

Justice, Peace and Life

June 2026

The Right to Worship

The U.S Catholic bishops are urging Congress to demonstrate its support for religious liberty on a bipartisan basis by

- (1) ensuring respect for what are commonly referred to as sensitive locations, especially houses of worship, meaning restricting immigration enforcement at those sites, and
- (2) mandating consistent access to religious and pastoral services for all immigration detainees.

Join your voices with the bishops in this request by sending this message via this [link](#).



As a Catholic and your constituent, I stand in solidarity with the U.S. Bishops' Conference in urging Congress to adopt sensible measures that align immigration enforcement more closely with the moral order. Enforcement efforts should be targeted, proportionate, and humane, while always respecting human dignity and the sanctity of families. The current approach is not meeting these standards.

I also believe the essential guarantee of religious liberty should be upheld for all people, including our immigrant brothers and sisters, regardless of individual legal status. As Congress considers reforms related to immigration enforcement, please adopt measures ensuring respect for what are commonly referred to as sensitive locations, especially houses of worship, and mandating consistent access to religious and pastoral services for all immigration detainees, regardless of who's operating a detention facility.



Tell Citizen's Bank: Quit Financing For-Profit ICE Detention Centers

Since 2025, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has detained more than **6,200 children** in facilities run by two private for-profit companies, CoreCivic and GEO Group. Many of them were held for longer than the 20-day limit prescribed by courts — with some children as young as five held for more than nine months. Many cases of inadequate food and medical care have been reported at these facilities.

Citizens Bank is one of the largest financiers of these two companies. Grassroots groups around the country are calling on Citizens to cut all ties with them.

Learn more and join your voice with theirs at:

www.de-icecitizensbank.org/take-action



Only White South Africans Allowed into U.S. as Refugees

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

On May 27, an Emergency Presidential Determination (PD) on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 was published in the *Federal Register*, based on the President's finding of "an unforeseen emergency refugee situation." This new rule will allow 10,000 individuals, exclusively Afrikaners from South Africa, to be admitted to the United States as refugees.

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, issued the following statement:

"Offering refuge to the world's vulnerable and persecuted is a founding principle of our country and it is uniquely what makes this country great. For decades, the United States was known for offering this opportunity, not favoring one particular group, but granting relief in accordance with our laws, our shared values, and the national interest. Today, however, that is sadly not the case. We appreciate the Administration's acknowledgement that our country can continue to resettle refugees, and we renew our call for resettlement to be extended further to others in need, including those persecuted on the basis of their faith, the likes of whom have no access to refuge in our country at this time."

Last October, Bishop Cahill's predecessor also [addressed](#) the disparate treatment of refugees taking place. In January 2025, the president placed an indefinite suspension to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and set the PD for FY 2026 at 7,500 refugees. Virtually all the refugees resettled were Afrikaners granted individualized exceptions to the suspension. At the time the refugee admissions program was suspended, **over 100,000** people from a range of countries had been conditionally approved for refugee status in the United States and were awaiting resettlement through the program, some after being in the process for several years.



"Don't close your heart to a refugee"
Pope Francis



Speak up on June 10:

Tell Congress to make ending hunger a top priority!

Bread for the World is a national ecumenical anti-hunger advocacy organization that has been speaking out in support of food and nutrition programs for over 50 years.

On Wednesday June 10, hundreds of Bread for the World members and advocates from across the country, including a delegation of Catholics from our Diocese, will converge on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC to meet with their members of Congress. *Will you join them in spirit and in solidarity?*

This is a critical moment to speak up for the needs of children and families who experience hunger, both in the U.S. and in every corner of the world. Congress must act to **fully fund and strengthen SNAP, WIC, and global nutrition and health programs**. They need to hear from you.

Join in the National Day of Action by pledging to email your members of Congress that day. **Use this [link](#)** to sign up. Help amplify the message that advocates will be bringing to the halls of Congress that day!

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