



# The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

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## **Statement in Support of Proposed Special Appropriation #23-17, Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance, \$1,593,442 Montgomery County Council, November 15, 2022**

The plight of migrants and refugees – and the response of nations and local communities – has long been a great challenge and it has become even more so with the waves of women, men and children on the move recently. The global phenomenon of mass migration is indeed a humanitarian crisis, one that touches us all, not only the border areas. Further, this is not simply an academic *issue* or *policy matter*; rather, migration is about *real people* who are trying to find a better life and a new beginning. It is about more than statistics; it is about human beings. Each migrant has a name, a face and a story.

Amidst this globalization of migration, Pope Francis has been an unrelenting voice in calling for nations and communities to recognize that we are all one human family and should see these newcomers as sisters and brothers and respond to them with a globalization of assistance. While migrants and refugees bring with them the treasure of their own cultures, their skills and aspirations, so as to enrich the places where they seek to make a new home, as a material matter, they often literally arrive with “just the clothes on their backs” and they need help.

Catholic Charities of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington and other non-governmental groups offer many services to the immigrant community, but resources are limited. County Executive Marc Elrich and the Montgomery County Council deserve gratitude, then, for this special appropriation of funds to support newly-arrived migrant families and unaccompanied minors, and The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington is happy to support it.

With Thanksgiving approaching, one of the things we can be thankful for as Americans in addition to the many blessings we enjoy is how this nation has always been a haven for people from other lands. We can all give thanks as well to County Executive Elrich, the Council, and County government for recognizing our common humanity and reaching out to newcomers with helping hands.