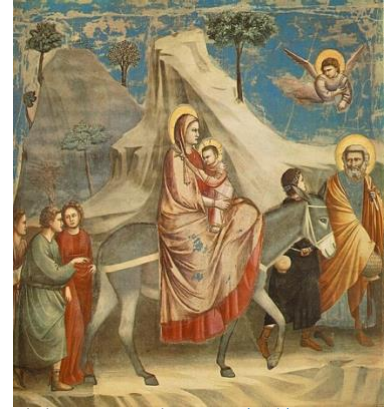


## Immigration Letter:

The Jubilee Year that Pope Francis initiated on December 24 is to be a time of hope for all people, including immigrants and refugees. Our call as Franciscans is to manifest the light of Christ in a way they can see and touch. Our Church was built on a rock. [Her positions on immigration](#)<sup>1</sup> are centered in Christ's teaching, and should be understood as a basis for loving action. The Southwest bishops issued a [statement recently](#). At a webinar, Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso, said: "Our solidarity really must go beyond words in order to be credible." There are many actions we can take to express our solidarity, within the law and the realm of charity. A number of our regions and fraternities already include care for immigrants in their active apostolates. If not, depending on geographic location, possible areas of service could include:



Flight into Egypt by Giotto ([Link](#))

- Helping provide humanitarian assistance for newly arrived immigrants, whose legal status may vary.
- Providing legal, economic, and social support to asylum seekers awaiting a court hearing.
- Sponsoring a newly arrived refugee family (with legal status) who has been placed in your area by a resettlement agency or intergovernmental partner such as Catholic Charities.
- Accompanying undocumented longtime residents, who are experiencing fear and uncertainty.
- Participating in public advocacy at the national, state, or local level to pass just legislation.

If you have interest in exploring these possible apostolates further, or if you would like to make connections or share what you are currently doing, please send me an email at the address below. A member of our National JPIC Immigration/Refugee Focus Group will be in touch with you. Meanwhile, a good starting point would be the [Immigration Toolkit](#), located at the OFS-USA website:

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/immigration-toolkit/>.

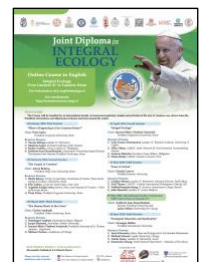
## Sanctity of Life

Some good news: Jean Marshall, OFS, and Paulette Harlow, OFS, both of *Mary, Queen of Peace Fraternity* in Plymouth, MA, have received pardons from President Trump, along with the other defendants convicted in connection to their actions at an abortion clinic in 2020. I know we will all join those at the March for Life today in prayers of gratitude for their release. Thanks also to the members who took the time to write letters or visit Jean.



## Care for Creation (Time Sensitive, course starts January 30)

Another round of the online *Integral Ecology Course* from the Pontifical academies of Rome is starting and there is time to register. The sessions are monthly, with a couple of workshops. I attended last year. It is a fantastic opportunity for new learning and connection with a refreshingly global and active community. It's also a real bargain at 30 Euro. Register here: <https://immatricolazioni.unigre.it/>



<sup>1</sup> USCCB United States Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/migration>