



**Archdiocese of Santa Fe**  
**Office of Communications/ Social Media**  
4000 Saint Joseph Place NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714  
Celine Baca Radigan, Director  
Voice 505.831.8180, FAX 505.831.8248  
cradigan@archdiosf.org, www.archdiosf.org

## **STATEMENT**

### **Archbishop John C. Wester on Supreme Court Decision on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and a Call to Action**

ALBUQUERQUE – Friday, June 19, 2020 – I applaud the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 18, 2020 ruling on the legality of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Though the Trump Administration was prevented from ending DACA for now, it may again attempt to end DACA at a later date. For now, this decision provides DACA recipients relief from the possibility of immediate deportation and allows them to continue to work legally. See the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ press statement here: <http://www.usccb.org/news/2020/20-94.cfm>

While this is a monumental victory, there is still much work to do to protect the nearly 800,000 young people who are DACA recipients (also known as “Dreamers”). These young people are a vital part of the fabric of our communities. We know them as family members, brothers and sisters in faith, students, neighbors, and co-workers. DACA holders essentially grew up in the U.S. and many of them remember little, if anything, about where they were born. They are American in everything but immigration status. DACA recipients are among the most “extremely vetted” immigrants in the United States. The government knows they have not previously committed any felonies, knows where they live and work, how much they pay in taxes, and know if they leave the country and return.

Dreamers contribute much to our communities and our economy, adding an estimated \$42 billion to the GDP every year. They pay taxes, participate in the workforce, create jobs and add their spending power to the economy. Approximately 27,000 Dreamers are also on the front lines of the COVID-19 Pandemic, delivering necessary health care services and placing their lives on the line for others at this critical time.

Now, we need to continue to advocate for long term solutions for DACA recipients.

The USCCB has long supported Dreamers, and continues to urge Congress to work with deliberate speed towards a bipartisan legislative solution that includes a path to citizenship for these youth who are vital members of our community.

As Catholics, we are taught to care for and accompany the stranger and the vulnerable: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Mt 25:35). These are our obligations as a Christian people – to care for our neighbors. Let’s remember and live by the teaching in Leviticus 19:34: *The foreigner living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.*

I urge you to learn more about the contributions of Dreamers, and to act now and pray on their behalf.

- Visit the USCCB our [JFI DACA and Dreamer Resource Page](#) to learn more about DACA.
- Act now to urge the Senate to protect DACA recipients through the passage of a bipartisan Dream Act: [Action Alert](#).
- Support Dreamers through solidarity and prayer using [Rosary for Vulnerable Populations](#) and this [prayer in Spanish](#) for DACA recipients.

For information on DACA applications or renewals, contact Catholic Charities, 505.724.4662 or the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, 505.247.1023. --END