

**Words on Immigrant Justice,  
Hope and Solidarity:  
Excerpts from Scripture and  
Church Leaders**



**On Hope**

“Always keep hope alive! Help to recover trust! Demonstrate that with welcome and fraternity a window to the future can be opened – more than a window, a door, and even more that it is possible to have a future!” -Pope Francis, JRS

“To serve means to recognize and welcome the demands for justice, for hope, and to seek ways together, a concrete path of liberation.” -Pope Francis, JRS

“Dear migrants and refugees! Never lose the hope that you too are facing a more secure future, that on your journey you will encounter an outstretched hand, and that you can experience fraternal solidarity and the warmth of friendship!”  
-Pope Francis, World Day of Migrants

-“So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.”  
-2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”  
-Romans 8:24-25

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” -Romans 15:13

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”  
-Hebrews 11:1

“Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” -Romans 5:2-5

“We can face our present: the present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey” -Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” -Romans 12:12

“Rejoice, for the Lord is near, and with him you will be able to overcome obstacles and difficulties, treasuring the experiences of openness and acceptance that many people offer you.” -Pope Benedict XVI, for the World Day of Migrants 2013

## **On Justice**

“Let us ask the Lord for the grace to weep over our indifference, to weep over the cruelty in the world, in ourselves, and even in those who anonymously make socio-economic decisions that open the way to tragedies like this.” -Pope Francis, Lampedusa

“To serve, to accompany means also to defend; it means to be on the side of the weakest. How many times we raise our voice to defend our rights, but how many times we are indifferent to the rights of others!” -Pope Francis, JRS

“Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.” -Micah 6:8

“Christian communities are to pay special attention to migrant workers... by fostering new political, economic and social planning that promotes respect for the dignity of every human person, the safeguarding of the family, access to dignified housing, to work and to welfare”

-Pope Benedict XVI, for the World Day of Migrants 2013

“Hospitality in itself isn't enough. It's not enough to give a sandwich if it isn't accompanied by the possibility of learning to stand on one's own feet. Charity that does not change the situation of the poor isn't enough. True mercy, which God gives and teaches us, calls for justice, for a way in which the poor can find a way out of poverty.” -Pope Francis, JRS

-“The simple truth is clear: We must welcome the stranger, for in his or her face we see Christ. Sadly, the migration experience today, according to the bishops of both [the U.S. and Mexico], is far from the Kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed. . . .”

-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" -Matthew 25:40

“May we all pray for the day when this nation finds its way to a fair immigration policy, always maintaining care and concern for those who are most powerless.” -Letter from Cardinal George to the Catholic DREAMers of Chicago, July 14, 2012.

## **On Solidarity**

“How many times to those who seek this not find understanding, do not find welcome, do not find solidarity!” -Pope Francis, Lampedusa

“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, it's none of our business.”

-Pope Francis, Lampedusa

“Who among us has wept for these things, and things like this?” Who has wept for the deaths of these brothers and sisters? Who has wept for the people who were on the boat? For the young mothers carrying their babies? For these men who wanted something to support their families?” -Pope Francis, Lampedusa

-“Migrants and refugees can experience, along with difficulties, new, welcoming relationships which enable them to enrich their new countries with their professional skills, their social and cultural heritage and, not infrequently, their witness of faith, which can bring new energy and life to communities of ancient Christian tradition, and invite others to encounter Christ and to come to know the Church.”

-Pope Benedict XVI, for the World Day of Migrants 2013

“The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” -Mark 12:31

“You must love the Most High God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” -Luke 10:27

“we ask forgiveness for the indifference towards so many brothers and sisters”  
-Pope Francis, Lampedusa

“Each one of you, dear friends, bears a life story that speaks of the tragedies of war, of conflicts, often linked to international politics. But every one of you bears, above all, a human and religious richness, a richness to be welcomed, not feared.” -Pope Francis, JRS

“From this place of welcome, of encounter and of service I would like you all, all those living in this diocese of Rome, to ask yourselves this question: do I kneel down to someone in difficulty or am I afraid to soil my hands? Am I closed in on myself, focused on my things, or do I notice those in need of help? Do I just serve myself or am I able to serve others as Christ did to point of giving his life? Do I look into the eyes of those who seek justice or do I look the other way so as not to look into their eyes?” -Pope Francis, JRS

“In the Church no one is a stranger, and the church is not foreign to anyone, anywhere... for the Church is a sacrament of unity and this a sign of binding force for the whole human race.” -Pope John Paul II, 1993 World Migration Day

“Continue to love your sisters and brothers. Don’t neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it.” -Hebrews 13: 1

“We must not be afraid of difference! Fraternity makes us discover that it is richness, a gift for all! Long live fraternity!” -Pope Francis, JRS

“To serve means to welcome people who arrive here with care; it means to bend down to one in need and to extend your hand to him, without reservations, without fear, with tenderness and understanding, as Jesus bent down to wash the feet of the Apostles.” -Pope Francis, JRS

“The foreigner who lives among you must be treated like one of your own. Love them as you love yourself, for you too were a foreigner in the land of Egypt....” -Leviticus 19:34

“To serve means to work alongside the neediest, first of all to establish a close human relationship with them, based on solidarity.” -Pope Francis, JRS

“You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”  
–Deuteronomy 10:17-19

Sources:

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