



Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, United States Province

Dear Brother Oblates and Associates,

Prompted by the recent action of President Trump to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program that protects almost 800,000 young immigrants from deportation who came to the U.S. as children, I write to invite you to offer solidarity to these young people. DACA allows young immigrants to work, go to school, raise a family, and live in the United States without fear of separation by deportation. I ask you to stand with these young people and their families who may include youth members of our Oblates parishes and institutions.

Missionary Oblates JPIC is deeply disappointed with this decision to end DACA, as we expressed in a [statement issued immediately after the announcement to end DACA](#). The consequences of repealing DACA are immediate and devastating to DACA recipients, their families and communities. At the 2016 General Chapter in Rome, Oblates were invited in the Acts of the Chapter to reflect:

In these times of great global changes, we respond to the call of the Spirit, as did St. Eugene de Mazenod in his Preface to the Oblate Rule, by giving a new impetus to the mission that is our raison d'être: being close to the new faces of the poor, the most abandoned, and sharing the Good News to which we are witnesses. We recognize urgent uses which strongly speak to us such as: the situation of refugees, the homeless, and migrants who are forced to leave their countries.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops President, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, along with USCCB Vice President, Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin, chairman, Committee on Migration, and Bishop Joseph Tyson of Yakima, chairman of the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees, says the "cancellation of the DACA program is reprehensible," and goes on to say:

The Church has recognized and proclaimed the need to welcome young people: 'Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me' (Mark 9:37). Today, our nation has done the opposite of how Scripture calls us to respond

We need help to urge Members of Congress to pass the Dream Act of 2017 and protect these young immigrants. In collaboration with other religious communities, we invite you to take action, and recommend the following resources:

- Call your Member of Congress to [co-sponsor the DREAM Act of 2017](#) (S. 1615 / H.R. 3440)
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) resources:
 - [Know Your Rights information](#) (multiple languages)
 - A [family emergency planning guide](#) (information on guardianship, power of attorney)
- Pope Francis "[Share the Journey](#)" global campaign for migrants and refugees

As a JPIC ministry for the U.S province, we will continue to pray, champion immigration reform and push against harmful enforcement practices which separate families. Our faith and charism believe in the dignity of every human being, especially that of children and youth. Compassion, family unity and opportunity for newcomers from one generation to the next are foundations of this nation.

Fr Antonio Ponce OMI
Director, U.S Missionary Oblates JPIC Ministry Office

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy*

*O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen. Peace Prayer of Saint Francis*