

to teach

vt 1. To impart knowledge or skill; to instruct. 2. To provide knowledge of; instruct in. 3. To cause to learn by example or experience. 4. To advocate or preach.



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HELPING YOU HELP OUR CHILDREN

Welcome to the first issue of *To Teach*, a newsletter designed to meet the needs of educators in Catholic schools and parishes with resources from USCCB Publishing.

Each issue of *To Teach* will highlight one or two current publications from the U.S. bishops and offer program suggestions for implementing the bishops' teaching in your classroom, school, or parish.

This issue of *To Teach* focuses on how to build welcoming Catholic schools. The U.S. bishops' recent

statement *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us* addresses our common concerns about diversity, hospitality, and welcome, some of which are relevant as we learn from our experiences of the tragedies of September 11.

Catholic education is an expression of the mission entrusted by Jesus to the Church He founded. Through education the Church seeks to prepare its members to proclaim the Good News and to translate this proclamation into action.

To Teach As Jesus Did, no. 7

You will receive copies of *To Teach* three more times throughout the year to help you in your work. Feel free to make copies for other teachers or members of your staff. Also, if you want us to send *To Teach* directly to colleagues or other educators, just send us their names and addresses and we'll add them to our mailing list.

We hope that the suggestions in *To Teach* help you in your educational ministry. Contact us with questions, feedback, or suggestions by phone at 202-541-3029, by fax at 202-541-3089, or by email at publications@usccb.org.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER . . . IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Is your student body becoming more diverse? Do you have a faculty with varied cultural backgrounds? Are you trying to involve parents of varied backgrounds in your school? Do you want to make your school more welcoming to all?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, the *Welcoming the Stranger Kit* will be a valuable resource for your school.

In their pastoral statement *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity*, the U.S. bishops call us to reach out to newcomers and culturally diverse persons. They urge us to reject racism and anti-immigrant attitudes, and to promote laws and policies that respect the dignity of all people.

With the tools in the *Welcoming the Stranger Kit*, you can integrate these values into your school's education programs and help your children

and youth to develop into adults who are welcoming, inclusive, tolerant, and committed to justice.

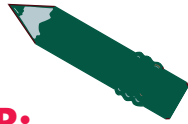
What's in the Kit for Catholic Schools?

- *Welcoming the Stranger: Unity in Diversity*. The pastoral statement illustrates how to receive newcomers with a genuine spirit of welcome. Give one to every faculty and school board member.
- "Ideas for Liturgists and Prayers Leaders." This reproducible brochure contains ideas for multicultural celebrations, music suggestions, scriptural readings, and sample prayers. Photocopy and use it to plan everything from all-school liturgies to classroom prayer services.
- *Called to Welcome the Stranger Among Us*. This brochure highlights the themes of

the pastoral statement. Give one to every faculty member, parent, and member of the parent-teacher organization.

- "Ideas for Schools, Religious Education, and Youth Programs." This reproducible brochure contains hands-on activities for Grades K-12. Photocopy and distribute it freely to your staff.
- *Welcoming the Stranger: A Prayer for Hospitality*. These 3" x 5" cards are perfect for families to use as they gather for meals. Buy them in bulk to hand out at school events or to send home.

At a Glance



WELCOMING THE STRANGER: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Many Catholic parishes and schools in the United States were founded to serve the needs of immigrant populations. They provided “a safe haven where newcomers were able to pray and hear the word of God in their own languages, begin the education of their children in the language of the home, and so adapt to their new society with the security of community and faith.” The need for these “safe havens” continues today as new immigrants come to our country in search of economic survival and political sanctuary. Many remain poor and powerless.

“The Church of the twenty-first century will be, as it has always been, a Church of many cultures, languages and traditions, yet simultaneously one, as God is one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—unity in diversity.”

Welcoming the Stranger:
Unity in Diversity

Extending hospitality is an important first step in “welcoming the stranger.” The Church needs to keep developing ministerial approaches that are inclusive, respectful of, and sensitive to various cultural groups. Catholic schools are powerful agents of evangelization. They have the potential to help families and children of immigrants adapt to American culture within a faith-based environment for families.

All of this requires a profound conversion, on both a personal and institutional level, in order to foster a sense of unity and solidarity as members of the one body of Christ.

THE BOOKSTORE

WELCOMING THE STRANGER AMONG US KIT

Unity in Diversity

The resources in this kit offer practical guidance for building more welcoming and inclusive parishes. Kit contains copies of published documents and related resources (several of which can be photocopied for small groups and other community settings).

Included are:

- Bishops’ Statement *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity*
- Companion Brochure *Called to Welcome the Stranger Among Us*
- Camera-ready Brochure *Called to Welcome the Stranger Among Us*
- Prayer Card: *Welcoming the Stranger: A Prayer for Hospitality*
- Letter and Planning Ideas for Pastors and Parish Leaders
- Ideas for Liturgists and Prayer Leaders
- Suggestions for Homilists
- Ideas for Schools, Religious Education, and Youth Programs
- Bulletin Quotes and Clip Art
- A Guide to Understanding Catholic Social Teaching on Advocacy for Migrants and Refugees
- Resource Bibliography

No. 5-407, \$6.95

Resource Member Price \$4.17

WELCOMING THE STRANGER AMONG US: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops

This document from the U.S. bishops challenges us to prepare to receive newcomers with a genuine spirit of welcome that provides a bridge for them to cross from one culture into another. Sidebars interspersed throughout the text provide examples of successful programs throughout this country. A wonderful resource for communications and religious education committees, seminaries, school superintendents, and all who wish to help promote unity in diversity.

English: No. 5-375, 80 pp., \$3.95

Resource Member Price \$2.37

Spanish: No. 5-848, 80 pp., \$3.95

Resource Member Price \$2.37

CALLED TO WELCOME THE STRANGER AMONG US

This eight-panel brochure highlights the themes of the U.S. bishops’ pastoral statement

Welcoming the Stranger Among Us.

English: No. 5-404, \$0.50

Spanish: No. 5-849, \$0.50

Korean: No. 5-455, \$0.50

Vietnamese: No. 5-456, \$0.50

Chinese: No. 5-457, \$0.50

Haitian Creole: No. 5-458, \$0.50

Brazilian Portuguese: No. 5-459, \$0.50

Resource Member Price \$0.30 each

Quantity discounts are available on all publications. Call toll-free 800-235-8722 for more information. To order these resources or to obtain a catalog of other USCCB titles, call toll-free 800-235-8722. In the Washington metropolitan area or from outside the United States, call 202-722-8716. Visit the U.S. bishops’ Internet site located at www.usccb.org.



to teach

Fall 2002

WELCOMING THE STRANGER . . .

for Principals & School Boards

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

Discuss these questions during a school board meeting or retreat.

- What is your school's origin and history? What cultural groups has it served over time?
- What tensions exist among different religious, cultural, and ethnic groups in your community?
- Read the description of "nativism" on page 24 of *Welcoming the Stranger*. Is this attitude present in your school, parish, or surrounding community? How does your school encourage students to broaden their understanding of what it means to be an American?
- How do cultural needs affect the way your school shares information and celebrates events and holidays? What adaptations have been made in order to be more inclusive?

THINGS TO DO

- Use Catholics Schools Week, which usually starts on the last Sunday in January, as an opportunity to highlight your school's cultural history. Enlist the help of people who can share memories about the school's early days.
- Invite a leader from another religious tradition to speak to your school board or faculty about their traditions, beliefs, and practices.
- Develop a plan to increase a spirit of tolerance and respect in all aspects of your school life.
- Invite parents to serve as multicultural advocates to advise the board and faculty on ways to be attentive to cultural concerns.

for Teachers

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

Discuss these questions at meetings or retreats.

- Which of your own traditions come from beyond the U.S. borders?
- In biblical accounts of migration (such as Gn 20, Ex 13:17-14:31, or Mt 2:13-23), what challenges did the scriptural characters face as they tried to adjust to a new home?
- Read "The Special Needs of Youth" on p. 47 of *Welcoming the Stranger*. How is your school an "instrument of evangelization for others"?
- What kind of work is needed to support immigrants, migrants, and refugees throughout the country and in your community?

THINGS TO DO

- Poll students' families about their cultural roots. Use a global map to pinpoint the countries from which they came.
- Have students make up stories about the hardships and adjustments of biblical characters when they entered a new land.
- Pick out an activity from the kit brochure "Ideas for Schools, Religious Education, and Youth Programs" for your class next month.
- Have students research charitable work being done in your diocese to help immigrants, migrants, and refugees.
- Host a cultural fair. Invite students to create posters, skits, and demonstrations of their families' cultural heritage.



FIVE WAYS TO MAKE YOUR SCHOOL MORE WELCOMING

- **USE** language that is affirming and respectful of the varying cultures of students and families.
- **LET** parents and guardians know whom to contact if they have questions or concerns about the school or their child's education.
- **PROMOTE** respectful behavior—from the classroom to the playground—through clear, firm policies.
- **LET** students and families know, through your words and deeds, that they are valued members of the school community.
- **INFUSE** all school prayer and worship with a tone of “unity in diversity,” noting the special place each person has in the Body of Christ.

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