



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our faith calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are suffering. As threats of mass deportations grow, we recognize the deep fear and uncertainty this creates for immigrant families in our communities. These families are our neighbors, our classmates, and our friends. They are integral to the fabric of our society and to the life of our Church.

The Catholic Church stands firmly with immigrant families. Pope Francis has reminded us, *"Migrants are not numbers; they are people who bring with them their own history, culture, and aspirations. They must be treated as such"* (Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2019). As we journey through this Jubilee Year, themed *"Pilgrims of Hope,"* we are called to be signs of hope for our brothers and sisters in need, offering support and reassurance to those who feel most vulnerable, trusting in God's promise of justice and peace.

At the same time, our immigration problem will not be solved by an open border nor by mass deportations. For over 20 years, the U.S. Catholic Bishops have called for comprehensive immigration reform, advocating for a path that reflects justice, compassion, and respect for human dignity. Sadly, this call has been largely ignored. Let us pray that our elected officials will work collaboratively to achieve real solutions.

To provide practical support during this time, we are sharing critical resources to help individuals understand their rights and take steps to protect themselves and their families:

- **Know Your Rights Materials:** Available on our diocesan website [HERE](#), and attached to this message. These materials explain what to do if immigration officers approach you or your loved ones.
- **Catholic Charities: Diocese of Stockton Immigration Services:**
Catholic Charities offers various services to assist immigrants and their families, including:
 - Legal assistance for immigration-related matters
 - Family reunification support
 - Educational resources on immigrant rights
 - Counseling services for those affected by immigration concerns
 - [Learn more and access these services here](#)
- **Local Law Enforcement Policies:** Many police departments in our area, including the Stockton Police Department and the Stanislaus and San Joaquin County Sheriff's Offices, have committed not to use their resources to enforce federal immigration laws. Their focus remains on upholding California state law and fostering community safety and trust.
- **Additional Catholic Resources:**
 - [California Catholic Conference: Immigration Resources](#)
 - [USCCB: Immigration Resources](#)

We invite parishioners, students, and parents to share these resources and stand with immigrant families in prayer. Let us be visible signs of Christ's love, bringing hope to those who are afraid and working together to ensure that all members of our community are treated with dignity, mercy, and respect.

In the Peace of Christ,

The Most Reverend Myron J. Cotta
Bishop of Stockton

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