
LIFE TEEN PARENT LETTER

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LIFE NIGHT: ONE HOME

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Have you ever been the last one picked in a schoolyard game? The scenario may seem familiar... two captains are chosen, they look over a group of people, they alternate their selections, and at the end of that selection, you are the last one standing. At that moment, you may have questioned, "Why am I the last one chosen? Do they not think I am strong enough or smart enough?" Whatever it was, the experience was most likely one that was quite humiliating and ostracizing, forcing you to doubt yourself, your abilities, and your self-confidence.

Similar situations happen in our own communities, schools, and places of work. People are left out and excluded based on how they look, their background, where they came from, or even their religious beliefs. Many of these people who become outcasts in our society are immigrants and refugees who have fled to the United States seeking shelter, opportunity, and a better way of life.

Thousands of people each day enter into the United States, which is causing the current immigration and refugee crisis. While some people do immigrate to the United States legally, there are many who do it illegally. People are compelled to leave poverty-stricken countries in search of a better quality of life. Some immigrants and refugees are fleeing from wars, fighting, and persecution.

As with any issue that is affecting our world, we, as Catholics, must respond. In regards to immigration, the Catholic Church teaches us that we have two duties that must be carried out and not ignored. The first duty is to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. The second duty is to secure one's borders and enforce the law for the sake of the common good. The best way to immigrate into a country is legally. However, many people have been forced to do so illegally.

Where our response comes in as people who are pro-life is that, no matter the immigration status of a person, legal or illegal, we are not only called to treat them with respect and dignity, but also with preferential love. We are to love as Jesus loved. Many times Jesus would meet with, welcome, and dine with those who were considered 'outcasts' in society, those who would typically be picked last in a schoolyard game. If we are going to continue living as pro-life, we are called to welcome the stranger, dine with those who are different from us, and offer hospitality and love to all people.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. Do we, as a family, know anyone who has come to the United States from another country? What do we know about their story? How have we offered them love and support?
2. Have we ever been judged based on our ethnic background, religious beliefs, or perhaps where we moved from (if outside of the United States)?
3. Read Matthew 25:35. Write this on a piece of paper and hang it on the refrigerator. Discuss how you can live this out in your own family this week.