



February 2, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent days, following the Trump Administration's Executive Order regarding immigrants and refugees, we have continued to hear a great deal of anxiety from members of our community — those who are directly affected by the order, those who want to join in the effort to address problems in our immigration system, and those who have legitimate concerns about the security of our country.

As Pope Francis constantly reminds us, we are called to live Christian charity and to protect and defend the dignity of every human person, especially the poor and most vulnerable. Immigrants and refugees are among the poorest and most vulnerable people in our age, and the Catholic Church in the United States has, for many years, been a source of welcome and solace to those who are displaced. Though many of its features are temporary, we are deeply concerned about the effects of the Executive Order. We have both a right and a duty to protect our borders and our citizens; at the same time, we have a responsibility to come to the aid of those who seek a better life, with their families, in our wonderful country.

As we wrote last month to the Catholic immigrant community in Western Washington, "United with all U.S. Bishops, we will continue to safeguard and maintain the well-being of those entrusted to our care. We will continue working with our government to bring about a just and effective solution for all who have fled persecution, violence and poverty in order to build a better life for themselves and their families. The Archdiocese of Seattle will continue to offer its programs and services to assist you in the path to citizenship and to keep all families united."

For many years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has been at the forefront of working for immigration reform, and that continues to be the case. We encourage you to join in the Bishops' efforts for a just and safe immigration system. To learn what you can do to help, please visit the USCCB's Justice for Immigrants website.

To our sisters and brothers who are particularly anxious at this time, we say again: Remember that our loving Father, who knows all things and has numbered even the hairs on your head, will watch over and protect you and your families. Let your trust in the Lord and our Blessed Mother remain strong, as we continue to pray for one another, for our leaders and our nation.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Handwritten signature of J. Peter Sartain in black ink.

Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain
Archbishop of Seattle

+ Handwritten signature of Eusebio Elizondo in black ink.

Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle