Sisters Stand Against New Rule that Punishes Our Vulnerable Immigrant Families

We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, again denounce the Trump administration’s policies that continue to generate distress and anguish among our immigrant communities. In this case, it is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s proposed changes to the public charge regulation. No one should be forced to “choose between accessing medicine, housing, and food for their children and risking their eligibility for possible legal permanent residency.”1

Implementing this new rule will escalate difficulties to obtain lawful status and discourage immigrants from accessing benefits for which their children qualify. The continued attempts to target our immigrant community through appalling tactics, divisive methods and unjust policies threatens the values for which our nation stands.

Our immigrant community pays taxes.2 It accounts for about 13.5% of the U.S. population. Yet, in the past 10 years, it has “been responsible for half of the total U.S. labor force growth.”3 Our immigrant community is integral to our nation’s economy. Their primary goals are to work and be reunited with their families.4

We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, are “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.”5

We stand with the Leadership Conference for Women Religious and U.S. Federation of Sisters of St Joseph in calling upon all people to make their voices heard in support for protection of our vulnerable immigrant community. Make your voices heard now and when the Open Comment period about the proposed changes is available.

As sisters, “we recognize the richness of every immigrant, which complements our poverty and opens us to God’s diverse abundance.”6

1 Leadership of Women Religious Statement
2 PBS.org
3 BushCenter.org
4 Teaching Tolerance
5, 6 Congregation Commitment on Immigration Statement

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