



February 15, 2017

From: Daughters of Wisdom Leadership Team
Subject: Immigration and Refugees in our country and world

The Executive Order by our government “to protect the American people from terrorist attacks by foreign nationals” has been an opportunity for all of us to ponder how we think about refugees and immigration to our country. The discrimination against refugees from countries where the predominant religion is Islam is in contradiction to our basic values as Americans.

As well as the controversy surrounding the Executive Order, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids have occurred across the country this weekend, aimed at undocumented with criminal records who pose a threat to public safety. Many of those arrested have no history of violence. They are hard workers, providing for their families and often, paying taxes. The resulting deportations have broken up families in which children born here are US Citizens. The issues surrounding immigration and refugees are complex. How willing are we to engage in civil discourse at local and federal levels about this? Where would any of us be had our grandparents and great grandparents encountered the same resistance and lack of acceptance?

The recent statement issued by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Archbishop José H. Gomez, Vice President of the USCCB states”

“The Lord Jesus fled the tyranny of Herod, was falsely accused and then deserted by his friends. He had nowhere to lay His head (Lk. 9:58). Welcoming the stranger and those in flight is not one option among many in the Christian life. It is the very form of Christianity itself. Our actions must remind people of Jesus. The actions of our government must remind people of basic humanity. Where our brothers and sisters suffer rejection and abandonment we will lift our voice on their behalf. We will welcome them and receive them. They are Jesus and the Church will not turn away from Him.”

As Daughters of Wisdom our mission is “to seek and to contemplate Divine Wisdom, present in a world that hungers for meaning, justice and compassion. We seek to bring the message of Jesus, Incarnate Wisdom, to people experiencing injustice, violence, poverty and oppression, especially women and children.” The refugee situation in our world and the immigration situation in our country are an invitation by Divine Wisdom for us to compassionately stand with our brothers and sisters fleeing injustice and oppression, lifting our voices on their behalf and welcoming them.

We encourage you to contact your representatives by phone and letter calling for a halt to the deportations and a reconsideration of the ban on refugees from countries with a predominantly Muslim population. Are there other actions you can take to protect the basic human right to dignity and freedom of our brothers and sisters fleeing for their lives and seeking freedom?