



JESUITS®
California Province
Oregon Province

February 1, 2017

Dear Brothers and Friends,

We write to express our dismay at how the national conversation about immigration has taken a sharp and harshly xenophobic turn under the new administration. There is no doubt that the most recent executive order flatly contradicts a fundamental obligation of our Judeo-Christian tradition: “love the stranger, for you were once strangers in Egypt (Dt. 10, 19)” and “I was a stranger and you made me welcome (Mt. 25, 37)”. Pope Francis has also been clear: we are called “see a ray of hope...in the eyes and hearts of refugees and those who have been forcibly displaced,” and to serve immigrants and refugees however we can. By contrast, the President’s Executive Order callously sends large numbers even of women and children back to the horrors of war, starvation, massive repression and even death.

We recently returned from the 36th General Congregation, which declared, “in the face of attitudes hostile to displaced persons [including refugees and migrants] our faith invites the Society of Jesus to promote everywhere a more generous culture of hospitality.” As members of a global religious order that works to form men and women of conscience and compassion, we unequivocally denounce the Trump Administration’s Executive Order as an affront to our mission, an assault on American and Christian values, and a repudiation of our humanity. No area of the country has benefited more from the contributions of immigrants than the West. We raise our individual and collective voices against the harsh and inhumane policies of the current administration, which thinks nothing of building a wall and slamming the door in faces of the world’s most vulnerable people.

In these challenging days, we renew our commitment to be bridge-builders between people of differing political views while also standing firmly for the values of the Gospel and of our Catholic Social Teachings.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

Scott Santarosa, S.J.
Provincial, Oregon Province

Michael Weiler, S.J.
Provincial, California Province