



**Nine Immigration Themed Resources for Lent—
Encouraging Faith Commitments in Solidarity with Refugees & Immigrants
Focus: Family Based Migration**

Scripture: *"Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and through them you will spread to the west and the east, to the north and the south. In you and your descendants all the families of the earth will find blessing." Genesis 28:14*

"And whoever does not provide for relatives and especially family members has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8

Reflection:



Photo by Sharina Mae Agellon on Unsplash

The Lord commands us not only to love our family members, but to look after them as well. While current immigration law allows U.S. citizens to submit applications for their parents and siblings, it can take decades for those applications to be processed. Some wait, despite the pain, but some risk being undocumented to be with their loved ones. Regardless, it is wrong to demonize families for wanting to be together. It is worse to threaten to end one of the few programs that allows them to do so legally.

Our family is our support network. Our parents, aunts, and uncles are our teachers. Our siblings and cousins are our lifelong friends. Immigration policy that does not recognize the value of family unity beyond the nuclear family is not reflective of Christian values. May the Lord allow us to see beyond fear tactics and aid those it threatens.

Story: Batsa was born in the U.S., but his parents weren't. His father has Temporary Protected Status, but the status has to be renewed every other year and the fee was expensive. When Batsa turned 21, he immediately visited a Catholic Charities immigration program and asked how he could apply for his father to become a legal permanent resident. After a few months, Batsa's father was able to obtain his green card and petition for his wife, Batsa's mother. Now the family hopes to be reunited with Batsa's grandparents, who they have not seen in decades because of their immigration status.

Actions/Resources:

- ⇒ Contact your legislators at 202-224-3121 and let them know you support immigration policies that allow family reunification.
- ⇒ Educate others on the issue and let them know that use of the term "chain migration" is an attack on family reunification.
- ⇒ Share this [graphic](#) (at right) on your social media with the tag #FamilyFacts.

Prayer: Dear Lord. Please allow others to see immigrant aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents as people, not criminals. May my peers take joy in their own extend families and never wish harm on anyone else's. May this country's legislators uphold their duty to work in the best interests of the people they represent, and defend this country's legacy as a welcoming one. *Amen.*

Family Reunification (*fam-ir-ly re-un-i-fi-ca-tion*) *n.*

The process by which U.S. citizens or permanent residents are reunited with a small number of their family members after detailed vetting and a long wait, sometimes spanning decades. These new immigrants often fill essential jobs that Americans won't do, and many are small business owners. They don't qualify for public benefits until years later, but they pay taxes immediately.

Example sentence:

Family reunification made the America we know today and will build the America of tomorrow.

@clinidegal #familyfacts

**INTERFAITH
IMMIGRATION
COALITION**

Devotion by Paola Marquez, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

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