



April 3, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We remain steadfast in our commitment to our immigrant brothers and sisters who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. As Christians, we do not separate our love for God from our love of neighbor, regardless of their immigration status: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35).

The detention of 37 people in a recent raid of the Mt. Baker Roofing Company in Bellingham by federal authorities is deeply troubling. We have great pastoral concern not only for these individuals, but also for their families and the larger community. Our local parishes share that some of those arrested were faithful Catholics, even attending daily Mass. While we are close to all people in need, as pastors we are especially close to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

The unfortunate result of mass deportations is that they often force separation of families, which should be problematic for all people of good will.

Regardless of immigration status, all people have an inherent human dignity and a natural right to due process. Their families and advocates deserve open information about where their loved ones are and what their legal status is at any given moment. We encourage our legal professionals to continue to work toward this end.

While we understand the need to enforce existing laws, our pastoral hope is that it would be carried out with greater nuance and sensitivity. There must be a way forward that respects families and basic human dignity. We ask our legislators to work together to find that balance in revising immigration policy.

As Catholic bishops of the Archdiocese of Seattle, we seek to bring hope and encouragement to our immigrant sisters and brothers. In these uncertain times, as people of faith, we turn to God in prayer:

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the gift of families.

*We are grateful for all of the joy and love that they bring into our lives,
and we ask that you provide special protection for all families, particularly those who
face hardships as they move in search of a better life.*

Show mercy to those who travel in danger and lead them to a place of safety and peace.

*Comfort those who are alone and afraid because their families have been torn apart by
violence and injustice.*

As we reflect upon the difficult journey that the Holy Family faced as refugees in Egypt, help us to remember the suffering of all migrant families.

Through the intercession of Mary our Mother, and St. Joseph the Worker, her spouse, we pray that all migrants may be reunited with their loved ones and find the meaningful work they seek.

Open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality for all who come in search of refuge.

Give us the courage to welcome every stranger as Christ in our midst.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

[USCCB prayer for Prayer for Migrant Families](#)

Sincerely in Christ and Our Lady of Guadalupe,



Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne
Archbishop of Seattle



Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle



Most Rev. Frank Schuster
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle