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**A message from the Most Reverend Bishop Nelson Perez, Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, to the faithful regarding immigration reform**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

There has been a great deal of news in recent weeks about issues involving the system of immigration in our country. Many have seen troubling pictures of immigrant children, held in detention centers, being separated from their families.

People of various faith traditions have long advocated for comprehensive, just and compassionate reform of our immigration system which would make it possible for persons to apply for legal status in our country, entering with proper documentation so that they can live, work and care for their families.

I ask that we look upon the crisis of immigration in our country as something that affects all of us and that we challenge ourselves to reject any indifference towards so many of our brothers and sisters who only seek a better life.

Your prayers are needed for the men, women and children who seek a place in the land of the free; and for our legislative leaders, that they work together to find meaningful solutions to this humanitarian crisis which challenges our country. As part of this call to prayer, a special Mass for immigrant families and the reform of our immigration system will be held on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Chapel, 4301 Pearl Avenue, in Lorain, Ohio. All are welcome.

May God give us the grace to renew our care and concern for one another, especially to those seeking a better life through immigration, remembering that we are all one family made in God's image.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez, D.D.  
Bishop of Cleveland