



November 20, 2017

Greetings in Christ,

This past summer, the Archdiocese of Seattle, with funding from the USCCB and the Office of Discipleship, launched the *Groundwork for Solidarity on Immigration* project. This project sent field staff throughout Western Washington to listen carefully to Hispanic Catholics as they shared their experiences and needs during the current immigration crisis. The primary goal was to better understand their daily reality in order to tailor our response efforts to concrete needs. With the help of parish staff, small groups of Hispanic Catholics gathered in 12 parishes and programs outside of King County to offer input. We are sincerely grateful for their participation.

We have compiled a concise report that summarizes our findings regarding the stated needs of the Hispanic community during this time. That report can be accessed using the following link:
http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Assets/PastoralCare/12601_GroundworkforSolidarity.pdf

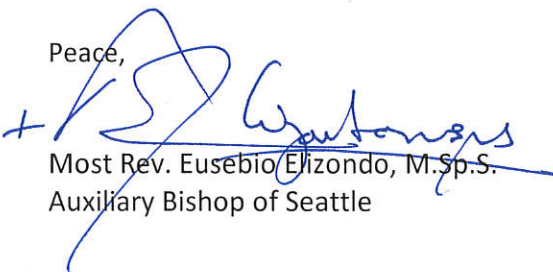
We desire to respond to these needs with our newly formed **Immigrant & Refugee Ministry**, operating under the Office of Discipleship. Some of our response efforts include:

- A comprehensive webpage with legal resources, archdiocesan statements, event information, and other helpful tools: <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/irm>
- Know Your Rights workshops in outlying areas that include mental health care and emergency family planning resources.
- An annual Catholic Immigration Summit in partnership with Seattle University and St. James Cathedral Immigrant Assistance.
- Regional events during National Migration Week that highlight immigrant stories.
- A monthly network meeting for all parish, school, or agency representatives working on immigration-related matters or ministries.
- Participation in a developing task force around addressing racism locally.
- Increased advocacy and awareness-building via our local Share the Journey initiative.
- Continued support for detainees at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma.

If you would like to learn more about these efforts, please contact Joe Cotton, Director of Pastoral Care & Outreach, at (206) 382-4847 or joe.cotton@seattlearch.org.

We are committed to accompanying you during this most difficult time.

Peace,


Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle