



Canada's Federal Election *and* the Catholic Church:

Educate, Reflect, Act

NEWCOMERS IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Canada has been enriched by successive waves of immigrants, migrants and refugees. They have come here to start a new and better life, bringing with them skills and other gifts that improve everyone's quality of life. Yet many of them live a precarious existence.

In his 2013 "Homily at Lampedusa," Pope Francis warned us not to be complacent about the plight of people on the move. "In this world of globalization, we have fallen into a globalization of indifference. We are accustomed to the suffering of others; it doesn't concern us." These newcomers to Canada – immigrants, migrants and refugees – are now part of our community. Our vote can help ensure that the government considers their needs so they are less vulnerable.

MORE ABOUT IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ON REVERSE

FACTS

- In 2018, there were well over 25 million refugees around the world. Of this number, 1.4 million needed resettlement, but only 92,400 were resettled. Canada resettled 28,100 of those refugees – more than any other country.
- Police-reported incidents of human trafficking are on the rise: Canadian police investigated 1,220 incidents of human trafficking between 2009 and 2016.
- Privately sponsored refugees have long faced extended wait times: Applications from Lebanon take 23 months and applications from Africa can take more than eight years.



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION BEFORE YOU VOTE ON OCTOBER 21, 2019:

- How should the federal government respond to the large number of people who want to make Canada their home?
- How can we give newcomers the best chance to thrive in Canada?

IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN CANADA

- Many immigrants find that the cost of living is higher than they expected. Most must take jobs that offer no long-term security. They experience the same problems that all people face as they try to survive on very low incomes.
- Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable, because legislation favours employers and those who arranged the workers' travel and their stay in Canada. Migrant workers are here on a temporary basis: they have fewer rights than other workers, limited access to services and no access to federally funded settlement services. They are dependent on employers for housing and health care, which leads to some being exploited.
- Unlike immigrants who choose to settle in Canada, refugees are forced to flee their country because of conflict, natural disasters or other crises, and cannot return home. Many parishes and communities have reached out to help through Canada's Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program. The 2016 Senate of Canada report "Finding Refuge in Canada" listed some obstacles refugees face: mental health issues arising from trauma, especially for women and girls; language barriers that prevent even qualified people from getting jobs; and lack of child care, keeping women from attending language classes. Some refugees who received a federal travel loan to get to Canada must pay the loan back with interest.

Want to attend a debate with 1,000 Catholics or learn more about other issues leading up to the October 21, 2019 election? Visit www.archtoronto.org/election for more details.

OUR SOCIAL TEACHING TELLS US...

"Biblical revelation urges us to welcome the stranger; it tells us that in so doing, we open our doors to God, and that in the faces of others we see the face of Christ himself. Many institutions, associations, movements and groups, diocesan, national and international organizations are experiencing the wonder and joy of the feast of encounter, sharing and solidarity."

—Pope Francis, *Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, January 17, 2016*

"The Holy Family itself ... were forced to emigrate in order to escape Herod's threat ... (Mt 2:14-15) Today, the context of the economic crisis unfortunately fosters the emergence of attitudes of closure and not of welcome. In some parts of the world walls and barriers are going up. ... The only way to a solution is that of solidarity. Solidarity with the migrant, solidarity with the foreigner."

—Pope Francis, *General Audience, October 26, 2016*

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me."

—*Matthew 25:35-36*



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