



## Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City Prayer and Action Network

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! WELCOME TO NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK:** This week is the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's National Migration Week. The theme is "Out of the Darkness," and echoes the figurative darkness undocumented immigrants, children, refugees and victims of human trafficking must face when their ability to live out their lives is severely restricted, often due to violence and exploitation.

During the week, Catholics are called to participate through prayer and action to try and ease the struggles of immigrants, migrants and vulnerable populations and to reflect on the Church's obligation to welcome the stranger.

"It is our call as the Church to bring the light of Christ to these populations, banish the darkness, and help to bring them from the margins of society to its center," said Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S., auxiliary bishop of Seattle and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Migration. "During National Migration Week, we should not only pray for those who are marginalized but also advocate that protections are provided to them, for they need them most." *Source: USCCB*

**What can you do?** The USCCB encourages Catholics to engage in the following advocacy activities this week:

--**Tuesday, Jan. 7** - Send a [JFI e-postcard](#) for the national electronic advocacy day.

--**Wednesday, Jan. 8** - Participate in the JFI National Call-In Day to Congress.

Use the toll free number, **1-855-589-5698**, to call your Representative and ask them to "Support a path to citizenship and oppose the SAFE Act."

--**Thursday, Jan. 9** - Post on [Facebook](#), [Tweet](#), and re-Tweet your support for immigrants during the JFI National Social Media Day.

[National Migration Week information sheet](#) (including other advocacy activities you can do)

--**Friday, Jan. 10** – attend the Center for [Global Justice Human Trafficking Workshop at the University of Utah College of Law](#). This is a daylong event to explore the local implications of human trafficking and forced labor in Utah, the global context in which these human rights violations take place, and the impediments to progress and eradication on local, national, and international fronts. The workshop's objective is to bring together stakeholders from the community, the academy, law enforcement, local and national businesses, advocacy groups, and government for a holistic and collaborative approach to effecting meaningful change.

--View and share this 5 minute documentary on immigration reform, hosted by the Franciscan Action Network <http://franciscanaction.org/article/apple-forecast-immigration-reform>.

**GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK:** Combat materialistic tendencies and waste by eliminating unnecessary magazine subscriptions. Magazines are designed with advertising in mind. An ad-free book provides more in-depth coverage of a topic, does not encourage consumerism, and creates less paper waste.

**PRAYER:** Please use the following prayer for migrants throughout National Migration Week.

Merciful and loving Father,

you provided for your people Israel in their exodus from slavery a promised land that you established for them,  
and in Jesus Christ you provide welcome refuge for all in need.

We ask for your divine protection for all migrants  
who have left their homes in search of new opportunity in another land.

For refugees, who are forced from their homes due to  
threats of violence, we beseech you to provide them a safe haven.

For migrants trafficked into slavery, grant them rescue, healing, and the strength to  
start again.

For immigrants, who so often leave their family and friends behind,  
grant them a better life and greater opportunity elsewhere.

We pray in particular for your protection over migrant children who are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse  
at the hands of others.

We implore you to grant all migrants your protection and lead them to a place of safety.

Be with all those in need with your power to save.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

*Source: USCCB*