

Welcoming refugees with respect and dignity, accompanying them to self-sufficiency

A joint statement from Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSPS, and J. Antonio Fernandez, president/CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Antonio

We are disappointed in the decision January 10 from Governor Greg Abbott refusing consent to initial refugee resettlement in fiscal year 2020.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio and Catholic Charities have welcomed the stranger in our communities for years and our experience has been they that are like you and I, who simply want to live in peace with their families.

These refugees, who in most all cases are fleeing their home countries in fear for their lives and have been thoroughly vetted by our federal government, have brought with them tremendous value as hard working neighbors who embrace the entrepreneurial spirit, share their culture, and provide opportunities for all of us to learn more about our world.

We are deeply saddened by the quote from the governor that, "At this time, the state and nonprofit organizations have a responsibility to dedicate available resources to those are already here, including refugees..."

The Catholic Church will continue to welcome all who come to us in desperate need, such as refugees; it is the humane and Gospel thing to do.

In partnership with the Catholic dioceses of the Lone Star State and the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops, we remain committed to providing quality programs and services to welcome refugees with love, respect, and dignity to accompany them to self-sufficiency.