

Immigrants should be treated fairly and with dignity: Letter

Pat Lamanna

April 26, 2018

This letter is in response to Joe Incoronato's letter "Sanctuary Cities Undermine Public Safety," dated April 4.

Unless our guess is wrong, if it weren't for liberal immigration policies, Legislator Incoronato would not be here. If he's not indigenous to America, his ancestors were immigrants. "Empirical studies of immigrant criminality generally find that immigrants do not increase local crime rates and are less likely to cause crime than their native-born peers, and that natives are more likely to be incarcerated than immigrants." – From the conservative Cato Institute's study, "Criminal Immigrants: Their numbers, demographics, and countries of origin." The study also found a decrease in crime in areas where immigrants settle.

We agree with the Catholic bishops who criticized present U.S. policies, which "do not provide the way forward for comprehensive immigration reform rooted in respect for human life and dignity, and for the security of our citizens."

Calling out the Kate Steinle case as an example of "murder," is not the truth. The jury decided it was neither murder nor manslaughter and the "Mexican national" Garcia Zarate was acquitted but charged with a weapons violation.

No one is illegal, everyone yearns to be free and as President Trump said recently "We are a welcoming nation." We belong to the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, which believes firmly in the "inherent worth and dignity of every person." We are motivated to act based on "justice, equity and compassion in human relations."