



In the Diocese of Oregon we are far away from our southern border and yet, through the media and even at some of our local federal prisons, we are offered a view of what is happening to families and especially to children.

It is unsettling to see large detention centers, wire rooms and groups of children massed together.

It is troubling to hear of the separating of parents and children and it should outrage Christians of all denominations to know that this is done as a matter of public policy.

Speaking out and acting in ways that make our views known to the government and to the world is, I believe, a Christian imperative. Please consider letting your voice be heard this day. I offer a few ideas and welcome yours as well. Our faith demands our action.

Bishop Michael Hanley

Five Ways for People of Faith to Take Action

(1) Call Members of Congress: Tell Congress to Stop Separating Families & Protect Family Unity

(2) Plan a Neighbor-to-Neighbor Visit to Your In-District Member Offices: Your Members of Congress will be home from June 30th – July 8th – an important time to share the importance of protecting family unity. Establishing and nurturing relationships with your Senators and Representatives are crucial to enacting immigration policies that protect and affirm the rights of all people, and also to stopping proposals that would exacerbate family separation. Every Senator and Representative has an office – often multiple offices – in their home state. Use the Interfaith Immigration Coalition Neighbor to Neighbor Toolkit to request meetings and put together a team.

(3) Join and support Mass Mobilization Events: Families Belong Together currently has marches planned for June 30 in the following Oregon cities (with more to come): Albany, Astoria, Bend, Coos Bay, Eugene, Medford, Portland, Redmond, Roseburg

(4) Amplify on Social Media: Don't forget to share the same message with your Senators & Representatives on social media. Here are sample social media posts and graphics for public use. Use the hashtag #FamiliesBelongTogether #KeepFamiliesTogether and #ValueOurFamilies.

(5) Stay informed about immigration policies, procedures, and laws: The Episcopal Public Policy Network offers explanatory videos, webinars, and action points

Visit advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/immigration for links to educational resources and action steps.