 2012
 - Came to the U.S. while under the age of 16
 - Have continuously resided in the U.S. from June 15, 2007 to the present.
 - No background record
- 
- 7,339 DACA-eligible immigrants in Michigan, had applied for DACA.
 - 3,000 additional people satisfied all but the educational requirements
 - More than 5,000 live in Michigan.



The Impact of Immigration on U.S. Society

(Labor, Society, and Crime)

Immigrants as Workforce

The top countries of origin for immigrants in Michigan are Mexico (11.5 percent of immigrants), India (10.1 percent), Iraq (8.1 percent), China (5.9 percent), and Canada (5.4 percent).

Immigrants typically make up a significant % of workers in these following industries:

- Farming, fishing, forestry (36%)
- Building & grounds cleaning and maintenance (36%)
- Food manufacturing industry (27%)
- Hotel industry (27%)
- Construction (24%)
- Home healthcare (21%)

**Immigrants help
fill key gaps
in the U.S.
Economy**

Undocumented People Pay Taxes

- In 2017
 - **29 million** immigrants were employed or looking for work.
 - **7.5 million** of those were undocumented.
- IRS estimates:
 - Undocumented immigrants **pay over \$9 billion** in payroll taxes annually.
- Undocumented workers pay into Social Security making it more solvent:



They pay taxes and Social Security. But, they are NOT eligible to collect benefits.

A New Narrative: Facts v. Fear

- 2018 Cato Institute Study - found Immigrants have a far lower arrest and criminal conviction rate than native-born Americans.
- Cato Study - the incarceration rate:
 - 1.53% - Native-born Americans
 - .85% - Undocumented Immigrants
 - .47% - Legal Immigrants
- 2014 Journal Youth & Justice
Study of juvenile offenders found recent immigrants have lower rates of violent or property crime.

I AM

HUMAN

RESOURCES

Immigrants in Michigan <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-michigan>
Fact Sheet: Temporary Protected Status (TPS) <https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-temporary-protected-status/>
History of Migration and Immigration Laws in the United States <https://www.umass.edu/complit/aclanet/USMigrat.html>
1996 Immigration Law <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/170/immigration>
How US Private Prisons Profit from Immigrant Detention <http://www.coha.org/how-us-private-prisons-profit-from-immigrant-detention/>
Detention Watch Network <http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/pressroom/reports>

BOOKS

Lies My Teacher Told Me, by James Loewen
The Coming White Minority, by Dale Maharidge
Impossible Subjects, by Mae Ngai
Winner Take-All Politics, by P. Pierson and J. Hacker
Dream Chasers, by John Tirman
The Warmth of Other Suns, by Isabel Wilkerson



start

A Parish Circle of Support

Join or start a circle at your parish

Education

- **Invite those with personal experience to tell their stories** - *immigrants, refugees, orchard owners or others who utilize migrant/undocumented workers, those in Hispanic/Latin@ Ministries*
- **Study the topic** - *read church documents, books, articles, legislative bills*
- **Educate the parish** – *have an immigration lawyer or other expert speak/answer questions, write bulletin articles, include immigration teaching in catechesis*



Accompaniment

- **Find out** what is needed in your community
- **Drive, support** by presence in court, help with paperwork, etc.
- **Lament** with families whose loved ones are detained, jailed, or deported
- **Share** a meal at the parish



Advocacy

- **Pray** for immigrants, refugees, the undocumented, the deported, the detained
- **Write** letters, emails, make calls to legislators
- **Meet** with local law enforcement, leaders
- **Join** with other groups advocating for same issues



"We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern."

~ Pope Francis, 9/16/13



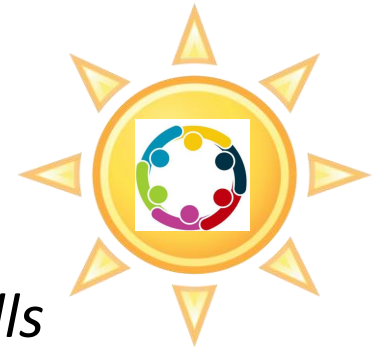
"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth." ~John 14:15-17

How is God calling me to help change social structures to protect and preserve human life and dignity?

Strangers No Longer

The Immigration Crisis & Our Faith

Thanks to our contributors:



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If you would like to schedule one of these speakers, join our group, be on our mailing list, or just learn more about us, please email us at:

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