Congregational Commitment on Immigration

July 25, 2017

Continuing our tradition of solidarity with immigrants, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange echo the gospel values in which Jesus taught that "as far as you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). Dignity of the person, mutuality and justice are core to our Christian beliefs. In our present situation regarding the crisis on immigration, we are disheartened by the deterioration and lack of centrality of these gospel values. As a Eucharistic Congregation we seek to unite all people with God and with one another, and we embrace the call of Pope Francis to welcome, protect, promote and integrate those who have been displaced by migration. We make a firm commitment and pledge ourselves to seek to remedy the ills within our neighborhood, both locally and globally.

Supported by our rich spiritual heritage, we are called to respond to the signs of the times with bold faith, foresight and flexibility. This call challenges us to respond in an extraordinary way from our hearts and our resources.

- Called to boldly step forward as risk-takers going beyond our normal boundaries and, as our early sisters did, we divide the city, seek out the needs, create new partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships to address these needs for all people, without distinction.

- Called to solidarity, to stand with the immigrant, we attend to their hopes and dreams, their sufferings and basic needs, their right to dignity, and their desire to contribute to the social fabric of all communities. We recognize their richness, that complements our poverty and opens us to God’s diverse abundance.

- Called to engage in partnerships where our mutual gifts can multiply, we join with the broader local and global communities of people of good will who stand with the immigrant. In so doing, we further the ideals of justice, civility and solidarity with the immigrant.

- Called to a stance of hospitality with immigrants, for which the mutuality of giving and receiving is at the forefront, we act out of our belief that a culture of encounter with the other leads to the transformation of hearts and minds from separateness to unity.

Supported by our lives consecrated to God through the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, we commit ourselves to the sacred promise of inclusivity, so "that all may be one" (John 17:21). Our communal response is grounded in the prayers and actions of every member of the Congregation. We seek to continue our tradition of loving our neighbors, standing with the immigrant and fostering systemic change in order to transform and bring all to wholeness.