



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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January 14, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,


During the second week of January each year, the Church in the United States observes National Migration Week. This year's theme, "*Many Journeys, One Family*," highlights the fact that many are on journeys in our world today, as more than 65 million people around the world have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to political instability, violence and other reasons. Of that number, 22 million persons are refugees, displaced to another country. Additionally, an estimated 17,000 people have been trafficked against their will into the United States in forced labor or prostitution.

Our observance of National Migration Week provides us with the opportunity to learn more about the universal teaching of our Church on immigration and how it may be applied and lived. Visit <http://dioceseofraleigh.org/offices/social-concerns/immigration> for more information on the teaching of the Church on these fundamental matters of the dignity of human life.

Locally and through Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Raleigh, we assist in the work of witnessing to this dignity through our work with immigrants in the completion and submission of legal documents from application to naturalization, as well as with the integration of immigrant families and victims of human trafficking into our communities. I invite you to join me and my brother Bishops as we work together to advocate for legislation which will provide just and humane solutions to a broken immigration system that often separates families and denies due process.

May our Lord Jesus continue to bless your family in this New Year and may Mary, our Mother, intercede for us to help us grow in love and greater communion with each other as we share the bond of faith as one family in Christ.

In Christ,



† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.
Bishop of Raleigh