

## Quotations from the Module

**Colossians 3:11:** *"In that renewal there is no longer Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all in all."*

In 2003, the bishops of both Mexico and the United States issued a joint pastoral letter, entitled ***Strangers No Longer, Together on the Journey of Hope***. They asserted that *"We judge ourselves as a community of faith by the way we treat the most vulnerable among us."*

*"We stand in solidarity with you. We commit ourselves to your pastoral care and to work toward changes in Church and societal structures that impede your exercising your dignity and living as children of God."* **Cardinal Sean O'Malley**, the leader of the Boston Archdiocese, led a delegation of bishops from the United States and Mexico in a trip to the border in April of 2014. They toured the border city of Nogales, walked along a notorious section of the border that was once a popular crossing point for drug and immigrant smugglers, and celebrated Mass just a few feet from the fence—offering communion to people on the Mexican side of the border.

*"I think we need to change the conversation about illegal immigration. We have to stop talking in political categories and using definitions rooted in our own fears. The question of immigration is not about us versus them. To state the obvious: 'illegals' are people just the same as we are."* **Archbishop José H. Gomez** of Los Angeles, *Immigration and the Next America: Renewing the Soul of Our Nation* (2013).

**Pope Francis**, less than four months after assuming the chair of St. Peter in 2013, visited the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, site of the shipwreck and death of over 300 East African refugees who were seeking safe entry into Europe. Reminding the Church that we are all brothers and sisters to one another, Francis recalled the words addressed to Cain in Genesis *"Where is your brother?"* (Genesis 4:9) He remonstrated his listeners that *"these brothers and sisters of ours were trying to escape difficult situations to find serenity and peace. ... How often do such people fail to find understanding, fail to find acceptance, fail to find solidarity?"*

**Pope Francis** speaking to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on November 25, 2014, cautioned government leaders that *"... there needs to be a united response to the question of migration. We cannot allow the Mediterranean to become a vast cemetery! The boats landing daily on the shores of Europe are filled with men and women who need acceptance and assistance."*

(over)

# Welcoming the Stranger

## Catholic Health Care and Immigration



*"Catholic health care should distinguish itself by service to and advocacy for those people whose social condition puts them at the margins of our society and makes them particularly vulnerable to discrimination: the poor; the uninsured and the underinsured; children and the unborn; single parents; the elderly; those with incurable diseases and chemical dependencies; racial minorities; immigrants and refugees ... "* (**The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services**, Directive 3)