



The Leadership Team's...

Response to U.S. Immigration Policy That Separates Families at the Border

June 5, 2018

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia vehemently oppose any policy addressing immigration reform that removes immigrant children, including babies, from their families in order to punish parents. This practice demonstrates a complete disregard for the devastating consequences experienced by these babies. Using babies to deter border crossings is an intolerable action that requires an immediate response. We need a more humane way, moving forward, to address our immigration system that includes welcoming our immigrant neighbors who are seeking a safe and secure place of refuge.

We ask that all people of good will, especially all parents, join us as together we affirm the sanctity and dignity of the human family and strongly urge Congress and the Administration to end the harmful and inhumane policies that separate families and endanger children.

We, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, desire to live ever more boldly the Gospel and our Constitutions. We promise to commit ourselves, our corporate prophetic voice, and appropriate resources to the flourishing of Earth and to the unmet needs of persons who are poor, marginalized and vulnerable. To live this promise, we advance the rights and dignity of all people.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph fully support the following statement on this matter made by Teresa Maya, CCVI, President, Leadership Conference of Women (LCWR):

“As women of faith, as Catholic sisters, we strongly oppose the Trump administration’s decision to forcibly separate parents from their children to punish families seeking safety and in the United States. Mothers and fathers are taking tremendous risks to bring their children to safety. These are families fleeing violence and death in their home countries. They have every right to ask for protection in the United States and the Trump administration is legally and morally obligated to give them a fair chance to seek asylum,” Teresa Maya, CCVI, President, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, said. “It is impossible to imagine the fear of a child being ripped from the arms of her mother or the pain of a father watching a stranger take his son. It is cruel and inhumane, and it must stop. Our faith demands it and our national values require it. We are better than this.”