

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23  8 am Mass 10 am Mass 12:30 pm Spanish Mass Faith Formation 11-12:15pm Youth Ministry 2-3:30pm in P.C. & R#14	24  All Parish Offices Closed	25  6 pm Confession & Adoration 7 pm Mass	26  12 pm Mass OCIA Sessions 7pm, R# 1,4,5,7 & 8 Cantor Rehearsal 7pm	27  No Mass All Parish Offices Closed	28  No Mass All Parish Offices Closed	01* First Saturday 7 am Mass 2:30 pm Confession 4 pm Mass 5 pm-12 am Adoration Spanish Marriage Team Reflection Day 9am-5pm R# 6 Alvernia J. Mtg.P.C.10am-1pm F. F. Confirmation Sessions 10–11:15am /Pre-Comm.-1st. Comm. Sessions 12–1:30pm
02*  8 am Mass Kof C 10 am Mass 12:30 pm Spanish Mass Emaus M. 10am–12pm P.C. Faith Formation 11-12:15pm Columbiette Quarter Auction 1:30-4:30pm P.C.	03  All Parish Offices Closed Spanish Bible Reflection 7pm R#5 Confirmation II Parents' Mtg. 7pm Eng: R#1 Spn: Church	04  No Mass No Confessions or Adoration	05  Ash Wednesday 7 am Mass 12 pm Mass Bilingual Mass 7pm No OCIA Sessions	06  12 pm Mass K of C Mtg. 6-9pm R#3 & 4	07  12 pm Mass Cursillo Mtg. R#7 Spanish Marriage Course 7pm R#5,6 & P.C. K of C Fish Fry Lenten Dinner 5-6:30pm Stations of the Cross 7pm	08  2:30 pm Confession 4 pm Mass F. F. Confirmation Sessions 10–11:15am. Pre-Comm.-1st. Comm. Sessions 12–1:30pm Alvernia J. Mtg. 10am–1pm
09  8 am Mass 10 am Mass 12:30 pm Spanish Mass Homily Discussion Group 9am R#1 Emaus H. 10-12pm P.C. Faith Formation 11-12:15pm Youth Ministry 2-3:30pm in	10  All Parish Offices Closed Eng. Baptismal Session 7pm, R#5 Spanish Bible Reflection 7pm R#1	11  6 pm Confession & Adoration 7 pm Mass	12  12 pm Mass OCIA Sessions 7pm, R# 1,4,5,7 & 8 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Rosary of Our Lady of Guadalupe 8pm	13  12 pm Mass Columbiette Mtg. R# 3 & 4, 6:30pm	14  12 pm Mass Cursillo Mtg. R#7 Spanish Marriage Course 7pm R#5,6 & P.C. Filipino Lenten Dinner 5-6:30pm Stations of the Cross 7pm	15*  2:30 pm Confession 4 pm Mass F. F. Confirmation Sessions 10–11:15am. Pre-Comm.-1st. Comm. Sessions 12–1:30pm Alvernia J. Mtg. 10am–1pm 10am-1pm Alvernia M. Mtg. 10am-2pm
16*  8 am Mass 10 am Mass 12:30 pm Spanish Mass F.F. Sessions 11-12:15pm Emaus M. 10am–12pm P.C. Youth Ministry 2-3:30pm in P.C. & R#14	17  All Parish Offices Closed Spanish Bible Reflection 7pm R#1	18  6 pm Confession & Adoration 7 pm Mass	19  12 pm Mass OCIA Sessions 7pm, R# 4,5,7 & 8 Cantor Rehearsal 7pm	20  12 pm Mass K of C Mtg. 6-9pm R#3 & 4 Spanish Baptismal Session 7pm, R# 8	21  12 pm Mass Cursillo Mtg. R#7 Spanish Marriage Course 7pm R#5,6 & P.C. Columbiette Lenten Dinner 5-6:30pm Stations of the Cross 7pm	22  2:30 pm Confession 4 pm Mass F. F. Confirmation Sessions 10–11:15am /Pre-Comm. & 1st. Comm. Sessions 12–1:30pm Alvernia J. Mtg. 10am-2pm P.C.
23  8 am Mass 10 am Mass 12:30 pm Spanish Mass Emaus H. 10-12pm P.C. Faith Formation 11-12:15pm	24  All Parish Offices Closed Spanish Bible Reflection 7pm R#1	25  6 pm Confession & Adoration 7 pm Mass	26  12 pm Mass Fr. Romen's Potluck Lunch after Noon Mass Finance Council Mtg. R#1, 6pm Pastoral Council Mtg. R# 1, 7pm OCIA Sessions 7pm R# 1,4,5,7 & 8 Bilingual Choir Rehearsal 7pm	27  No Mass May God Bless You Always! Happy Birthday Fr.Romen!	28  No Mass Cursillo Mtg. R#7 Spanish Marriage Course 7pm R#5,6 & P.C. Stations of the Cross 7pm	29  2:30 pm Confession 4 pm Mass F. F. Confirmation Sessions 10–11:15am /Pre-Comm. & 1st. Comm. Sessions 12–1:30pm Alvernia M. Mtg. 10am-2pm P.C. /Alvernia J. Mtg. 10am-1pm P.C. /Good Shepard Lvl.1 3-9pm R#1-2 Children's Atrium
30  8am Mass 10 am Mass 12:30 pm Spanish Mass K of C Pancake Breakfast after 8 & 10 am Mass Emaus M. 10am–12pm P.C. Faith Formation 11-12:15pm Youth Ministry 2-3:30pm in P.C. & R#14	31  All Parish Offices Closed Spanish Bible Reflection 7pm R#1	01  Penance Service 7pm May God Bless You Always! Happy Birthday Sister Angie!	02  12 pm Mass OCIA Sessions 7pm, R# 1,4,5,7 & 8 Bilingual Choir Rehearsal 7pm	03  12 pm Mass K of C Mtg. 6-9pm R#3 & 4	04  12 pm Mass Chile Relleno Lenten Dinner 5-6:30pm Spanish Marriage Course 7pm R#5,6 & P.C. Stations of the Cross 7pm	05 First Saturday 7 am Mass 2:30 pm Confession 5 pm Mass 6 pm-12 am Adoration F. F. Confirmation Sessions 10–11:15am Pre-Comm. & 1st. Comm. Sessions 12–1:30pm Alvernia M. Mtg. 10am-2pm P.C. /Alvernia J. 10am-1pm P.C.

\* Knights of Columbus Raffle Ticket Sale



3250 DICKINSON AVENUE • GREENVILLE, NC 27834

Phone/Teléfono: 252-758-1504 • Fax:252-355-6128 • Website: <https://www.stgabrielgv.info/>

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday/Domingo...8:00 a.m. English, 9:00 a.m. Rosary, 10:00 a.m. in English & 12:30 p.m. en Español  
Tuesday/Martes.....6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Adoration Benediction/Adoración y Bendición 7:00 p.m. Mass/Misa

Wednesday/Miércoles.....12:00 p.m.  
Thursday/Jueves.....12:00 p.m.  
Friday/Viernes.....12:00 p.m.  
Saturday/Sábado.....4:00 p.m. in English

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday: 2:30 p.m.  
Tuesday: 5:45 p.m.

By appointment with the pastor

PARISH STAFF

Pastor .....Fr. Romen Acero  
Director of Religious Education/ Directora de Educacion Religiosa  
Director of Hispanic Ministries/Directora de Ministerios Hispanos....  
Sr./Hna. Maria Sanchez, HSMG

Parish Secretary/Secretaria de la Parroquia .....Mia RomeroWashington  
Bookkeeper/Contador.....Fatima Zambrano  
Music Director/Organista.....Karen Rainey  
Administrative Asst./Asst. Administrativa.....Carolina Rubio Hernandez

STAFF EMAIL

Fr. Romen Acero.....Fr.Acero@raldioc.org  
Karen Rainey.....k.rainey@stgabrielgv.info  
Sr. Angie Sanchez.....a.sanchez@stgabrielgv.info  
Mia Romero Washington.....m.romero@stgabrielgv.info  
Fatima Zambrano.....f.zambrano@stgabrielgv.info  
Carolina Rubio Hernandez.....c.rubiohdz@stgabrielgv.info

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS/HORAS DE OFICINA

Tuesday–Thursday/Martes a Jueves .....10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.  
Friday/Viernes.....10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you are new to our parish, you are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration in a parish is the norm and is required for registration in religious education, for sacramental preparation, and for sponsorship certificates. Registration forms are available in the parish office, or the ministry table in the Atrium.

**BAPTISM:** The celebration of Baptism is a moment of grace for those to be Baptized, for their families, as well as for the entire parish community. Please contact Sister Angie to register for preparation classes.

**FAITH FORMATION:** All children not attending Catholic school should be enrolled in our Faith Formation Program. For more information, please contact Sister Angie.

**R.C.I.A.:** Adults who would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith or wish to become Catholic should consider enrolling in R.C.I.A. classes. Interested persons should contact Sister Angie.

**CONFIRMATION:** Young adults may be confirmed after a preparation period starting in 10th grade and successful completion of requirements. For more information, please contact Sister Angie.

**MARRIAGE:** Couples planning to be married must see a priest at least six months prior to the planned marriage. Pre-marriage instruction is required. Please do not set a date in advance until you have spoken to the pastor.

**ANOINTING THE SICK:** Please call the parish office if you or a member of your family needs the Sacrament of Anointing.

**HOMEBOUND/SHUT-INS:** If there is anyone who cannot come to Mass because of illness or age, we ask you to please call the parish office.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are grateful for the growth that our community is experiencing now. Day by day we have more people coming to our weekend celebrations. In order to provide more opportunities to worship for our Hispanic folks, and because we cannot have more Sunday Eucharistic celebrations in our schedule, our Vigil Mass will be Bilingual, beginning on the Second Sunday of Easter, Saturday, April 26th, 2025. I will use Spanish to summarize the homily, and some parts of the Eucharistic Prayer may be also said in this language. The hymns will be all in English, making few exceptions during the year, when possible, for our Music Director and our cantors. May this opportunity strengthen our hospitality and communion among the diverse groups that are part of our beautiful community.

-Fr. Romen

Estamos muy agradecidos con el crecimiento que nuestra comunidad experimenta ahora. Día a día, tenemos más personas asistiendo a nuestras celebraciones de los fines de semana. Con el fin de proveer más oportunidades de asistencia para nuestros parroquianos hispanos, y teniendo en cuenta que no se pueden tener más Misas en nuestro calendario, nuestra Misa de la Vigilia Dominical será bilingüe, comenzando el Segundo Domingo de Pascua, Sábado 26 de Abril de 2025. Se usará español sólo para hacer un resumen de la homilía y en algunas partes de la Plegaria Eucarística. Los himnos serán en inglés y de vez en cuando habrá alguno en español, cuando sea posible. Espero que esta oportunidad refuerce nuestra hospitalidad y la comunión entre los diferentes grupos que son parte de nuestra hermosa comunidad.0

-Fr. Romen

[Ash Wednesday Mass : March 5](#)

[English 7:00AM, 12:00PM](#)    [Bilingual 7:00PM](#)

[Penance Service: April 1st- 7:00PM](#)

**Bilingual Choir:** The Bilingual Choir will rehearse on Wednesday, March 26 and April 02, at 7:00 PM. The Choir will sing for Holy Week. Anyone who would like to sing for this Mass should attend the rehearsal. All are welcome!

**Parish Council:** Saint Gabriel Church is considering the construction of a columbarium. Parishioners who are interested in the possible project please contact any member of parish council for developing details.

**Knights of Columbus:** During Lent, The Knights of Columbus will be collecting canned food and non perishable items. These items can be placed in the collection bin located in the atrium of the church. All goods are delivered to Catholic Charities/food bank.

**Sanctuary Lamp:** The Sanctuary Lamp burns the week of March 2nd, in memory of Frank Mirella. The Sanctuary Lamp burns the week of March 9th, in honor of Juliette Arianna Flores. The Sanctuary Lamp burns the week of March 16th, in honor of Bryric Sinclair Savage. The Sanctuary Lamp burns the week of February 23rd, in honor of Father Romen's birthday. The Sanctuary Lamp burns the week of March 30th, in honor of Romina Elizabeth Rubio.

**St. Gabriel OCIA:** Are you Interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith? Are you curious about what's involved in becoming a Catholic? Becoming Catholic is an amazing, life-changing journey. OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a beautiful, spiritual process where adults are invited to learn about our faith. More than a series of educational classes, it moves through a process of deep discernment and formation. Adults have the opportunity to learn what the Church believes and teaches, reflect on scripture, and deepen one's prayer life as you discern if the Catholic way of life is right for you. You are invited to "come and see." (John 1:39) The next session will begin in early June. For more information, please contact Sr. Angie at [a.sanchez@stgabrielgv.info](mailto:a.sanchez@stgabrielgv.info) or by calling St. Gabriel parish office at 252-758-1504

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep those who are ill in your prayers, especially;

Virginia & Anna Newby, Maureen Quinn, Angel & Yareli, Ivory Jackson, Jim & Miriam Benn, Joan Ferguson, Fr. Gaston Nsongolo, Mario Efrain Trejo, Dick Rankin, Ella Marcotte, Kathy May, Mechthild Schroeter, Joseph & Mary Laptewicz, James Watson, Cindy Mirella, Leann Seelman, Joel, Kaydee, Charity Hemingway, Carol Kulikowski, Tom Glennon, Carmelina Hair, Tom Christopher, Gabriella Elizabeth Byrum, Enzo Riggo, Diane Hoehn, Peter Shipe, Dennis Dreblow, John & Kay Andrason, Stephanie Tetterton, Linda Cox, Paola Ugo Dragoni, Betty Brooks, Jeffrey Parker, Luca Touhill, Jessica Cannon, P.J. Lewis, Rosa Sicilia, Jennifer Alexander, Brooke Blake, Lloyd May, Jack Whiteley, Lucy Palmer, Helen Catigan, Phyllis Pope, Gary Taylor, Donna Harris, Charles Gorham, Jeffrey Parker, Lucas Keller, Charlene Woodring, Tim Neal, Ginny West, Brenda Luther, Michelle Mack, Gail Allen, Joan Harris, Montie & Paula Pakowski, Richard Ipri, Dorie Tulis, David Williams, Ellie Sullivan, Wardle Family, Pat Adams, Eva Owens, Glenda Wagner, Linda K. Thompson, & Hudson Rogers

The Fourth Annual John Paul II Catholic High School



Thursday, March 13, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. | Greenville Country Club

Sponsorships, Team, or Individual Spaces Available. If interested Click the QR Code Funds Raised Support JP II Athletic Programs Or Contact Charlie Harvey [charlie@jp2highschool.com](mailto:charlie@jp2highschool.com) 252-347-4046



# LENT STARTS MARCH 5

SIGN UP AT [GREENERLENT.ORG](http://GREENERLENT.ORG) FOR A MEANINGFUL LENTEN EXPERIENCE FOCUSED ON COMPASSION FOR OUR WORLD.

GreenerLent

*'Laudato Si' Encyclical  
in a Year'*

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month starting May 21  
by Zoom 7-8pm ET.

Each session is a stand alone topic.

Get the topic list or register by emailing:  
[socialconcern@hnojnc.org](mailto:socialconcern@hnojnc.org)



From NC Catholics Caring for our Common Home  
and HNOJ Laudato Si' Circle

## Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Garden at John Paul II Catholic High School

### A Lasting Legacy: Honoring Loved Ones

Welcome to *Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Garden at JP II*, a garden inviting the Catholic community to encounter Jesus Christ through the prayer and meditation of the most Holy Rosary.

Opportunities are available to sponsor garden features for the rosary garden.



### Join Us in Building

For more information about the Rosary garden or how you can honor or memorialize a loved one, make a contribution or donation to the Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Garden, contact:

JP II Director of Spiritual Life Sylvia Tulis at [stulis@jp2highschool.com](mailto:stulis@jp2highschool.com), JP II Director of Development Charlie Harvey at [charlie@jp2highschool.com](mailto:charlie@jp2highschool.com) or Julie Morrow at [juliem72@yahoo.com](mailto:juliem72@yahoo.com)

Scan the QR code or click below for more details or to make a donation.

<https://www.jp2highschool.com/rosary-garden/>

You may also send a check

Rosary Garden  
% JP II Catholic HS  
2725 E. 14th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858



March 19th:

Solemnity of Saint Joseph  
Saint Joseph pray for us!

## Bulletin Submission Schedule

April 3/18/25  
May 4/11/25  
June & Jul 5/20/25

Email:  
[c.rubiohdz@stgabrielgv.info](mailto:c.rubiohdz@stgabrielgv.info)



# Stations of the Cross

Journey together in the footsteps of Christ as we reflect on His passion with prayers and meditation.

St. Gabriel Catholic Church  
Friday's March 7-April 11th  
7:00 PM

## ST. GABRIEL'S LENTEN DINNERS

Join us for delicious food, wonderful conversations connecting as a community and reflecting on the meaning of the season.

5:00-6:30 PM  
St. Gabriel's Atrium

March 7th, 14th, 21st  
April 4th

Menus will vary each week with the tradition of abstaining from meat.

# Happy Birthday

## Father Romen

Join us as we celebrate Fr. Romen and come together in gratitude for his guidance, wisdom, and kindness. Let's make it special, we invite everyone to bring a dish to share for a birthday lunch potluck!

**When: March 26th**  
**Time: After Noon Mass**  
**Where: St. Gabriel Atrium**

*\*Sign Up In The Atrium March 8 & 9*

# BAA

## BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

### A Door to the Heart of Christ

We know that Christ is always knocking on the door of our hearts, inviting us to live more fully in His love. The 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal theme—"Open Your Heart, Open a Door"—reminds us that when we open our hearts to Him, we also open doors for others to experience His mercy and grace. Your donations help provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of our diocese, allowing us to reach out to the sick, the elderly, the poor, and the lost. This is our chance to make a lasting impact on the lives of many. Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute to this important cause. Together, let us open our hearts and open doors to a future filled with hope and love.

Please visit [givetobaa.org](http://givetobaa.org) and help us open doors.

March 01, 2025 - March 30, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

3/01-7:00am.....All Poor Souls in Purgatory  
4:00pm.....Deceased Family & Friends of the .....Romero Washington Family  
3/02-8:00am.....Deceased Family & Friends .....of Marla Harris  
10:00am.....Joseph Pasquarella†  
.....By Annette Pasquarella  
12:30pm.....People of the Parish

3/04 No Mass

3/05-7:00am.....People of the Parish  
12:00pm.....People of the Parish  
7:00pm.....People of the Parish  
3/06-12:00pm.....All Souls in Purgatory .....By Lucy Nguyen  
3/07-12:00pm.....Romeo Espanueva†  
3/08-4:00pm.....Jon Burns†  
.....By Betsy McLain

3/09-8:00am.....Mary Newton†  
.....By Paul & Margaret Gemperline  
10:00am.....Margie & Rudy Molina  
.....By The Romero Family

12:30pm.....People of the Parish  
3/11-7:00pm.....All Souls in Purgatory .....By Lucy Nguyen

3/12-12:00pm.....Celeste Russel  
.....By Ken & Gerry MacLeod

3/13-12:00pm.....Mitzi Kellerman  
.....By Ken & Gery MacLeod

3/14-12:00pm.....Greg MacLeod  
.....By Ken & Gerry MacLeod

3/15-4pm.....Mary Cervi†  
.....By Roger & Donna Moore

3/16-8:00am.....Gerard & Minna MacLeod  
.....By Ken & Gerry MacLeod

10:00am.....Paul Hai Nguyen†  
.....By Lucy Nguyen

12:30pm.....People of the Parish

3/18-7:00pm.....Joseph de Jesus†  
.....By Ana Fermin

3/19-12:00pm.....Joseph Pasquarella†  
.....By Anette Pasquarella

OFFERTORY

Monthly Offertory Goal \$33,250.00  
February Offertory...\$32,461.52

February

2/1 - Building Maintenance Fund...\$3,221.15  
2/09 - Easter Flower Offering...\$1,993.09  
2/16 - Bishop's Annual Appeal...\$2,303.00  
2/23 - Priest Retirement Fund...\$2,441.15

March

3/05 - Support Central & Eastern Europe...\$  
3/09 - Black & Indian Mission...\$  
3/16 - HVAC Fund...\$  
3/23 - Priest Retirement Fund...\$  
3/30 - Catholic Relief Services...\$

BAA

2025 BAA Goal: \$53,389.78 Donated/Pledged: \$11,340.00

Thank you to the 56 Families whom  
have donated to the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal!

MASS INTENTIONS

3/20-12:00pm.....Tony & Paula Gribble†  
.....By Ken & Gerry MacLeod

3/21-12:00pm.....Kim Lawhorn†  
.....By St. Gabriel Sunday 8am Choir

3/22-4:00pm.....Ginny West  
.....By Judy Havermann

3/23-8:00am.....Linda Wilson†  
.....By Marge Dietrich

10:00am.....Montserrat Jose Rubio  
.....By Rubio Hernandez Family

12:30pm.....People of the Parish

3/25-7:00pm.....Romeo Espanueva†

3/26-12:00pm.....The Gribble Family  
.....By Ken and Gerry MacLeod

3/27 & 3/28 No Mass

3/29-4:00pm.....Carla Denino†  
.....By Friends of St. Gabriel

3/30-8:00am.....Romeo Espanueva†  
10:00am.....William Hieb Sr.†

12:00pm.....People of the Parish



DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE



CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of RALEIGH

The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him. Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2241

February 5, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The issue of immigration policy and enforcement is both complicated and emotional. While we agree that there is room for disagreement and discussion with respect to immigration policy, we wish to remind our more than one million Catholic faithful in North Carolina of the stated positions of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, formed by Catholic social teaching, and encourage personal reflection and formation on these issues.

The issue of immigration is not merely about policy, it is a moral concern impacting the human dignity and human rights of every person. We recognize there are persons residing in the United States without legal documentation and we do not condone violating the law. We respect our borders and laws AND support immigration policy reforms and care for those who are already here, many already contributing members of our society for years. We do not see these ends as mutually exclusive. Every day we see firsthand the consequences of a system that creates fear and anxiety among individuals who make substantial contributions to the economic and social fabric of our communities. Immigrants are a vital part of our Catholic parishes who both receive and administer the sacraments of our faith.

As Catholics, we advocate for the recognition that immigrants, as members of God's human family, are deserving of and must be granted the appropriate dignity as our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Jesus Himself was a refugee and taught us to welcome the stranger and to realize that in welcoming the stranger, we are welcoming Christ Himself.

Our Catholic Charities offices stand ready to help with food and other household necessities for all families that find themselves in distress at this time. Through those offices we will continue to provide Legal Immigration Services via staff who have been accredited to complete legal documentation by the Board of Immigration Appeals in the U.S. Department of Justice. These DOJ Accredited Representatives assist families and individuals in achieving an immigration status that enables them to work, reunite with family members, or take steps toward becoming citizens who could contribute to the well-being of their family and society. We will not counsel anyone to thwart or resist proper law enforcement but will continue to provide education about individuals' legal rights.

On a broader level, we, the ordinary Bishops of North Carolina, and the Bishops of the United States. will continue working to find lasting solutions to our immigration system based on principles of Catholic social teaching, namely: People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families. Before God all are equal; the earth was given by God to all. When a person cannot achieve a meaningful life in his or her own land, that person has the right to move.

A country has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration. Catholics should not view the work of the federal government and its immigration control as negative or evil. Those who work to enforce our nation's immigration laws often do so out of a sense of loyalty to the common good and compassion for poor people seeking a better life. In an ideal world, there would be no need for immigration control. The Church recognizes that this ideal world has not yet been achieved.

Continued...

A country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy. Immigration policy that allows people to live here and contribute to society for years but refuses to offer them the opportunity to achieve legal status perpetuates a permanent underclass and does not serve the common good. It is the position of the Catholic Church that pastoral, educational, medical and social services provided by the Church are never conditioned on legal status. All persons are invited to participate in our parishes, attend our schools, and receive other services offered by our institutions and programs.

Humanitarian protections for vulnerable families should be a priority. Catholic teaching maintains that families are the foundation of society, and the success of any civilization hinges on the well-being of its families. For generations, families living in the United States have included combinations of citizens and noncitizens. We urge the preservation and strengthening of access to asylum, refugee resettlement, protections for unaccompanied children, assistance for victims of human trafficking, temporary forms of relief, and other humanitarian protections already enshrined in our law.

As members of the human family, each individual deserves and must be granted the dignity that not only supports and fosters the common good of our society but also reflects the reality that we are all fundamentally brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States of America, watch over and pray for us now and always.

Most Reverend Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv.

Bishop of Charlotte

Most Reverend Luis Rafael Zarama,

Bishop of Raleigh

FOR REFERENCE

<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/catholic-teaching-on-immigration-and-the-movement-of-peoples>

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/immigrationreform.pdf>



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

7200 Stonehenge Drive Raleigh, NC 27613

984-900-3103

February 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At this time of trial, I ask you to join me in prayer for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who is facing serious illness. As the shepherd of the Church, he has carried the burdens of his office with great love and humility. Now, as he endures this moment of suffering, let us entrust him to the merciful hands of our Lord, the Divine Physician, asking for his healing, strength, and comfort.

I encourage you to remember Pope Francis in your prayers, at Mass, in your homes, and in your hearts. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, may Pope Francis be restored to strength. And may the Lord sustain him in his mission.

In Christ,

† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L. Bishop of Raleigh