



Women's Mission Group

Rights of Women and Solidarity

JUNE 2017

Vol. II Immigration

U.S. Sector



The first pope from the Americas called on U.S. lawmakers to open their hearts to new generations of immigrants in a historic address to Congress that urged them to reject a rising xenophobic tendency in politics.

His passionate call for "as many young people as possible [to] inherit and dwell in a land which has inspired so many people to dream"

comes amid a fierce national debate over how to handle an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

"We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation."

"In recent centuries, millions of people came to this land to pursue their dream of building a future in freedom."

"We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners," added Pope Francis, who was born in Argentina to Italian parents. "I say this to you as the son of immigrants, knowing that so many of you are also descended from immigrants."

Public Opinion On Immigration Posted on April 20, 2017

**by the Center for American Progress (CAP) Team
and Michael D. Nicholson**

- **Support for immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship remains high.**
- **There is little support for mass deportation among the American public.**
- **Most Americans oppose building a wall that spans the length of the Mexican border.**
- **The construction of a border wall remains particularly controversial in Texas, where a coalition of landowners, environmentalists, security experts, and politicians, including many Republicans, have blocked recent efforts to extend current fencing.**
- **Latinos overwhelmingly oppose the construction of a border wall.**
- **A majority of Americans support the admission of refugees from the Middle East if they are properly screened.**



Rally for Immigrant Justice

May 1, which is celebrated as International Workers Day in many countries, has over the past decade become a day for immigrants and their allies to rally in the United States. On Monday, May 1, 2017 a rally was held at Veteran's Park on Elm Street in Manchester, NH. Many immigrants and allies attended the rally, including the Sisters of Holy Cross and the Sisters of Mercy.

"For more than 100 years, May Day has been a day for marches, rallies and other events to celebrate the rights of workers. But for at least a dozen years, it has also been a day to show support for immigrants and refugees who seek a better life in America," said Eva Castillo, of the New Hampshire Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees. "Let us say 'No' to detentions, deportation, walls and travel bans."

Speakers at the rally included:

- Manchester Immigration Attorney Lina Shayo;
- Concord Imam Mustafa Akaya;
- Harrisville resident Lina Hervas;
- Rev. Sandra Pontoh of the Indonesian Community Support in Dover;
- Rev. Joe Gurdak, Pastor of St. Anne and St. Augustin in Manchester;
- Rev. Eric Jackson, President of the Greater Manchester NAACP, and
- NH AFL-CIO President Glenn Brackett.



Sisters of Holy Cross:

Jacqueline R. Verville, Anne Hoffler, Sally Howe



Sisters of Mercy

Prayer

Reading from Leviticus 19: 33-34

"Do not mistreat the foreigners who reside in your land. The foreigner who lives among you must be treated like one of your own. Love them as you love yourself, for you too were a foreigner in the land of Egypt. I am Yahweh." Dear Jesus, you are the refuge of people on the move. We ask you to grant immigrants, refugees, and other migrants peace, protection, and comfort. Help us to recognize that whenever we welcome the stranger in your name, we welcome you. Teach us to recognize your presence in every human being. Bring us together as one family, at the banquet table of your love, with you who live and reign with the Creator and the Sanctifier, now and forever. Amen. Adapted from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Inc., United States



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