



massa: What was your impression of our conversation on Faith and Border Ethics? You were one of four people in the conversation – what was your sense of how that conversation went?

heyer: I think, as a theologian, one of the lenses that I want to bring to immigration debates is a commitment to

had a legal scholar, a political scientist, a practical theologian and an ethicist. We also had some disagreements, which kept it lively and interesting. Immigration is such a hot-button issue, but often it can generate more heat than light, so I thought this was actually an illuminating conversation.

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BC's campus in this important topic.

massa: I know this is one of your areas of research and teaching, so you are an important presence and voice there. As a theologian and social ethicist, what were the most important issues you wanted to bring to that conversation?

think, certainly, that faith-based advocates have been essential to the immigration movement in this country for decades now.

At the same time, another concern I have is that, while the oft-repeated refrain in the Hebrew Bible to care for the stranger is very important, and hospitality and welcome are vital, sometimes this emphasis makes citizens think of the immigration problem in terms of charity and outreach and largesse alone, rather than in the terms of justice, like I referred to earlier. In my experience, there has been relatively little preaching or public framing of regular citizens' complicity, as consumers, as voters, as childcare employers, what have you, in the patterns contributing to exploiting immigrants within our borders.

massa: I would agree with you that I think the answer to the question of whether we have been sort of studious in preaching that is yes and no. It depends on where you are and

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