



January 8, 2018

Dear brothers,

May the Lord give you peace.

This is another difficult and heart-breaking day for the immigrant community here in the United States. As was the case for Haitians and Nicaraguans and Sudanese in the recent past, so too will Salvadorans residing in the United States soon lose their temporary protective status (TPS). We deeply regret this decision of the Trump Administration and we grieve, along with so many of our brothers and sisters, the instability, fear and even trauma that this decision will give rise to.

The unequivocal support of the Franciscans of the United States for just, compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform is well-known and has been expressed in many ways both collectively and through our collaboration at the local level. We reiterate our call for such needed reform, beginning with the imperative to resolve the DACA stalemate in Congress so that the “dreamers” may continue to live and prosper here in the United States.

More importantly, as your provincial ministers, we want to assure all our non-citizen brothers that we stand with you, for you and by your side, and that we will continue to pursue all legal avenues available to preserve your lawful status here in the U.S.

Also, we ask, that the brothers in the local communities do everything possible in these difficult days to provide fraternal support, care and accompaniment to our brothers who are experiencing - in any way - the stresses of the immigration crisis that plagues this country. This is a time when our solidarity as a brotherhood is essential. And the same is true for our solidarity with those non-citizen brothers and sisters and families whom we serve in our ministries.

We further ask the JPIC committees to continue working in a coordinated way to provide resources to those affected by the TPS and other immigration changes, and to continue pursuing advocacy efforts for the reform of our broken immigration system.

It is painful not to be able to change policies that fly in the face of Biblical morality. It is a living experience of minority for us all. Let us continue to do all that we can—beginning with the

fraternal care to our brothers caught up in this immigration nightmare, extending to prayer, and expanding to ministry and advocacy in support of those attempting to call the United States their home.

Fraternally,

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