

**HEVELONE:** How did you develop an interest in immigration and Catholic ethics?

**HEYER:** After I finished graduate school at Boston College, I lived in Los Angeles and belonged to a parish in East LA that served many undocumented immigrants. Our parish had a sanctuary program that started in the 1980s during the Salvadoran war and subsequently expanded from welcoming political to economic

**HEVELONE:** What are some of the factors that cause migration to occur? How would you describe a Catholic ethical approach to migration?

**HEYER:** There has been a significant surge in migration worldwide, and the

worldwide is also a refugee-producing factor, and increasingly we encounter environmental refugees, which connects to your recent session with Laurie Johnston.

With economic refugees, migration patterns also depend on pull factors of willing employers. Even though we frequently hear “No Trespassing” rhetoric, we also

ing in Belgium at Leuven this past fall (2015). The Europeans hosting the expert seminar felt that scholars and practitioners in the Americas, Asia, and Africa have developed more of a systematic migration ethic than they have on their continent, and they sought to bring us together to help shed light on the crisis Europe is facing with respect to migrants and refugees.

reasons are many. Many remain economic push and pull factors: you are unable to feed yourself or your family and so you are pushed out of your country of origin and pulled toward economic opportunity. We also see people fleeing violence. People flee the absence of the rule of law, for example, many of the immigrants coming from the Northern Triangle countries (of Central America) to our own. Conflict

mon good grounds a Catholic immigration ethic and is threatened, for example, by shadow societies wherein residents are able to contribute to the economy, but not vote or receive benefits and always remain under the threat of deportation.

In terms of scriptural foundations, after the injunction to only worship one God, the injunction to care for the sojourner is the most repeated command in the Hebrew Bible. Compassion for the out-

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