



**December 18 - 24, 2023**

### **What's Happening**

**Chicago's tent shelter plans are now on pause - Chicago Sun Times**

**US Catholic priest shortage faces 'serious crisis' due to immigration law - Detroit Catholic**

**Pope: Protecting and saving lives of migrants utmost priority - Vatican News**

**Over 1,000 family separations at border near San Diego since Sept - LA Times**

**Border policies under consideration could overwhelm the system, DHS says- NBC News**

**Chicago will start impounding, fining 'rouge buses' that skirt rules when dropping off migrants - Bloc Club Chicago**

**Oak Park will require migrants to move out of hotel, YMCA by Jan 31 - Chicago Trib**

**Immigrant advocates prepare residents for law that would make illegal entry to Texas a state crime - keranews.org**

**Federal judge prohibits separating migrant families at the border - NPR**

**The US is using AI at US Mexico border for higher surveillance - Axios**

**Afghans again being flown to US base in Germany before resettlement - Stars & Stripes**

### **Action One: Prayer**

**Lord of All, some of us make our homes on hills, others in valleys. Some in tall buildings, some on shorelines, some at risk on the street. And we divide up our patches with lines we scratch into the ground and call them borders. Where the lines don't suffice, we build fences. Where fences fail, we dig moats. Where moats aren't enough, we erect walls. But what if we were to look across these borders? Across the fence, moat, and wall and see you on the other side? Lord, teach us to reach across all borders, fabricated or natural, to join with all our brothers and sisters to unify, and not separate. To honor all who wander seeking hope, seeking opportunity—seeking you as assuredly as we seek you. Lord, let no border ring our hearts. May we find a place within them for all. Turn our hands from building walls toward building justice. Stretch our arms across the fence, wall and moat to seek out those on the other side that we might find you in each other's eyes, In each other's hands, In each other's wounds. Amen. (CRS)**

### **Action Two: Calls/Letters**

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Oppose dangerous changes to US asylum law - <https://www.jesuits.org/our-work/justice-and-ecology/take-action-2/asylum/>**

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell the Senate to defend asylum - <https://www.maryknollogc.org/action/tell-senate-defend-asylum>**

**NATIONAL LEVEL -Take action to stop border militarization - <https://afsc.org/action/take-action-stop-border-militarization>**

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell your Senators to reject any deal that links asylum to foreign aid -**

[https://act.niic.org/page/61129/action/1?supporter.appealCode=20231215\\_EG\\_AsylumNO\\_NILC&ea.url.id=2200493&forwarded=true](https://act.niic.org/page/61129/action/1?supporter.appealCode=20231215_EG_AsylumNO_NILC&ea.url.id=2200493&forwarded=true)

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell your Senators to support meaningful, bipartisan immigration reform**

<https://p2a.co/R7DD4en>

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Urge Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act to protect Afghans**

<https://cwsqglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-urge-congress-to-pass-the-afghan-adjustment-act-to-protect-afghans-at-risk/>

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell your Senators to support the Afghan Adjustment Act.**

<https://lutheranimmigrationrefugeeservice.quorum.us/campaign/49442/>

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Sign the petition telling Biden to reunite immigrant families now.**

<https://www.change.org/p/president-biden-please-reunite-families-now>

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Urge Congress to fund refugee and newcomer inclusion -**

<https://cwsqglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-urge-congress-to-fund-refugee-newcomer-inclusion-and-restore-needed-services-for-ukrainian-and-afghan-neighbors/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=bf6255be-6ec9-4356-a9bd-241dfc6f3993>

**NATIONAL LEVEL – Tell Congress to pass permanent protections for immigrant youth:**

<https://act.niic.org/page/46080/action/1?ea.tracking.id=web>

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Ask Biden/DHS Mayorkas to designate/ re-designate TPS for Ethiopia, Syria, Pakistan and Democratic Rep of the Congo.**

[https://act.niic.org/page/57272/petition/1?supporter.appealCode=20230925\\_EG\\_Migration\\_NILC&ea.url.id=2009673&forwarded=true](https://act.niic.org/page/57272/petition/1?supporter.appealCode=20230925_EG_Migration_NILC&ea.url.id=2009673&forwarded=true)

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Urge the Biden admin and legislators to formally end family detention.**

<https://lutheranimmigrationrefugeeservice.quorum.us/campaign/46496/>

**NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell Congress to support asylum seeker work authorization act -**

[https://act.hias.org/page/54296/action/1?en\\_txn6=MR-EM-FY23-07-asylum\\_ban\\_2023-advo-full\\_file-1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=EngagingNetworks&utm\\_campaign=230707\\_Asylum-Seeker-Work-Authorization\\_Action\\_Remainder&utm\\_content=230707+Asylum-Seeker-Work-Authorization+Action+Remainder&ea.url.id=1865401&forwarded=true](https://act.hias.org/page/54296/action/1?en_txn6=MR-EM-FY23-07-asylum_ban_2023-advo-full_file-1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EngagingNetworks&utm_campaign=230707_Asylum-Seeker-Work-Authorization_Action_Remainder&utm_content=230707+Asylum-Seeker-Work-Authorization+Action+Remainder&ea.url.id=1865401&forwarded=true)

### **Action Three: Education**

**Immigrant advocates prepare residents for law that would make illegal entry to Texas a state crime -** <https://www.keranews.org/news/2023-12-13/immigrant-advocates-prepare-residents-for-law-that-would-make-illegal-entry-to-texas-a-state-crime>

**After years of hustle and hardship, this undocumented Minnesotan finally earns a law degree**

<https://www.startribune.com/yuen-after-years-of-hustle-and-hardship-this-undocumented-minnesotan-finally-earns-a-law-degree/600326179/>

**Venezuelan migrants face high fees, long wait times for TPS work permits -**

<https://borderlessmag.org/2023/12/11/tps-venezuelan-migrants-face-challenges-chicago/>

**As backlash against Chicago's sanctuary city status gains steam, supporters warn of consequences -**

<https://news.wttw.com/2023/11/12/backlash-against-chicago-s-sanctuary-city-status-gains-steam-supporters-warn-consequences>

**US Catholic priest shortage faces 'serious crisis' due to immigration law -**

<https://www.detroitcatholic.com/news/u-s-catholics-priest-shortage-faces-new-serious-crisis-due-to-immigration-law>

### **Action Four: Action**

**ONGOING: BROADVIEW ONLINE FRIDAY ROSARY:** The Rosary prayer is conducted every Friday at 715 am CT for our immigrant sisters and brothers in detention, deportation and their families. The prayer is led by Sr JoAnn Persch, RSM and Pat Murphy, RSM. If anyone want to connect in Zoom or participate in person, they can contact Sr. JoAnn Persch at 773-597-5394 or [jpmrsm2@gmail.com](mailto:jpmrsm2@gmail.com)

**ICDI Monthly meetings:** Monthly meetings-first Thursday of every month at 12:00pm CT.

These meetings begin with a small interfaith reflection and continue with our ICDI staff giving program updates. Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsde2spjotHtJBQ97mO9XQRns5BwjnisjJ>

**Action Five: Social Media: (@POTUS) Asylum seekers are our family, loved ones, and neighbors — they're not bargaining chips in funding negotiations. Thank you for your efforts!**