



Official Statement

Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S

November 21, 2014

Archbishop's Response to President Obama's Immigration Executive Action

Friday morning, November 21, migrant families throughout the United States woke up to a new possibility of hope for family unity and permanence, following President Obama's executive action addressing a piece of the human crisis that is a result of our broken immigration laws. While I am grateful for this incremental move forward, I pray that the suffering of all undocumented persons across this land will be addressed through comprehensive immigration reform. True and permanent reform will come through legislation crafted by leaders on all sides of the political spectrum in the spirit of healthy compromise and compassion.

The action of the president is welcome, but potentially is both precarious and insufficient. It is precarious because it could be dismissed by the next administration or possibly superseded by new legislation. It is insufficient because of its narrow application and does not address a broad spectrum of issues that need remedied. Neither members of the legislature nor the executive branch of government find the immigration status quo satisfying or effective.

Now is the time for the faithful to raise their voices and help the members of Congress find the clarity and courage to join with the president and do the right thing, toning down the strident partisan rhetoric and agree on a bill that upholds the rule of law while respecting the human dignity of every person. In his recent speech, "Migration is an Aspiration of Hope", Pope Francis said; "The Church is a Mother without limits and without frontiers. She is the Mother of all and so she strives to foster the culture of welcome and solidarity, where no one is considered useless, out of place or disposable...."

Let us pray to the Holy Spirit to imbue our nation with His gifts of wisdom, fortitude and understanding so that we may heal the wounds of families living in the shadows of fear and isolation.

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Archbishop of San Antonio