



June 16, 2026

Dear Fathers:

In observance of the United States' 250th anniversary, the U.S. Bishops have produced a special prayer service with a focus on the gift of immigrants to our nation. On Thursday, July 2, at 7:00pm I'll be presiding at a bilingual service at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral for all the faithful in our diocese. Simultaneously, Fr. Liam Reilly will be presiding at the national service at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Elko. I invite you to advertise these services, consider participating in whichever is closer to you and invite your parishioners to do so also. Alternatively, you may wish to hold a service in your own parish using this resource. (Fr. Thomas Babu is planning to do so at St. Teresa's on July 17.)

Included with my letter is the "National Prayer Service Honoring the Many Journeys that Shaped America." It is attached in English and Spanish. Take some time to review it and consider what will best serve your community. If you are holding the service in your parish, please share with your parishioners that we are doing so in other parishes in the diocese so all can see it is an effort across the diocese, in union with dioceses across the country. Perhaps you could include in the service the prayer of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that we have been praying at mass.

The Bishops' document notes that "the purpose of this prayer service is to acknowledge and honor the many diverse communities that have journeyed to the United States in search of hope, safety, and opportunity, while also recognizing the voices, sufferings, and enduring contributions of those who were forcibly brought to this land. This resource offers a template for a prayer service for immigrants that may be celebrated at a variety of sites or points of entry throughout the country."

As the significant anniversary of U.S. independence approaches, we stand in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters. Consistent with our Catholic social ethics, we support respect for the dignity of every human being. This service is a way to pray for that and to proclaim that good news throughout our diocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Mueggenborg".

Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg

Bishop of Reno