



TPS Talking Points for Catholic Parish Leaders

As Catholics and followers of Jesus Christ, we know the dignity and worth of every person is at the core of the Gospel message. This is not dependent upon immigration status or nationality. We remember Jesus' message in the Gospel of Matthew, saying the Kingdom of Heaven would be open to those who, when he was a stranger, welcomed him (25:35).

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, allows people to live and work in the United States if an extraordinary and temporary circumstance occurs in their home country, like war or an epidemic, that prevents them from safely returning home.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, or DHS, has terminated TPS for Sudan, El Salvador and Haiti, despite evidence that these countries have not recovered from the circumstances that led to their designation. The fates of TPS for several other countries will be decided in the coming months. These men and women are our sisters, brothers, community leaders and colleagues. They are now at risk of being separated from their loved ones.

Catholic social teaching, or CST, embraces every person's human dignity and recognizes the rights of immigrants. This teaching reminds us that:

- People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families;
- Family stability and unification are the foundation of society, rooted in the example of the Holy Family who themselves were refugees in a foreign land;
- We are our sisters' and brothers' keeper, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbors has global dimensions in a shrinking world; and
- How we organize our society—in economics, politics, law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community

These teachings lead us to promote and defend the rights and dignity of our neighbors who benefit from TPS, and all immigrants who fear for their safety at the thought of returning to their country of origin.

Most immediately, we must ensure the worry and confusion caused by these decisions does not allow *notarios* and other unauthorized practitioners of immigration law to take advantage of members of our communities. Instead we must direct them towards trusted immigration legal service providers to see if they are eligible for some other form of immigration relief. Visit cliniclegal.org/directory to find your local legal immigration service provider.

These immigration legal service providers are especially important to TPS holders who live within the 6th and 9th U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals, which have ruled that certain, eligible TPS holders may apply to adjust their status to lawful permanent residency.

While the reality may seem stark, our faith gives us reason to hope for and work towards a better future for our immigrant sisters and brothers.