



September 5, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Jesus welcomes children saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these' (Mt 19:14). Followers of Jesus are called to imitate his kindness and compassion and welcome children and the vulnerable members of society. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has protected nearly 800,000 young people since its inception in 2012 by allowing them to study and work in the United States without fear of deportation. Today's decision ignores the reality that many of these young people are making positive contributions to our communities. They should continue to enjoy the protections that are now scheduled to end in six months. I strongly urge Congress to immediately begin working toward a legislative solution to this issue and to work toward comprehensive, fair immigration reform, which is sorely needed in this country.

I support the U.S. bishops' statement which notes: "These youth entered the U.S. as minors and often know America as their only home. The Catholic Church has long watched with pride and admiration as DACA youth live out their daily lives with hope and a determination to flourish and contribute to society; continuing to work and provide for their families, continuing to serve in the military, and continuing to receive an education. Now, after months of anxiety and fear about their futures, these brave young people face deportation. This decision is unacceptable and does not reflect who we are as Americans."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Edward C. Malesic*

The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL  
Bishop of Greensburg