



February 7, 2017

Dear Sisters, Seton Associates and Friends,

- Impelled by our Mission: *“Jesus Christ came “to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour” (Luke 4:18-29). The mission of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth is to proclaim and live this Gospel of Jesus Christ”*
- Directed by the responsibility to heed the call of God as heard through Moses: *“You shall not oppress an alien; you well know how it feels to be an alien, since you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt” (Ex 23:9).*
- urged on by Jesus who directed His disciples to recognize Him in the stranger: *“Whatsoever you did to the least of my brothers, you did to me” (Mt. 25:40).*
- And keenly aware of our responsibilities as citizens of the United States to reach out in justice and peace to all and to work toward the common good especially for those on the margins...

The Sisters of Charity are challenged to respond to the Executive Order of President Trump concerning refugee and immigrant status. This order and its implementation oppose America’s founding values, raising moral issues that affect human dignity, justice and basic human rights. We cannot stand silent in the face of such chaos and alienation.

How ought we to respond?

Prayer: Common prayer and contemplative silence will strengthen a sense of communion among us that can empower us to welcome the stranger. Could we consider pausing each day for a few seconds as a reminder of this need and a sign of unity to say the Memorare and reflect on Matthew 25:43, “Jesus said, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me.”?



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Presence: almost 158 years ago, we were founded to help meet the needs of immigrants, refugees, orphans, those needing education, health care and support. The Spirit calls us today to be present to our new neighbors who are seeking peace, safety and a full life. We must find new ways to help protect them and allay their fears to enable them to live full, productive lives.

Witness: as we reflect on the Congregation's 2013 Public Stand on Immigration, our housing of asylum seekers, work with immigrants and refugees, those in detention centers and more....let us keep ourselves informed. Let us speak out in truth for compassion and justice for all. If you encounter undocumented individuals and families, immigrants or refugees either directly or indirectly in your ministry please consider sharing some stories (confidential) and keep us informed of the effects of this Executive Order.

Advocacy: Fr. Terrence Moran, Director of our Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity and the PJEI Committee will keep us up to date on the larger, legislative picture. Please respond to the Action Alerts that we receive and share them with your families, friends, and collaborators in ministry. Let our representatives, municipal, state, and federal, know where you stand on the legislation being proposed. Please share with us the names of those you have contacted and their responses.

Please see Cardinal Tobin's balanced, courageous statement on immigration that is attached to this letter. Let us be united in responding to this challenge to welcome the stranger.

With hope and trust in God's presence among us,

Rosemary, Marilyn, Joan, Deborah, Maureen and Elise
The Leadership Team

Rev. Terrence Moran
Director
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