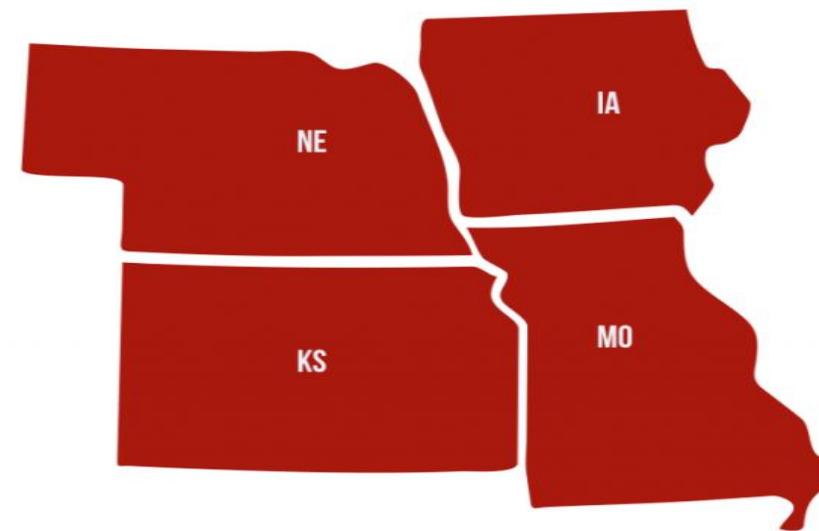




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## HISPANIC CATHOLICS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE: BEST PRACTICES FOR MINISTRY AND POLICY COLLABORATION



# SETTING THE CONTEXT

# WHAT POLICYMAKERS OFTEN ASK

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- Does the Church advocate for “**open borders**”?
- What does the Church say about **undocumented migrants**?
- Why do **Catholic organizations serve migrants** along the border and elsewhere?
- Can foreigners just “**get in line**” to regularize their migratory status?
- Does the Church have some suggestions on **how to solve the migratory crisis**?



# WHAT IMMIGRANTS OFTEN ASK

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- Are **massive deportations** occurring?
- **How many** people have been deported?
- Is it true that ICE agents can go into **schools and churches**?
- What has been the **Church's reaction** to the new policies?



# WHAT AMERICANS THINK

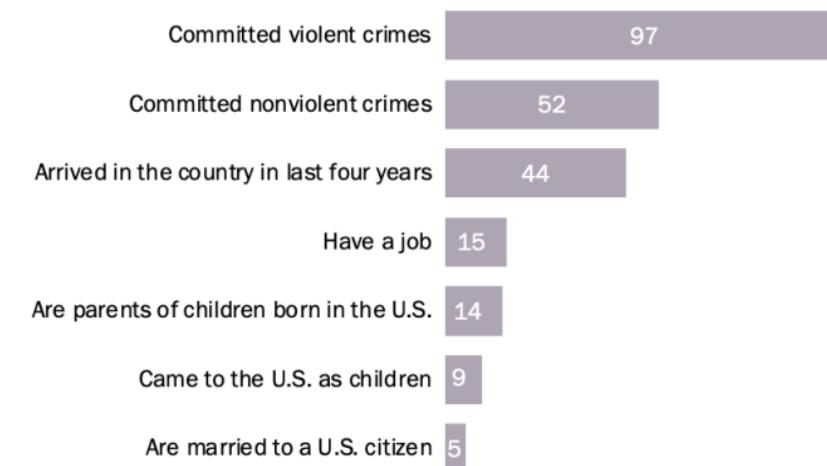
**About a third of U.S. adults say all immigrants in the U.S. illegally should be deported; half say some**

*% who say \_\_\_ immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be deported*



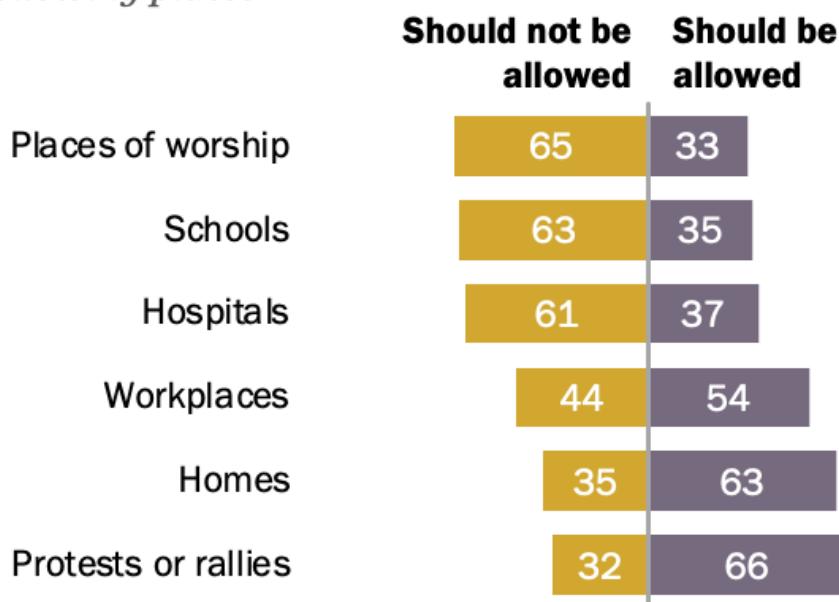
**Nearly all who favor deporting 'some' immigrants living in the country illegally say that committing violent crime is grounds for deportation**

*Among those who support **some** deportations, % who say immigrants in the U.S. illegally should be deported if they ...*



**Most U.S. adults say immigration arrests should not be allowed in places of worship or schools**

*% who say law enforcement officers \_\_\_ to arrest immigrants living in the U.S. illegally in each of the following places*



Source: Pew Research Center, March 2025.

# WELCOMING THE STRANGER

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*“Many individuals and families have come to America fleeing violence, poverty, and extraordinary hardship. These are not mere statistics, but brothers and sisters in the human family, members who belong to and contribute to our local communities, parishes, and our nation.*

*As shepherds of the Church in Missouri, we support secure borders that ensure the safety and welfare of our nation. We also stand in solidarity with immigrants and their families, especially those who have already suffered so much in search of stability, peace, and safety.”*

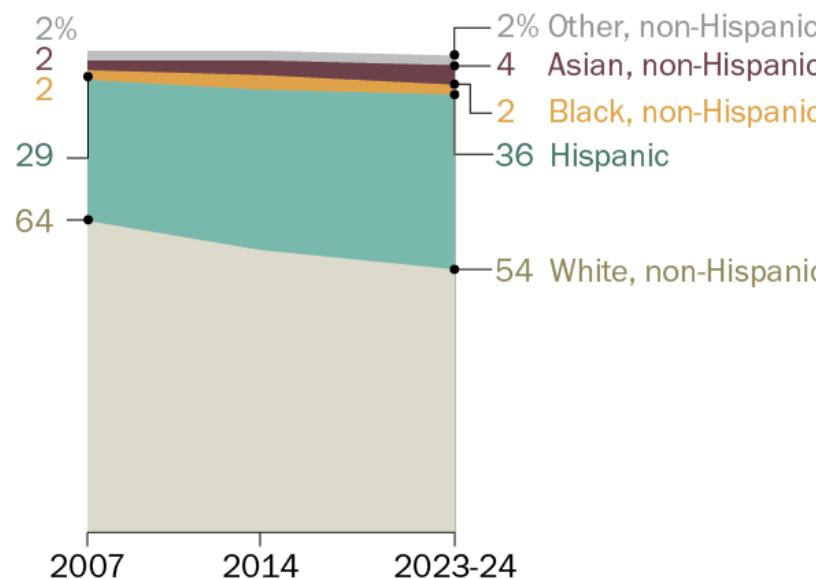
***-Statement of the Catholic Bishops of Missouri on Immigration (Oct. 2025)***



# HISPANIC CATHOLICS IN THE U.S.

**54% of U.S. Catholics are White,  
36% are Hispanic**

*Among U.S. Catholics, % who are ...*



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

**White Catholics tend to be older than Hispanic and Asian Catholics**

*% who are ...*

	Ages 18-29	30-49	NET Under 50	50-64	65+	NET 50+
All respondents	19%	33%	<b>52%</b>	24%	23%	<b>47%</b>
All U.S. Catholics	14	27	<b>41</b>	29	28	<b>58</b>
White Catholics	9	20	<b>29</b>	31	39	<b>70</b>
Hispanic Catholics	22	37	<b>59</b>	25	14	<b>40</b>
Asian Catholics	18	28	<b>46</b>	33	20	<b>53</b>

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only. The sample size for Black Catholics was not large enough to report on them separately.

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# HISPANIC MINISTRY & PUBLIC POLICY

# HOW CAN A STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE MINISTER TO HISPANICS?

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- Three pillars: **Lobbying, formation, advocacy.**
- **Public policy priorities:** Pro-life ministry, immigration, social and economic justice, family issues, etc.
- **Resources:** Workshops, conferences, informational videos, interviews with media, educational materials (reports, articles, one-pagers).

# TOOLS AND MATERIALS FOR OUTREACH



**MESSENGER** MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE February 2020

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference - The public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Missouri.

## What is Happening on Immigration Policy? An Overview of Federal and State Measures



immediately, given that some of them require government agencies to undertake additional steps (which can take days, months, or even years). On the other hand, a bill is not immediately effective, but becomes a law after it goes through the full legislative process and is signed by the Governor.

**PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AND POLICY CHANGES**

President Donald Trump has put into effect a series of executive actions on various topics, including immigration. In addition to executive orders, his administration has also announced migration-related policy changes. Here is a summary of some of the most relevant measures:

**Executive Order: "Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program"** indefinitely suspends the admission of refugees in the U.S. through the Refugee Admissions Program. However, it does provide for exceptions to be made by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State on a case-by-case basis.

After an election year in which immigration was at the front and center of American political debate, there was substantial speculation about what specific policies would be implemented by the incoming federal and state administrations to address the issue.

On January 13, 2017, Mike Kehoe was sworn in as the 58th governor of Missouri. One week later, Donald Trump's inauguration as the 45th U.S. president took place in the nation's capital. Both of them, along with the Missouri General Assembly, have focused on immigration from day one.

This resource seeks to provide a general overview of the main immigration policies that, as of



February 12, 2017, have been implemented by the federal and state government, as well as of the bills that have been filed in the Missouri House and Senate.

It is important to keep in mind that an executive action is binding from the moment the president or governor signs the order; however, that does not mean it will necessarily go into effect.

**MESSENGER** MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE November 2014

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference - The public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Missouri.



## LA IGLESIA CATÓLICA ANTE LA MIGRACIÓN: DESMONTANDO MITOS

En medio de una crisis fronteriza de enormes proporciones, el tema de la migración se ha convertido en uno de los asuntos más controversiales del panorama político americano.

1. *La Iglesia apoya la política de "fronteiras abiertas" y promueve la inmigración ilegal?*

En medio de una crisis fronteriza de enormes proporciones, el tema de la migración se ha convertido en uno de los asuntos más controversiales del panorama político americano.

2. *Los Estados soberanos poseen el derecho de controlar sus fronteras?* y que "Las personas tienen el derecho de emigrar para mantenerse a sí mismas y a sus familias", al tiempo que reconocen que este último presupone la violación de un principio "ideal": "Las personas tienen el derecho de encontrar oportunidades en su tierra natal".

3. *¿Qué enseña la Iglesia sobre la inmigración ilegal y los migrantes indocumentados?*

Sobre los migrantes mismos,

# EXPLORING KEY QUESTIONS



# PASTORAL REALITY

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- How well is the Hispanic community in your diocese **connected** to the broader Catholic community?
- What **challenges or obstacles** do they face in their daily lives?
- What **cultural or social factors** shape their everyday experiences?



# OUTREACH

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- How do you currently **reach and mobilize** your network?
- Where does the **Hispanic community** get its information?
- Which **communication channels** are most effective for engaging Hispanic Catholics?

# RESOURCES

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- What **education, advocacy, or information resources** do you currently offer to your community?
- What types of resources are most needed among the **Hispanic community**?
- How could existing resources be **improved or better adapted** for Hispanic Catholics?

# COLLABORATION

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- How can a state Catholic Conference **make its resources more accessible and useful** to each diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry?
- How can diocesan Offices of Hispanic Ministry **use their community trust and connections** most effectively?
- How can both work together to **create a deeper and more positive impact**?

You can find resources on immigration and other policy issues on our website: **<https://mocatholic.org/immigration/>**