



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



NOVEMBER 22, 2015

As we all watched the horrific scenes in Paris last Friday in real time, it was impossible not to make comparisons to September 11th 2001. We know what the French are going through in these weeks and we pray for them. The international and domestic conversation has now morphed into a debate about the Syrian refugee crisis and immigration in general. As we grapple with what is the moral and prudent way forward, let's keep in mind the following principles that our Catholic faith and moral tradition offer us.

1-On the one hand, God calls us to care for those most in need. This means.... -
- We are our brother's keeper, and we can't be isolationists. -- Christian charity has no borders and discriminates against nobody. -- To whom much is given (people and nations), much will be expected. -- There exists a natural, God-given right to leave one's own country in search of safety or a better life (emigration, with an "e").

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2. On the other hand, political leaders have a responsibility to regulate immigration for the safety and common good of its people.

This means.... -- political leaders of every sovereign state have the responsibility to control immigration at safe and sustainable levels. -- political leaders have a responsibility to vet potential immigrants to make sure they are not a danger to society -- While "emigration" (leaving one's country) is a right, "immigration" (entering another country) is not a right, but rather a privilege. -- Immigrants are called to respect the laws and good-will of the welcoming nation, while never being ashamed of their origins and traditions. We are blessed to be a country of immigrants. We are blessed to live in a land of freedom and opportunity. Let's continue to pray that this terrible tragedy in Paris can serve as a catalyst for prudent political action and a renewed commitment among all of us, to love one another.

God bless, Father Jonathan