Presentation Topics

- Our Nation of Immigrants
- Scriptural Foundation
- Church Teaching on Immigration

**Immigration 101**
- Common Concerns/Myths
- Immigrant Detention
- Immigration Policy Challenges
You only have part of the information
Americans are largely uneducated regarding social justice issues. We are often fed by targeted media that plays to one-side of the story. We increasingly get our information from things like blogs and social media that lack accountability. Because our society bombards us with disparate information and issues, we rarely take the time to research and verify what little we hear about a particular issue.

Separation is a big problem. Meeting one another in dialogue is the answer.
Within the U.S., we have largely segregated ourselves from one another particularly in terms of wealth, race, and sometimes nationality. Americans are also less knowledgeable about what life is like in other parts of the world. Our vision becomes more clear when we can see through other’s eyes.

Scapegoating. Who or who else is really responsible?
Americans like “black and white” issues, but the world is more complicated than that. Often, we think of ourselves as “good” and others as “bad”; however, we can find good and evil in everyone. We sometimes project our evil onto others. Example, who really took our jobs? It was not recent immigrants that moved well-paying factory jobs overseas to take advantage of less expensive and more exploitable workers.

Root causes. We must look in the mirror too.
The best sustainable solutions must look at root causes, but to look at root causes, we must first see through other’s eyes, face our own evil, and let go of our misconceptions and prejudices.
For example, NAFTA put millions of Mexican farmers out of business because they could not compete with subsidized and more mechanized U.S. crops. Many of those out of work farmers came to where the jobs are.

There are better options!
When we look at root issues and identify the underlying problems, we can develop options that are just, compassionate, and aligned with the common good.
For example, if we are worried about immigrants “taking our jobs”, we should enforce our labor laws that make these jobs safe and pay a just wage so that more Americans can take these jobs while at the same time making it easier to legally fill remaining job openings with foreign workers.
We tend to only look at cost associated with the undocumented but not the benefit. In GA, we did not consider nor study the net benefit of allowing undocumented a path to citizenship.
In 2017 the United Nations estimated that there were 257,715,425 immigrants in the world (apx. 3.4% of the global population)


Brazil is the 6\textsuperscript{th} largest country by population. Population as of July 2019: 210,301,591. 2017: 211,243,203

References:
https://www.census.gov/popclock/
https://www.populationpyramid.net/brazil/2017/
https://www.populationpyramid.net/united-states-of-america/2017/
Typical Push / Pull Factors

- Economic
  - Poverty Push & Labor Market Pull
  - “High” & “Low” skill needs
  - Specialty needs

- Political
  - Persecution, oppression, ethnic cleansing, genocide, and violence including risks to civilians during war
  - Political motives traditionally motivate refugee flows

- Social & Personal
  - Family reunification / transnational marriage

- Environmental
  - Natural Disaster
  - Climate Change
Global Reach: The movements of the 19th century were mostly trans-Atlantic. Nepalis working in Korea; Persian Gulf economies supported by guest workers; new destinations in the U.S.

Remittance Scale: Migrants on track to send home $551 billion in 2019 to low and middle income countries — significantly larger than foreign direct investment flows of $344 billion. Top remittance recipients were India ($82 billion), followed by China ($70 billion), Mexico ($39 billion), the Philippines ($35 billion), and Egypt ($26 billion). As a share of gross domestic product (GDP) for 2019, the top recipients would be smaller economies: Tonga, Haiti, Nepal, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Honduras, and El Salvador (all 20% or more of GDP).

Feminization: Nearly half of the world’s migrants are now women, and many have left children behind. Their emergence as breadwinners is altering family dynamics across the developing world. Migration empowers some, but imperils others, with sex trafficking now a global concern.

Technology: Easier to travel. Easier to stay connected to country of origin (impeding assimilation?).

Expected State Control: In America for most of the 19th century, there was no legal barrier to entry. The issue was contentious, but the government attracted little blame. Now Western governments are expected to keep trade and tourism flowing and respect ethnic rights while sealing borders as vast as the Arizona desert and the Mediterranean Sea. Their failures — glaring if perhaps inevitable — weaken the broader faith in federal competence. “It basically tells people that government cannot do its job,” said Demetri Papademetriou, a co-founder of the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington research group. “It creates the anti-government rhetoric we see, and the anger people are feeling.”


Who Is an Immigrant?

- An immigrant is someone who intends to reside *permanently* in the U.S.
  - Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)
    - receive a "green card"
    - eligible to work in the U.S.
    - authorized to travel abroad and return
    - can naturalize to become citizens
  - Undocumented
- Temporary visitors issued a temporary visa are not immigrants – the term “nonimmigrant” refers to these visitors

Reference the Justice for Immigrants Web site for “Immigration Basics” at http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/ParishKit/ImmigrationBasics.pdf

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Georgia was home to 994,629 immigrants in 2016 comprising 9.8% of Georgia’s total population.

40.5% of immigrants (or 402,905 people) in Georgia were naturalized U.S. citizens in 2016—meaning that they are eligible to vote. Source: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF
### How Many Undocumented People are in the U.S. & Georgia?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State of residence</th>
<th>Est. population</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>% change</th>
<th>Avg. annual change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All states</td>
<td>11,960,000</td>
<td>8,460,000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2,880,000</td>
<td>2,510,000</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>1,940,000</td>
<td>1,090,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>810,000</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>590,000</td>
<td>540,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>440,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>440,000</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Georgia</strong></td>
<td><strong>390,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>220,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>380,000</td>
<td>330,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>310,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other states</td>
<td>3,380,000</td>
<td>1,720,000</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security


Georgia: 2015 population of 10,199,398. 390,000 = 3.8% of the total population in GA.

The INA provides for a permanent annual worldwide level of 675,000 LPRs comprising three components:

1. family-sponsored immigrants (480,000 plus certain unused employment-based preference numbers from the prior year), made up of two groups:
   a. immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and
   b. family-sponsored preference immigrants;

2. employment-based preference immigrants (140,000 plus certain unused family preference numbers from the prior year); and

3. diversity immigrants (55,000).

Despite the numerical limits, the annual worldwide level is flexible, and the INA permits certain LPR categories to exceed the limits.

The INA also places a limit on how many immigrants can come to the United States from any one country. Currently, no group of permanent immigrants (family-based and employment-based) from a single country can exceed seven percent of the total number of people immigrating to the United States in a single fiscal year. This is not a quota to ensure that certain nationalities make up seven percent of immigrants, but rather a limit that is set to prevent any immigrant group from dominating immigration patterns to the United States.

Reference: Immigration Policy in the United States:

Permanent Legal Immigration to the United States: Policy Overview:
https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesec/R42866.pdf
https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2018
Family-based Applications – Immediate Relatives of Citizens

- **Immediate** Relatives of **U.S. Citizens**
  - Includes:
    - Spouses
    - unmarried children under 21
    - parents if the U.S. citizen is at least 21
  - No limit on the number of visas
  - 478,961 people granted this status in 2018 representing 44% of LPR admissions

In 2018, 216,563 people were granted these status, making up 20% of LPR admissions.

Ceilings:

First preference 23,400 Plus unused visas from fourth preference

Second preference 114,200 Plus unused visas from first preference

Third preference 23,400 Plus unused visas from first or second preference

Fourth preference 65,000 Plus unused visas from first, second, or third preference
Strain on mixed-status families can be especially difficult. Over three million U.S. citizen children live in mixed-status families.

U.S. Dept. of State Visa Bulletin for January 2020:
## Visa Bulletin Priority Dates in Yrs. – Jan. 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family-based Preference</th>
<th>Other Areas</th>
<th>China (mainland)</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st - Unmarried Adult Children of Citizens</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A - Spouses &amp; Children of LPR</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B - Unmarried Adult Children of LPR</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd - Married Children of Citizens</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th - Brothers &amp; Sisters of Adult Citizens</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Dept. of State, Visa Bulletin for January 2020

In 2018, 138,171 were granted this status, making up 13% of LPR admissions. The Immigration and Nationality Act caps permanent employment visas at 140,000 per year.

Employer must submit labor certification request to Dept. of Labor who must then certify that there are not enough U.S. workers or that the immigrant worker will not affect U.S. wages. After receiving certification, employer must file petition with USCIS (U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services) on behalf of immigrant.

Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2018, Table 7

"On average, the [unauthorized] population grew by 70,000 per year from 2010 to 2015, compared to 470,000 per year during the high-growth years leading up to the Great Recession (2000-2007). Of the total [unauthorized] population in 2015, nearly 80 percent had resided within the United States for more than 10 years and six percent entered during the previous five years (2010 to 2014)." -- Estimates of the Illegal Alien Population Residing in the United States: January 2015, Bryan C. Baker, DHS, published December 2018.
Refugee — A person outside of the U.S. who seeks protection on the grounds that he/she fears persecution in his/her homeland.

Asylee — A person who has already entered the U.S. and fears persecution if sent back to his/her country. Once granted asylum, the person is called an “Asylee.”

Each year, the president, in consultation with Congress, determines the numerical ceiling for refugee admissions. The total limit is broken down into limits for each region of the world as well. In the Trump administration, the refugee ceiling has sharply fallen, from 110,000 in 2017 to 45,000 in 2018 and 30,000 in 2019. Since 2017, actual admissions of refugees have also fallen well below 50 percent of the actual annual ceiling. At 22,491, 2018 had the lowest number of admitted refugees since the system was created in 1980. On September 26, 2019, the president set the annual cap on refugees for fiscal year 2020 at just 18,000, the lowest level ever.

There is no limit on the number of individuals who may be granted asylum in a given year nor are there specific categories for determining who may seek asylum.
Asylum & Refugee visas accounted for 17% of LPR visas in 2018. Refugee LPR visas totaled 155,734, and Asylum visas totaled 30,175.

Ten Countries account for 73.4% of Refugee & Asylum LPR visas in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>LPR Visas</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>69,860</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>13,035</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>11,763</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>10,420</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>6,789</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>6,765</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>6,634</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>4,441</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>3,347</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>3,346</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act provides a maximum of 55,000 visas each fiscal year to permit immigration opportunities for persons from countries other than the principal sources of current immigration to the United States. The 1997 Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) stipulates that beginning with DV-99, and for as long as necessary, up to 5,000 of the annually-allocated diversity visas will be made available for use under the NACARA program. This reduction has resulted in the DV annual limit being reduced to 50,000.

**Diversity Lottery visas accounted for 4% of LPR visas in 2018.**

Africa, Asia, & Europe have accounted for most of the immigrants admitted under this program – 38%, 32% and 24% respectively in 2018.

**Top 10:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>23,914</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>3,466</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>3,420</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2,993</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>2,576</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>2,323</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>2,249</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>1,865</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Countries sending 50,000+ immigrants over the past 5 years are ineligible. Reference: Immigration Policy in the United States.


Diversity Visa Lottery: [https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/immigrate/diversity-visa/entry.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/immigrate/diversity-visa/entry.html)
U nonimmigrant status (U visa) is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. Congress created the U nonimmigrant visa with the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (including the Battered Immigrant Women’s Protection Act) in October 2000. The legislation was intended to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking of aliens and other crimes, while also protecting victims of crimes who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse due to the crime and are willing to help law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity. The legislation also helps law enforcement agencies to better serve victims of crimes. Example crimes include Felonious Assault, Rape, Blackmail, Torture, Kidnapping, Sexual Exploitation. **2018 U-1 Visa admissions were 7,847 or 0.7% of LPR visas.**

T nonimmigrant status (T visa): In October 2000, Congress created the “T” nonimmigrant status by passing the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (VTVPA). The legislation strengthens the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute human trafficking, and also offer protection to victims. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers lure individuals with false promises of employment and a better life. Traffickers often take advantage of poor, unemployed individuals who lack access to social services. The T Nonimmigrant Status (T visa) is a set aside for those who are or have been victims of human trafficking, protects victims of human trafficking and allows victims to remain in the U.S. to assist in an investigation or prosecution of human trafficking. **2018 T-1 Visa admissions were 559 or 0.05% of LPR visas.**

VAWA (Violence Against Women Act): Persons physically abused by their USC/LPR spouse or parent or who suffered severe emotional abuse as identified by a licensed counselor. **2018 Z-14 Visa admissions were 58.**

CANCELATION: The 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) set a limit of 4,000 on the number of people who can be granted this type of cancellation in a given fiscal year. It extremely difficult to win cancellation on the basis of “exceptional and extremely unusual hardship”. **Cancellation of Removal admissions (Z13) were 3,637 or 0.3% of LPR visas.**

NACARA: In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act. NACARA provides various forms of immigration benefits and relief from deportation to certain Nicaraguans, Cubans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, nationals of former Soviet bloc countries and their dependents. **2017 NACARA Z15 admissions were 726 or 0.066% of LPR visas.**
In 2018, a total of 761,901 persons naturalized. The leading countries of birth of new citizens:

- México 131,977 17%
- India 52,194 7%
- China 39,600 5%
- Philippines 38,816 5%
- Cuba 32,089 4%
- Dom. Rep. 22,970 3%
- Vietnam 21,082 3%
- Colombia 17,564 2%
- El Salvador 17,300 2%
- Jamaica 17,213 2%

The largest number of persons naturalizing lived in:

- New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA 107,196
- Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA 62,075
- Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL 58,165
- Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI 24,879
- Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX 22,998
- Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV 22,468
- San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA 21,156
- Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH 19,680
- Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX 17,702
- San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA 17,611
‘98 Minimum wage $5.15; ‘09 Minimum wage $7.25; increase of 41%
‘98 cost of two N-400 for parents and two N-600 for two children was $372; ‘08 cost $2270; ‘09 cost $2560; ‘18 cost $3790
‘09 family cost = (N-400 cost is $595 + $85 for biometric fee)x2 + (N-600 cost is $600)x2 = $2560 or an increase of 588%

‘18 family cost = (N-400 cost is $640 + $85 for background check/biometric fee) x 2 + (N-600 Certificate of Citizenship cost is $1170 as of 2016) x 2 = $3790 which would be a 919% increase over the $372 from 1998; however, now the children, in most cases, could use a U.S. Passport instead of a Certificate of Citizenship to prove U.S. Citizenship. The equation getting the children Passports instead of Certificates of Citizenship would be:
‘18 family cost = (N-400 cost is $640 + $85 for background check/biometric fee) x 2 + child under 16 years passport fee $80 + child 16 years or older passport fee $110 = $1640 or a 341% increase assuming one child under 16 and one child over 16.


USCIS Immigration Benefit Application Fee History: https://www.uscis.gov/archive/archive-news/uscis-immigration-benefit-application-fee-history
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- Church Teaching on Immigration
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- **Common Concerns/Myths**
- Immigrant Detention
- Immigration Policy Challenges
This immigration issue, like most – if not all - important issues, is complex, but in our society we like clear-cut, black & white answers. It is all too convenient to be distant from our brothers and sisters & simply say “we are a nation of laws; they broke the law; therefore, they don’t deserve to be here.”

We should consider that most of us didn’t DO anything, by our own means, to be U.S. citizens. Our citizenship was given to us. We should look to the Gospel for solutions and should use our gifts to serve others, thereby serving God.
MYTH: “Anchor Babies”

“Having children born in the U.S. automatically makes the parents legal.”

“They’re having babies in the U.S. so they won’t get deported.”
14th Amendment

US doesn’t want an exploitable underclass

33 countries have birthright citizenship

People come for work and/or safety – not to have children

If having children were a significant driver of immigration, there would be a higher percentage of women of child-bearing age compared to men, but the opposite is true.
MYTH: “Marriage of Convenience”

“She married a U.S. citizen so she is automatically allowed to stay here legally.”
Note that under the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act’s Section 301, anyone who has been “unlawfully present” in the U.S. for more than 180 days is deemed “excludable” and barred from return for three years. Anyone with more than twelve months of “unlawful presence” is barred for ten years. It may be possible to file for a waiver (on Form I-601) allowing an earlier return.

[If fact, as of 2006, people who enter the U.S. without permission cannot gain legal status by marrying a U.S. Citizen. Reference on 2006 change, The Politics of Immigration, Questions and Answers by J. Guskin & D. Wilson, p. 45. – but can’t find confirming reference; so, not including on slide]
CONCERN:
“Undocumented immigrants broke the law to come to the United States.”

“Why didn’t they wait their turn?”

Story:
Estella: Family Reunification? Faced with a terrible choice, continue to let her sons grow up without their father or cross the border illegally and risk being penalized. She chose to reunite her family, and she now faces an up to 10 year freeze on her status, during which she will have to return to Mexico and wait to be put back on the list for a green card.
CONCERN:
“Why don’t they come legally like my grandparents did?”
1790: Congress established a process enabling people born abroad to become U.S. citizens.

1875: First federal law limiting immigration qualitatively, prohibiting the admission of criminals and prostitutes.

1876: In addressing efforts by the states to control immigration, the Supreme Court declared that the regulation of immigration was the exclusive responsibility of the federal government.

1891: Congress established the Immigration Service and the federal government assumed responsibility for processing all immigrants seeking admission to the United States.

1921: Quota Law of 1921 & 1924 update introduced quantitative restrictions. Congress restricted immigration by assigning each nationality a quota based on its representation in past U.S. census figures.

1965: The Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments abolished national-origins quota system & established categorical preference system. Provided preferences for relatives of U.S. citizens & LPRs & for immigrants w/ job skills deemed useful to U.S. However, it did not abolish numerical restrictions altogether. For countries in the East. Hemisphere (comprising Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia), amendments set per country & total immigration caps, as well as a cap for each preference category. Neither preference categories nor per country limits applied to W. Hemisphere immigrants. The policies established in '65 amendments are still largely in place.

1976: the categorical preference system was extended to applicants from the Western Hemisphere.

1978: numerical restrictions for E. & W. Hemisphere combined into annual worldwide ceiling of 290,000.

1986: The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 addressed the issue of unauthorized immigration. It sought to enhance enforcement and to create new pathways to legal immigration. Sanctions were imposed on employers who knowingly hired or recruited unauthorized aliens. The law also created two amnesty programs for unauthorized aliens and a new classification for seasonal agricultural workers. Under the two amnesty programs, roughly 2.7 million people residing in the United States illegally became lawful permanent residents.

1990: The Immigration Act of 1990 added a category of admission based on diversity & increased worldwide immigration ceiling to the current “flexible” cap of 675,000 / yr. That cap can exceed 675,000 in any year when unused visas from the family-sponsored & employment-based categories are available from the previous year.

1996: The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 addressed border enforcement and use of social services by immigrants. It increased the number of border patrol agents, introduced new border control measures, reduced government benefits available to immigrants, and established a pilot program in which employers and social services agencies could check by telephone or electronically to verify the eligibility of immigrants applying for work or social services benefits.

2002: The Homeland Security Act of 2002 created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) restructuring the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the agency formerly responsible for immigration services, border enforcement, and border inspections. Nearly all functions of the INS were transferred to DHS.
MYTH:
“More Immigrants = More Crime”

“An increase in immigration (especially the undocumented) leads to an increase in crime.”
Reasons commonly cited for the apparent paradox of first generation immigrants, especially Mexicans, are motivation to work, ambition, and a desire not to be deported — characteristics that predispose them to low crime. Sampson also argues that immigrants tend to come from a culture, like many cultures around the world, where violence isn't rewarded as a strategy for establishing a reputation or preserving honor, as in American “street culture.”

CONCERN:

“Terrorists are coming in.”

“Terrorists are coming into the U.S. through the Southern border!!”
There is no connection between immigration and terrorism, yet since 9/11 the image of terrorists as Muslim foreigners has held a persistent grip on the U.S.’s national consciousness.

Immigration and border control are two distinct issues. Border control is about who we allow to enter the country, whether on a temporary or permanent basis; immigration is about whom we allow to stay and settle permanently. During 2018, there were 186 million nonimmigrant admissions to the U.S. (DHS Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2018). The 9/11 terrorists entered the U.S. legally.

Does the crackdown on immigrants make us safer?

In 2002, six immigration experts – including former INS commissioner Doris Meissner – conducted an 18-month review of post-Sep. 11 immigration measures for the Migration Policy Institute. Their June 2003 report found that the post-9/11 crackdown on immigrants has actually put this country at greater risk by diverting resources away from in-depth, responsible intelligence work, and by alienating and intimidating communities that could help with terrorism investigations.

Specifically, the report criticized the Justice Department’s “efforts to enlist state and local law enforcement agencies into enforcing federal immigration law” as counterproductive to community safety and the fight against terrorism.

“Such action undercuts the trust that local law enforcement agencies have built with immigrant communities, making immigrants less likely to report crimes, come forward as witnesses, or provide intelligence information, out of fear that they or their families risk detention or deportation.”

The report also condemns the government’s unchecked use of immigration detention in anti-terrorism cases. “Arresting a large number of noncitizens on grounds not related to domestic security only give the nation a false sense of security,” the report notes. – The Politics of immigration, J. Guskin & D. Wilson, 2007.


MYTH: “Immigrants don’t pay taxes.”
Myth: “Immigrants don’t pay taxes”

Reality:

• Immigrants DO pay taxes, in the form of income, property, sales, and taxes at the federal and state level

• The Social Security Administration (SSA) estimates 75% of undocumented workers pay taxes, including Social Security and Medicare (which the workers cannot collect)

(Source: http://www.immigrationforum.org/about/articles/tax_study.htm)

Social Security Administration’s “suspense file.”

Budget Policy Institute
ITIN figures from the IRS:

“Many illegal immigrants pay up at tax time”, Travis Loller, Associated Press, USA Today, April 2008

“Effects of Unauthorized Immigration on the Actuarial Status of the Social Security Trust Funds”, SSA Office of the Chief Actuary, April 2013:
http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/NOTES/pdf_notes/note151.pdf

IRS Return Transaction File


The IRS has been issuing ITINs since 1996 to foreigners without a Social Security Number.

Regarding Social Security specifically, in 2005 alone, $9 billion in Social Security taxes was paid on $75 billion in wages from people using mismatched or incorrect SS numbers, the vast majority of which involve undocumented immigrants.

While this $9 billion is only about 1.5% of $ paid into SS in 2005, the impact is significant because most of the money will never be claimed but instead helps cover retirements checks to legal workers.

Taxes paid by documented and undocumented immigrants are part of the SSA’s projections on Social Security Trust Fund solvency. If the increase in the number of foreign workers stops, the fund will be insolvent years sooner.

Source: http://www.immigrationforum.org/about/articles/tax_study.htm), Social Security Administration’s “suspense file.” Budget Policy Institute.
The GBPI is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization engaged in research and education on the fiscal and economic health of the state of Georgia. The Institute provides reliable, accessible and timely analysis to promote greater state government fiscal accountability as a way to improve services to Georgians in need and to promote quality of life for all Georgians.

The GBPI was initially organized in January 2004 by an advisory council composed of citizens who see the value in applying fiscal and tax analysis to the state budget for Georgia’s economic well being. Initial funding support came from the Sapelo Foundation and the Public Welfare Foundation.

While upcoming legislation seeks to restrict undocumented immigrants from government services, the majority of services are already restricted by federal law. The following is a list of assistance programs for which undocumented immigrants do not qualify:

- SNAP
- Social Security
- Supplemental Security Income
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Full-Scope Medicaid
- Medicare “Premium Free” Part A (hospitalization)
- PeachCare (Georgia’s children’s health insurance)
- HUD Public Housing and Section 8 programs

Undocumented immigrants do qualify for K-12 public education and emergency medical care.
MYTH:
“Immigrants take jobs away from Americans”
Because of steady increases in high school completion rates, native-born U.S. workers with low schooling levels are hard to find, yet these workers are an important part of the U.S. economy because they build homes, prepare food, clean offices, harvest crops, and take unfilled factory jobs.

Consider that between 1960 and 2000, the percent of native U.S. workers with < 12 yrs schooling fell from 50% to 12%. In contrast, 74% of working-age people had less than 12 yrs schooling in Mexico as of 2000.

Additionally, many immigrants fill jobs in high-skill jobs. Immigrants make up 41% of our country’s PhDs in computer, mathematical, architectural, engineering, and life, physical and social science occupations.

If immigrants really “took” jobs away from large numbers of native-born workers, especially during economic hard times, then one would expect to find high unemployment rates in those parts of the country with large numbers of immigrants—especially immigrants who have come to the United States recently and, presumably, are more willing to work for lower wages and under worse conditions than either long-term immigrants or native-born workers. Yet there is little apparent relationship between recent immigration and unemployment rates at the regional, state, or county level.

An IPC analysis of 2011 data from the American Community Survey found that, at the county level, there is no statistically significant relationship between the unemployment rate and the presence of recent immigrants who arrived in 2000 or later.


MYTH:
“They drain our economy”
A major immigrant benefit to the economy is the additional workforce at both the low and high ends of skill distribution.

Alan Greenspan points out, 70% of immigrants arrive in prime working age. That means we haven’t spent a penny on their education, yet they are transplanted into our workforce. They have already contributed billions to the Social Security fund and will contribute an estimated $500 billion to the SS system over the next 20 years – money they will not receive in retirement.

A 2008 report from The Perryman Group estimated that, were all unauthorized workers and consumers somehow removed from the country, the United States would lose $551.6 billion in annual spending, $245 billion in annual economic output, and more than 2.8 million jobs. Moreover, federal and state treasuries would lose the revenue they now receive from unauthorized taxpayers.

* If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Georgia, the state would lose $21.3 billion in economic activity, $9.5 billion in gross state product, and approximately 132,460 jobs, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the Perryman Group.

The Perryman Group is an economic research and analysis firm located in Waco, Texas. TPG has been involved in hundreds of impact analyses and labor market studies over the past 25 years, including many related to the workforce needs of specific sectors and regions and others related to issues of international trade and production.
MYTH: “All illegals are Mexican”
### Nationality of Undocumented Migrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico:</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador:</td>
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<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras:</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>China:</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India:</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Korea:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Myth:
“All illegals are Mexican”

Reality:
Those often referred to as “Mexicans” include many Latin American people: Guatemalans, Salvadorans, Hondurans, Brazilians, Puerto Ricans*, etc...

*A territory of the United States
MYTH: “Immigrants don’t want to learn English”

“Immigrants do not need to speak English before they arrive. They will pick it up soon enough.” The Economist: https://www.economist.com/democracy-in-america/2017/08/03/immigrants-do-not-need-to-speak-english-before-they-arrive
Presentation Topics

- Our Nation of Immigrants
- Scriptural Foundation
- Church Teaching on Immigration
- Immigration 101
- Common Concerns/Myths
- Immigrant Detention
- Immigration Policy Challenges
Immigration Policy Challenges

• Current system does not work for businesses needing workers nor for people looking for work
  • Does not allow enough entries
  • Does not react quickly enough to satisfy the economic need when the need occurs
  • Extremely complex and cumbersome to navigate

• Functionally impossible for many in need to gain entry
  • No relative who is a U.S. LPR or Citizen?
  • No advanced degree or special skills?
  • No U.S. business or citizen sponsoring visa application?
  • No need to apply
Immigration Policy Challenges (cont.)

• Keeps families separated for extended periods of time
• Allows an underclass that
  • Is exploited at the workplace
  • Targeted by criminals
  • Has limited options for upward mobility
What Should Immigration Reform Include?

- A path to citizenship for the undocumented persons currently in our country.
- Reform of our employment-based immigration system so that migrant workers can enter the U.S. and work in a safe, regulated, and humane manner.
- Reform of the family-based immigration system so that waiting times for families to reunite in the U.S. are significantly reduced.
- Restoration of due process protections for immigrants, including judicial discretion in removal proceedings, reform of our detention policies, and elimination of the 3 and 10-year bars to re-entry.
- Initiatives that address the root causes of migration, such as promoting economic development in poor nations.

https://secure.crs.org/site/Advocacy?id=476