

## Introduction

We live in a world where 100,000,000 people are uprooted and displaced. Ethnic cleansing, immigration raids, frightening discrimination are some of the evil responses to “people on the move.” But we have a covenant with God which compels us to treat *all* people as God wants them treated, as our sisters and brothers, as images of God. We are descendants of a religious tradition that commands us to “love the stranger [sojourner, immigrant, resident alien], for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deut 10:19). This issue of *New Theology Review* turns attention to the tragic realities of today’s immigrants and also offers helpful insights and ministerial resources.

Joseph A. Mindling, O.F.M. Cap., a professor of Scripture at the Washington Theological Union who lives and works in a D.C. parish of immigrants, helps us begin our exploration by focusing attention on the biblical roots of the stranger in our midst. His scholarly article provides a wealth of material that could prove practical to today’s concerned pastors. Jeanne Atkinson, Catholic wife and mother, brings her expertise as an attorney specializing in immigration law by highlighting Church statements and legal strategies to help the uprooted. Vivian Ligo, a professor of systematic and pastoral theology, writes from her unique perspective as an immigrant. She offers readers a feel for the “in-between” experience of the alien as she names the ministry to immigrants “a form of midwifery.” Cecelia Fandel, O.S.M., presents the lovely Mexican Christmas-time ritual of *Posada* as “an everyday challenge to cultivate the virtue of hospitality in an era of global migration.” Our regular column “Getting Down to Cases” continues this issue’s theme with a poignant case written by Doris Mary Turek, S.S.N.D., an attorney and executive director of the *Instituto de Liturgia Hispana*. The case illustrates the fears and dangers of both legal and illegal immigrants in the United States.

Two timely articles are also included in this issue. Richard R. Gailardetz, a professor of systematic theology, offers a creative analysis of the recent papal document *Ad tuendam fidem* (For the Defense of Faith). He skillfully detects an emerging pattern in the exercise of the papal teaching of John Paul II. John F. Tuohey, a medical ethicist, demonstrates how Catholic health care has a unique opportunity to strengthen the Catholic healing identity and also “to pursue the goal of ecumenical/interreligious dialogue.”

Our regular columns and book reviews round out this issue, which we hope will continue to make *New Theology Review* what it was originally designed to be: a solid and practical guide to those who minister in today’s Church and world.