




Catholic Social Teaching and Work with Migrants and Refugees at a Time of Uncertainty

Hosted by:

Jesuit Refugee Service/USA & Center for Migration Studies of New York

Event Details

 **March 24, 2025**

 **9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

 **1400 16th St. NW, Suite 120, Washington, DC 20036**

Overview

This conference will examine Catholic social teaching on migrants and refugees from both a global and domestic (US) perspective during a time of transition and uncertainty. It will introduce a special edition of papers on the concepts of “freedom” to migrate and to stay, review the state of US asylum and refugee programs, and analyze current US policies from a religious liberty perspective.

Keynote Speakers

- **His Eminence Robert Cardinal McElroy**, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.
- **His Eminence Fabio Cardinal Baggio, C.S.**, Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Agenda

9 – 10:30 a.m. | Catholic Social Teaching – Opening Remarks

- **Greeting** – Mario Russell, Executive Director, Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS)
- **Introduction** – Donald Kerwin, Vice President of Advocacy, Research, and Partnerships, Jesuit Refugee Service/USA (JRS/USA) , Vice President of Advocacy, Research, and Partnerships, Jesuit Refugee Service/USA (JRS/USA)
- **Keynote Address:** *Catholic Social Teaching on Migrants and Refugees: A Global Perspective*
 - His Eminence Fabio Cardinal Baggio, C.S., Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (9:10 – 9:40 a.m.)
- **Introduction** – Kelly Ryan, President, JRS/USA
- **Keynote Address:** *Catholic Social Teaching and Current Challenges in the United States*
 - His Eminence Robert Cardinal McElroy, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. (9:40 – 10:30 a.m.)

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Freedom to Choose Whether to Migrate or Stay

This panel will discuss a special edition of the *Journal on Migration and Human Security*, devoted to what Pope Francis has described as the “freedom” to choose whether to remain or migrate. This teaching highlights the need to create conditions that allow people to thrive in their home communities, and, if that is not possible, to migrate safely and legally.

- **Moderator:** Donald Kerwin, Vice President of Advocacy, Research, and Partnerships, JRS/USA
- **Panelists:**
 - Antonio Lemos, S.T.L., Ph.D. Candidate, Moral Theology, University of Notre Dame
 - Kevin Appleby, Senior Director of International Migration Policy, CMS
 - Maria Prada Ramirez, former Permanent Advisor to the President of the Colombian Truth, Reconciliation, and Non-Repetition Commission
 - Michael Petro, S.J., Director, Migrant Centre Project, JRS Lebanon

12:00 – 12:30 p.m. | Keynote

- **Keynote Speaker:** Juan Sebastián Chamorro, Hewlett Visiting Fellow for Public Policy, Kellogg Institute for International Studies

12:30 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1 – 2:45 p.m. | The Protection of Imperiled Persons: A Moral and Legal Imperative

This panel will discuss the situation of refugees worldwide and the need for robust refugee resettlement and asylum systems, including in the United States.

- **Moderator:** Kelly Ryan, President, JRS/USA
- **Panelists:**
 - Eleanor Acer, Senior Director, Global Humanitarian Protection, Human Rights First
 - Michelle Sardone, Deputy Director, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
 - William Canny, Executive Director, Migration and Refugee Services, US Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - Hiroko Kusuda, Clinic Professor and Director, Immigration Law Section, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

3:00 – 4:15 p.m. | Religious Liberty and the Impact of US Policies on Catholic and Other Faith-Based Organizations

This panel will address the impact of US deportation, enforcement, and other policies on religious practice and migrant-serving Catholic and faith-based programs assisting migrants and refugees.

- **Moderator:** Mario Russell, Executive Director, CMS
- **Panelists:**
 - David Hollenbach, S.J., Pedro Arrupe Distinguished Research Professor, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University
 - Bridget Moix, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

- Brian Corbin, Executive Vice President, Member Services, Catholic Charities USA
- Alex Vernon, Director, Immigration Law Clinic, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Detroit Mercy

4:15 – 4:30 p.m. | Concluding Remarks

Kelly Ryan, President, JRS/USA