

Our Global Solidarity Ambassador along with members of St. Ben's Immigrant Refugee Focus Group met with Congressman Larry Bucshon on August 26 to discuss issues related to immigration. The 30-minute meeting with Rep. Bucshon resulted in a lively conversation. We discussed the fact that there are 65 million refugees worldwide and that the U.S. should accept a fair, but limited number of migrants. Congressman Bucshon was pleased to learn that the Catholic Church believes and supports the position that every country has a right to secure its borders.

Moreover, we agreed that our country should provide foreign aid to the Central American Northern Triangle countries (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras). We also agreed that providing aid to the Northern Triangle countries is not only a humanitarian effort but will also decrease the number of people who are forced to migrate.

Further, we talked about the crisis on the U.S. southern border and agreed that persons who cannot sustain themselves in their home country have the right to migrate. Congressman Bucshon agreed to learn more about the Family Case Management Program, a program formerly operated by ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) and supported by CRS (Catholic Relief Services). The Family Case Management Program was in operation for 18 months before it ended in June 2017. It was signed into law on February 15, 2019 with an appropriation but has yet to be restarted. This program, along with an increase in the number of immigration judges could significantly improve the crisis on our southern border.

If you'd like to learn more about the Catholic Church's teaching on immigration, please go to [usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services](http://usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services).

