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Deportees get off a bus at an immigration facility Jan. 11 after a flight arrived in San Salvador, El Salvador, with immigrants who were in the U.S. without documents. (CNS/Reuters/Jose Cabezas)

by NCR Staff

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Saint Mary's Press of Minnesota and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University recently released a study on young Catholics who have left the church and now identify as "nones." The report is attempting to understand why so many have "disaffiliated" from the faith they were born into.

Immigration issues remain in headlines this week as President Donald Trump proposes to replace family reunification, or "chain migration," with a merit-based system, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and those living with temporary protected status await answers about their future in the United States.

### **On the show today:**

- [Julie Bourbon](#), NCR contributor, based in Washington, D.C.
- NCR Bertelsen intern [Maria Benevento](#)
- Suzanne Gladney, founder of the [Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund](#) in Kansas City, Missouri

### **Background reading:**

- A [new report on disaffiliated Catholics](#) comes at a time when more young people than ever before are leaving the church.
- Kerri Miller of Minnesota Public Radio moderated [a discussion](#) in Baltimore of the new report published by Saint Mary's Press.
- Family-based immigration, or family reunification, also called [chain migration](#), has been a central component of the U.S. immigration system for more than 50 years, and is restricted and usually slow-moving.
- Temporary protected status will be terminated for El Salvador in 2019, and [advocates are working](#) to protect the hundreds of thousands of immigrants who could be uprooted from U.S. communities and forced to return to dangerous countries.
- We say: Catholics have a special obligation to [safeguard vulnerable immigrants](#). These times demand a loud, bold defense of migrants.

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