



# THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

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Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone  
Archbishop of San Francisco

## Statement on the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA)

For the last five years, nearly 800,000 people brought to this country as children and living, working and attending school here, but lacking proper documentation, have been able go about their lives feeling protected from deportation due to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program (DACA). Now, with the rescinding of DACA, they once again have cause to fear being taken away from their families, their way of life, and, often, the only country they've ever known. President Trump had promised "to take care of everybody." That is America at its best: a nation that welcomes immigrants, affording them the opportunity to attain the "American dream" while they in turn give back to the society that has welcomed them. Now these "Dreamers" face the risk of that dream being destroyed, with our country being deprived of their contributions.

Of course, while providing welcomed relief, DACA never was a permanent fix; that can only be accomplished by an act of Congress. The one silver lining in this very dark cloud, then, is the six-month window of opportunity for the Department of Homeland Security to work with Congress to pass federal legislation that will provide a permanent solution for those who are contributing to our country but forced to live in the shadows, including those affected by DACA. It is more urgent now than ever that Congress act on behalf of millions of our friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives who find themselves in this situation, enabling them to keep their families together and to continue to build their lives as our fellow Americans, just as every generation of immigrants has before.

In the meantime, we in the Catholic community pledge to continue standing with our immigrant brothers and sisters, assisting them in exercising their rights and assuring them that they are not alone. I ask all people of good faith to join me keeping all vulnerable immigrants in our thoughts and prayers, extending to them our loving presence and visible solidarity.

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