



Statement by
Fort Worth Catholic Diocese Bishop Michael F. Olson
on Federal Immigration Action

I welcome the announcement that the federal government will not deport undocumented immigrants and their families who have contributed to the common good by living upright and fruitful lives in the United States of America.

The actions promulgated on Thursday are a first step in establishing much needed and comprehensive reform for our nation's immigration system. By deferring deportation of undocumented immigrants, the United States is taking positive strides towards accomplishing the Church's long-standing call to establish immigration policy in the principle of family reunification that respects the human dignity of the immigrant.

We see in our parishes, and in our ministries provided through Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, the damage that our current broken immigration system wreaks upon immigrants who are seeking to meet basic human needs for themselves and their families who are fleeing violence and persecution, or who are here as the result of the actions of others. I believe that Thursday's announcement brings our country closer towards a just and dignified immigration system.

I hope and pray that all of our national leaders will dedicate themselves in the coming weeks and months to implement a thorough and comprehensive reform of our immigration system in accord with the reasonable procedures of the just rule of law, as established throughout the history of the United States.

As Catholics, we must continue to heed the words of Jesus who tells us in Matthew 25:40, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."