



11 February 2025
Our Lady of Lourdes

Most Holy Father,

On behalf of the bishops in the United States, I have the honor to acknowledge your [February 11th](#) letter and express deep gratitude for your prayerful support. As successor to Saint Peter, you call not only every Catholic, but every Christian to what unites us in faith – offering the hope of Jesus Christ to every person, citizen and immigrant alike. In these times of fear and confusion, we must be ready to answer our Savior’s question, “what have you done for the least of these?”

We all turn to the Lord in prayer that families suffering from the sudden withdrawal of aid may find the strength to endure. With you, we pray that the U.S. government keep its prior commitments to help those in desperate need. We also turn to the People of God to ask their mercy and generosity in supporting the Catholic Relief Services national collection this Lent as well as the “on the ground” work of local Catholic Charities organizations so that the void might be filled with the efforts of all.

As we struggle to continue our care for the needy in our midst and the desire to improve the situation in those places from which immigrants come to our shores, we are ever mindful that in them we see the Face of Christ. In this Jubilee Year, may we build bridges of reconciliation, inclusion, and fraternity. Boldly I ask for your continued prayers so that we may find the courage as a nation to build a more humane system of immigration, one that protects our communities while safeguarding the dignity of all.

Renewing the expression of the profound gratitude of the Episcopal College in the United States, I willingly avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Holiness sentiments of deep gratitude and remain

Sincerely in Christ,

President

The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D.
Archbishop for the Military Services



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Office of the
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy P. Broglio".

(The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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Dear Brothers,

Earlier today, His Holiness Pope Francis published the attached letter to the bishops of the United States. I believe that we are all grateful to the Holy Father for his closeness and solidarity with the Church in the United States “in these delicate moments.” On behalf of all of us, I have sent a letter to the Holy Father expressing our gratitude, which is also attached to this letter.

Following up on the Holy Father’s letter, and the exemplary work each of you are doing individually, I wish to share with you how the USCCB and the ministries of the Catholic Church are responding to the challenges before us. Many bishops throughout the United States have published letters and spoken publicly expressing the Catholic Church’s solidarity with migrants and refugees, advocated with elected officials, and prayed for a conversion of heart in those who are indifferent to those in need.

Pope Francis begins his letter by reaffirming “not only our faith in a God who is always close, incarnate, migrant, and refugee, but also the infinite and transcendent dignity of every human person” and recalling the teaching of Pope Pius XII on the exile of the Holy Family. The situation of refugees in this country and abroad is particularly worrisome.

The USCCB is the largest refugee resettlement organization in the United States, operating at a loss even with the extensive support of taxpayer funds. In his February 7, 2025, memo, Father Fuller detailed how the USCCB received a “stop work order” and has not received reimbursement for outstanding invoices related to the programs we administer. This includes reimbursements for activities occurring before the inauguration into the last calendar year – work that the federal Government asked the Conference to do on its behalf. Normal means have been sought to resolve the matter but have not been successful. We are considering all our options and will keep

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you updated on developments pertaining to this matter.

The Administration also issued immediate stop work orders on almost all foreign aid, as they review the State Department and USAID programs. New administrations usually review ongoing programs in light of their policy goals. However, ceasing almost all lifesaving humanitarian and development assistance during that time is having a direct impact on the lives and dignity of millions of people. It will also have a large impact on U.S. national interests.

The USCCB supports the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to partner with people to help them build better futures, providing the resources and tools they need to overcome challenges and thrive. CRS provides life-saving relief in times of crisis, helps people become self-reliant and live with dignity. As Pope Francis says in his letter, “The true *ordo amoris* that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the ‘Good Samaritan’ (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37), that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception.” The USCCB has an action alert calling on Congress to engage with the Administration to continue allowing foreign assistance programs to operate during the review process. Please share this Action Alert widely:

<https://www.voterveice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/121405/Respond>

Pope Francis also expresses his concern regarding “the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations.” For more than two decades, the USCCB has acknowledged a nation’s right to secure borders, has advocated for legitimate and just reform of immigration laws, and has spearheaded the [Justice for Immigrants](#) campaign. This campaign is a coalition of more than two dozen national Catholic organizations that work together to educate the public on Church teaching on migration and advocate for dignified and fair reforms in immigration and refugee laws that reflect the principles of the U.S. bishops and as expressed by the Holy Father in his letter today. As Pope Francis says in his letter, “With charity and clarity we are all called to live in solidarity and fraternity, to build bridges that bring us ever closer together, to avoid walls of ignominy and to learn to give our lives as Jesus Christ gave his for the salvation of all.”

The season of Lent is approaching. It is a time when most dioceses across the

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country take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection and promote “Rice Bowl”. Funds from this collection support the work of Catholic Relief Services that provides emergency assistance to victims of war and natural disasters. The collection also supports the work of Catholic Charities helping authorized refugees resettle in the United States and who need housing, education, and specialized legal assistance. This collection also supports travelers and others whose livelihoods require special pastoral support to access the sacraments. Among the most vulnerable of migrants are the victims of human trafficking. The CRS Collection helps the Church reveal Christ’s love to people in need around the world and here in the United States. We ask that you consider promoting this collection in your dioceses: <https://www.usccb.org/national-collection/catholic-relief-services-collection>

Lastly, be assured of the support of the USCCB for you and your diocesan staff. Do not hesitate to contact Father Fuller if there is anything he or the staff can do to help your efforts.

With assurances of my continual prayers and respect, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

(The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA
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