



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Nov. 18, 2025

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

While I have no words to practically address the fear and uncertainty that many are feeling with the increased presence of federal immigration officials in the Charlotte metro area, I want to call upon all Catholics and people of goodwill to give witness to the message of Jesus. Our faith teaches us to come to the aid of the poor, marginalized and most vulnerable. “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35).

In an effort to respond to this call of the Gospel, I offer these simple suggestions:

- Reach out to those living daily with this uncertainty and assure them of our love and care for them.
- Observe this Friday, Nov. 21, as a day of prayer and fasting in solidarity with all migrants around the world.
- Do not vilify federal agents who have been sent to our community.
- Contact your elected representatives in Washington and let them know that comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue, and, given that both political parties have repeatedly called for this, it is their responsibility to get it done for the common good.

To those of you who are afraid to come to church, you are not obligated to attend Mass when you are inhibited from doing so by circumstances beyond your control, as the Church has always taught. I encourage you to take consolation in Jesus’ refrain when the disciples were in the boat being swamped by stormy seas: “Do not be afraid!” (Matthew 14:27). Your brothers and sisters are praying with you, and on your behalf, to God who desires our citizenship together in heaven and longs to see us live in harmony with each other on earth.

As I am currently in Rome, I will be greeting Pope Leo XIV at his Wednesday morning audience in St. Peter’s Square and will ask him to continue to remember in prayer the people of our diocese and all migrants, especially during this challenging time. Please be assured that we will get through this together, if we focus our attention on the only One, Jesus Christ, who can save us all.

Peace,

+ Most Rev. Michael T. Martin
Bishop of Charlotte