

Justice, Peace and Life

May 2026

Thirty years ago, St. John Paul II wrote: “In the search for a solution to the problem of migration in general and illegal migrants in particular, the attitude of the host society has an important role to play. In this perspective, it is very important that public opinion be properly informed about the true situation in the migrants' country of origin, about the tragedies involving them and the possible risks of returning. The poverty and misfortune with which immigrants are stricken are yet another reason for coming generously to their aid.

It is necessary to guard against the rise of new forms of racism or xenophobic behavior, which attempt to make these brothers and sisters of ours scapegoats for what may be difficult local situations.”

Message of Pope John Paul II for World Migration Day, 1996

Help Make NYS a Place of Dignity and Welcome: Ask the Governor to Support Immigrants



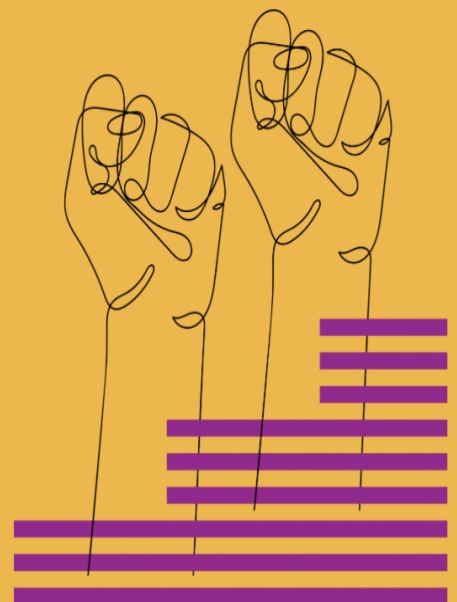
Our state legislature is considering two bills that would help protect immigrants: the Dignity Not Detention Act and the New York For All Act.

“On any given night, hundreds of New Yorkers are detained by ICE in jails and prisons across the state. They are subjected to **inhumane conditions** and **separated from their families and communities**. Although New York became a leader in banning private prisons in the criminal legal system in 2007, it is **falling behind when it comes to protecting immigrant New Yorkers**. Several counties in New York profit from immigration detention and ICE is actively expanding detention in New York as part of its unprecedented expansion nationwide.

The New York Dignity Not Detention Act (S316 Salazar /A4181 Reyes) gets New York State out of the business of immigration detention. When immigrants and communities can live in dignity and freedom, we’ll create a more welcoming state for all who call New York home.”

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

1. Prohibits any person or entity in the state of New York from owning or operating immigrant detention facilities (i.e. state prisons, county jails, hospitals).
2. Prohibits any entity in New York from entering into new immigrant detention contracts and from receiving any payments related to immigrant detention.
3. Prohibits any entity in New York from renewing any existing immigrant detention contracts.
4. Requires any governmental entities in New York with existing immigrant detention contracts to exercise the termination provision in the contract.



Help Make NYS a Place of Dignity and Welcome, contd.

“Across New York, ICE — now the nation’s largest and most well-funded federal law enforcement agency — is deputizing local law enforcement and government agencies to act as deportation agents. This collusion weaponizes state public resources against our neighbors instead of keeping our communities safe. When local agencies and law enforcement conspire with ICE, New Yorkers lose trust in our government. It becomes dangerous for people to interact with public institutions — whether at a traffic stop, calling emergency services, attending school, going to work, or going to the doctor — for fear it will lead to detention and deportation.

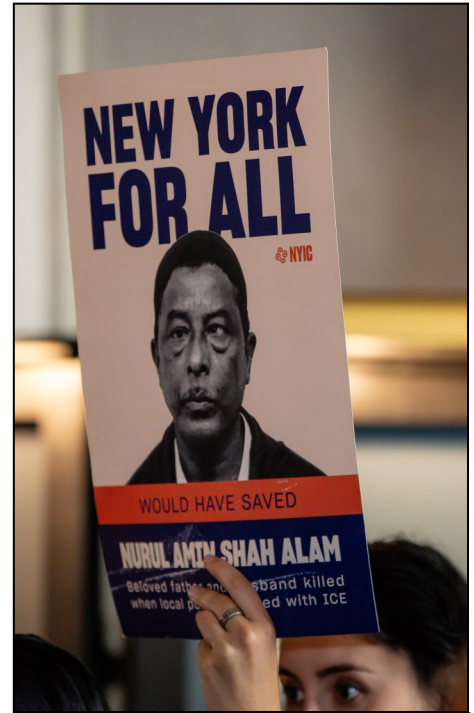
New York cannot continue to be complicit. New York must meet this moment by standing up for our immigrant neighbors....

The **New York for All Act (S2235- Gounardes / A3506-Reyes)** will protect immigrant New Yorkers, keep families together, and preserve state and local resources to uphold the state’s public safety priorities.

The New York for All Act broadly prohibits state and local officers from enforcing federal immigration laws, funneling people into ICE custody, and sharing sensitive information with federal immigration agents.

It also ensures that people in custody are informed of their rights before being interviewed by ICE.

Finally, it prohibits ICE and CBP from entering non-public areas of state and local property without a judicial warrant and begins the process of limiting their access to state information databases.”



Nurul Amin Shah Alam was a nearly blind refugee from Burma whose dead body was found outdoors after immigration agents left him outside a closed coffee shop in Buffalo NY in February.

Ask Governor Hochul to support both bills by clicking [here](#) to sign the online petition. Please share the link with your fellow parishioners. After you sign, do one more step and call her office at **(518)474-8390** with the same request.



Pray with the Pope: That everyone might have food | May 2026

Pray and Act Against Hunger

Pope Leo’s special intention for this month is “That everyone might have food.” Watch [this video](#) and pray with him.

Then act. You can join the national ecumenical anti-hunger advocacy group Bread for the World in organizing your fellow parishioners to speak up for federally funded nutrition programs, namely SNAP (food stamps), WIC (food for pregnant Women, Infants and Children), and international humanitarian aid.

Learn more at www.bread.org or contact Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org

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