



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Pastoral Center, 3940 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40213-1463
(502) 585-3291 | (502) 585-2466 (Fax) | archbishop@archlou.org

August 30, 2019

Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator:

May God bless you! As part of Catholic Charities BE GOLDEN campaign, we are seeking to educate parishioners about the plight of migrants and to encourage advocacy on their behalf.

As you know, there has been discussion of “zeroing out” refugee resettlement programs in the United States, which would end the good work that our country has done in welcoming and settling people who are fleeing violence and persecution. In addition, there is a great deal of misunderstanding about immigration and border security. While we continue to advocate and pray for comprehensive immigration reform, we must call our elected officials to live up to the ideals of this nation in welcoming and treating humanely those vulnerable persons fleeing violence, persecution, and economic instability in their counties of origin.

To this end, Catholic Charities of Lexington, Louisville, and Owensboro have prepared materials for you to share with parishioners. These include, 1) a flyer to be distributed to parishioners that includes factual information addressing myths about immigration, refugees, deportation, and border security and 2) a postcard calling upon our elected officials to reflect our values and treat immigrants with dignity and respect. Also provided with this email is a suggested bulletin blurb.

Parishes that wish to participate should make postcard pages available to parishioners for signature during the month of September, completing the collection on the observance of the World Day for Refugees and Migrants, Sunday, September 29. Parishes should then collect the signed cards and return them to Catholic Charities of Louisville in the following week. Bishop Stowe of Lexington, Bishop Medley of Owensboro, and/or representatives from the Catholic Charities agencies statewide will deliver the postcards to the local offices of Senator McConnell, Senator Paul, each of the U.S. Representative in Kentucky, and Governor Bevin in early October. For questions, please be in touch with Deacon Lucio Caruso, Director of Mission at Catholic Charities of Louisville.

Pope Francis reminds us to view migrants not as numbers or problems but as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories as we try to respond as best we can to their situations. Thank you for your efforts to help us share our Gospel values and begin to transform our national dialogue about these issues. You are in my prayers.

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville