



COMMUNION OF SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCHES

PASTORAL STATEMENT ON THE MORAL TREATMENT OF AND POLICY TOWARD MIGRANT AND REFUGEE PERSONS AND FAMILIES

11 June 2018
Feast of Saint Barnabas, apostle

To the Brothers and Sisters of Our Beloved Communion and to All People of Good Will,

The Hebrew and Christian Scriptures teach all people of faith with abundant clarity, how refugee and migrant people should be treated:

In the Book of Leviticus we are taught, “When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (*Leviticus 19:33-23*).

In the Book of Deuteronomy a clear warning is given, “Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien...of justice” (*Deuteronomy 27:19*).

The prophet Ezekiel teaches, “The aliens shall be to you as citizens, and shall also be allotted an inheritance” (*Ezekiel 47:22*).

In the Gospel account of Matthew, “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me. I assure you, as often as you did it for the least among you, you did it for me.” (*Matthew 25:35-40*).

And again, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea” (*Matthew 18:5-6*).



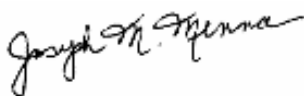
The policy of the current Presidential Administration regarding migrant and refugee individuals and families is in direct violation of the Law of God's love toward these, our neighbors in need. The practice of pulling families apart is absolutely cruel as a matter of human decency, unjust according to the United Nations, and wholly immoral according to our Christian faith and the practice of truly responsible love.

The incarceration and detention of children in conditions used for kenneling animals is an abomination of the most basic adult and civic responsibilities towards vulnerable children. This treatment of children is nothing less than child abuse. The risk in these detention centers for emotional, physical, or sexual abuse should be alarming to all those in the government agencies responsible for the safety of the young.

It is of additionally grave moral concern that the families specifically and intentionally targeted are those of our nation's southern border, our brown brothers and sisters. This fact is a moral indication of the continuing social sin and sacrilege of ethnic hatred and discrimination that plagues far too many in our society and the policies of this current Presidential Administration.

We, the bishops, clergy, and laity of the Communion of Synodal Catholic Churches condemn these horrors and raise our collective voice for justice, dignity, and responsibility for the refugee and migrant families seeking hope at our borders. We call all citizens of good faith and human dignity to do the same.

In Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the Holy Family in flight and exile, we remain,



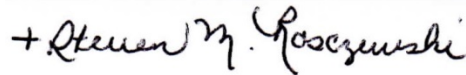
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