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*"Many of (these people) are fleeing violence in fear of their lives and the safety of their children. They need mercy and compassion, not derision and detention."*





## Immigration Detention Basics

- ICE manages and oversees the nation's civil immigration detention system. [1](#)
- In FY 2018, 396,448 people were booked into ICE custody. [2](#)
- 22,886 were in ICE detention according to data current as of July 17, 2022. [3](#)
- Immigrant detention facilities are in every state in the country. [4](#)
- Men and women are held in immigrant detention facilities, while mothers with children and accompanied children are placed in HHS custody. [5](#)
- Lay people and officials from different faiths minister to people in immigration detention.
- Of the many dioceses, religious orders and Catholic-church affiliated groups that provide ministers to immigrant detainees, a notable one is the [Catholic](#)

[Prison Ministries.](#)





## Immigration Detention Facts

- ICE will continue to detain immigrants.
- The U.S. Catholic church continues to seek policy reforms to address major concerns with immigration detention.
- Sr. Helen Prejean provides perhaps the broadest or most general example of visiting those in prison or detained.
- It is truly appropriate for Catholics to minister to and provide for the pastoral needs of detained immigrants. [6](#)





For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.

Then the righteous will answer him and say:

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

And the king will say to them in reply:

‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’





## JFI Resources on Immigrant Detention

[JFI Enforcement and Resource Page](#)

[Immigrant Detention in the United States](#)

[Family Detention in the United States](#)

[The Real Alternatives to Detention](#)

[Educating Your Community About Enforcement Actions: Resources For Preparation and Protection](#)





## What You Can Do

Become a Detention Minister and continue to minister to detained immigrants.

Advocate your Members of Congress to enact immigrant detention reforms.

Attend or organize prayer vigils at immigration detention centers.

Educate others in your parish.

Partner with others.





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