



## COMMUNION OF SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCHES

### Pastoral Statement from the Episcopal Council on Current Immigration Policy

June 29, 2019  
Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

The current government policy toward refugees and immigrants seeking asylum and a better life along our country's southern border is anathema to our Christian tradition and to the Body of Christ alive today. Scripture is clear on the moral imperative of how to treat asylum seekers, refugees, and immigrants.

“Do not mistreat foreigners who are living in your land. Treat them as you would an Israelite, and love them as you love yourselves. Remember that you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” (*Leviticus 19:33-34*)

“Remember to welcome strangers in your homes. There were some who did that and welcomed angels without knowing it.” (*Hebrews 13:2*)

The President of the United States, his advisers, and his administrative officials in Homeland Security and ICE who have constructed and implemented this policy of family separation, inhuman and immoral conditions, and cruel and unjust treatment of “foreigners in our land” and “strangers in our homes” are warned in the strictest of spiritual, moral, and human ways by Our Communion of Churches that they are making their very selves anathema to the Body of Christ and to the very family of humanity which they assault with these immoral and inhuman policies. Innocent blood itself is now upon their hands.

The Body of Christ and all citizens of faith and good will are implored to speak up, act, and pray for an end to these policies of inhumanity. Following is a link to a reliable resource to provide means and education to act in various ways. We recommend the site of the National Immigration Law Center at: <https://www.nilc.org> for acts of mercy and justice.

In the love of Christ, and the common bond of human decency,

Bishop Martin de Porres Griffin  
Ordinary, Diocese of California

Bishop Joseph A. Menna, AIHM,  
Ordinary, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Bishop Steven M. Rosczewski,  
Presiding Bishop and Ordinary, Diocese of the Southeast