



**ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of ORANGE**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

June 22, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you will join me to celebrate the incredible diversity and the self-sacrificing love that characterizes our immigrant communities here in the Diocese of Orange and throughout southern California.

I am honored to join Archbishop Gomez and other Bishops in celebrating the regional Mass in Recognition of All Immigrants this year on Sunday, July 17, for a gathering and procession at 3 p.m. and Mass at 4p.m., at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. I invite each parish, center and religious community to participate by bringing a delegation representing your diverse leadership and a parish banner for the procession. Let us witness to all that the Diocese of Orange is *;Presente!* with our immigrant sisters and brothers. It is important for us to come together in solidarity – with all who make our home together in Orange County: Korean, Filipino, East Asian, Chinese, African, Middle-Eastern, European descent, and the Latino community. This is especially true at a time when there is so much distrust and animosity thus making this witness of Faith even more important and vital. We will be joined this day as well by relics of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Junípero Serra, and St. Toribio Romo – saints who accompanied others, who were immigrants themselves and stood strong in Faith amidst adversity and challenge!

Through our local ministry with immigrants and my role as Chair of the Board of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC), I see daily the need to for protection and support for those most vulnerable, for pathways of hope – including a pathway to citizenship, and for advocacy for just and compassionate immigration reform. Fr. Nicholas Nguyen and I were blessed and privileged to be present at the national meeting of CLINIC this year and met so many people who journey with our immigrant brothers and sisters. Each and every one of us is made in the image of God and so we uphold the dignity of every human person. Our Citizenship Campaign, launched earlier this year, together with Catholic Charities of Orange County, is another important way to accompany our immigrant sisters and brothers on their journey. At parish forums, as we reflect on the scriptures telling of Jesus' own migrant-refugee journey with his family and share our own family immigration stories with one another, the Holy Spirit unites us as a people. If you have not done so already, consider hosting a forum at your parish (or together with a nearby parish). Together we journey, together in faith!

Please forward the name of the parish leader who will carry the banner and other parish representatives who will participate by Tuesday, July 8 to eramirez@rcbo.org or call our Office of Life, Justice and Peace at 714-282-3105.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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Let us remember Pope Francis' words at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, acknowledging the personal costs of the immigrant journey and recognizing the beautiful gifts they bring us: "By contributing your gifts, you will not only find your place here, you will help to renew society from within." This is the history of our families and the Church in the United States over many, many years, which was acknowledged, as well by Pope Benedict XVI in his visit to our country in April, 2008.

May God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, give us the grace to see the gifts that we are given in one another and unite us together as one in Christ Jesus, in the common bond of Faith, mission and family!

Gratefully yours in the Lord,

+Kevin W. Vann

Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann, J.C.D., D.D.
Bishop of Orange

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