



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

### Immigration Action Alert

“Migrants trust that they will encounter acceptance, solidarity, and help, that they will meet people who will sympathize with the distress and tragedy experienced by others, recognize the values and resources the latter have to offer, and are open to sharing humanly and materially with the needy and disadvantaged.” -- Pope Francis, Message for the 2013 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, October 12, 2012

There are 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States seeking a safe place to work and raise their families. They depend on advocates to assist and support them.

Recently, “a federal District Court judge in Texas issued a ruling that partially ends DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). While preserving DACA for those already enrolled and allowing current recipients to renew, the ruling ends processing of 81,000 DACA applications now in the pipeline and prohibits new applications. The judge claimed that the Obama administration overstepped its authority when it created DACA in 2012.” (Sisters of Mercy Justice Team, 7/21/21)

#### A Little background on DACA

The purpose of DACA is to protect eligible immigrant youth who came to the United States when they were children from deportation. To be **eligible for DACA**, applicants must meet several eligibility requirements including have entered the United States before their 16th birthday; be currently in school, a high school graduate or be honorably discharged from the military; be under 31 years of age; and not have been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or otherwise pose a threat to national security. (Department of Homeland Security)

“These are young people who are American in every way, except on paper. They have grown up in this country and consider themselves to be American but lack the documents to fully participate in the country they call home.... DACA allowed nearly 800,000 young undocumented people to come out of the shadows, work legally, and live without fear of deportation. It helped drive economic growth, kept families together, promoted education and community integration, strengthened civic ties, and helped Dreamers to flourish.” (America’s Voice, June 23, 2021) **However, it did not provide a path to citizenship.**

The Texas ruling “clearly demonstrates the need for the kind of permanent protection that legislation can provide. Until such legislation is enacted, DACA recipients are at the mercy of the courts and live in fear that their status could be overturned at any time, leading to deportation and family breakup.... This reality only exacerbates the stress and anxiety under which undocumented immigrants are already living.

The next few weeks will be crucial. Congress has an opportunity to ensure pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants via the reconciliation process before the August recess. This means that the bill can pass with a simple majority....” (Sisters of Mercy Justice Team, 7/21/21) [Demand pathway to citizenship](#)

“It is time to recognize migrants not as interlopers and intruders, but as people who reveal the face of Christ in their love and courage and who enrich us by their presence” (Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, Catholic News Service/United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, June 2, 2021).