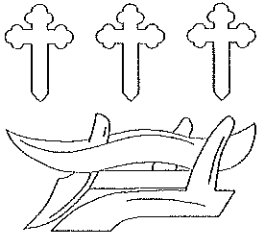


Archdiocese of Cincinnati



**STATEMENT OF THE MOST REVEREND DENNIS M. SCHNURR
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF CINCINNATI**

Office of
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I am pleased to join with the other faith leaders within the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati to publicly announce our shared principles to guide Ohio's conversation on immigration.

In a statement that I made for Catholics in the Archdiocese last summer on this topic, I affirmed the indispensable rule of law. Justice, order, and the common good for all of us can only be made possible through laws and our expectation to obey them. At the same time, I reiterated the Catholic Church's insistence on reforming the federal laws that regulate migration in our country.

As a result of Congress' failure to fix the system, our Catholic parishes, schools, hospitals and social service agencies are witnessing devastating consequences. We have dealt with undocumented parents who, after being cited by some local officers for minor infractions of the law, have been torn from their families and deported to countries where their children cannot follow. Just recently, one of our priests reported to us that an immigrant mother, who was overdue on paying a traffic ticket, was turned over to immigration authorities and detained for a couple of days, during which time a baby she was nursing tragically ended up in the emergency room. All too regularly, we learn of immigrants being taken advantage of by unscrupulous employers, who exploit immigrants' fear of deportation to deny them of their wages or fire them once injured on the job. Our agencies have also received calls from victims of heinous crimes, including battered women, who refrain from reporting abuses to local law enforcement for fear of being permanently separated from their families. Regardless of whether or not these human beings carry the right documents, we all deserve to look to law enforcement agencies for protection and safety without this kind of dread.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to applaud all our brave, local law enforcement officers who proactively work to build bridges of trust in our immigrant communities. They are the ones on the front lines, who choose, not to instill fear, but to forge positive relationships with immigrants and win their cooperation to solve real crimes. Their valiant efforts exemplify how state and local public servants can best keep all of us safer, as we all continue to wait for comprehensive federal immigration reform.

Thank you.