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My dear parishioners:

I wish I could say that I am writing this reflection out of love. But I'm not. I'm writing out of anger. Anger at our government's decision to separate children from their parents when brought into our nation's immigration detention process. No matter where one stands on the issue of our country's immigration situation and the means to appropriately address it, I would hope and pray that none of us would hold that it is moral and just to take young children from the arms of a loving parent and place those children in facilities miles removed from the parent where the children are in constant fear as to whether they will see their family again. This is absolutely contrary to the will of God, and I firmly believe, is contrary to who we are as a nation.

I did not think I could be more frustrated about the way the issue of immigration is addressed by the government of our country until I read the recent remarks that Attorney General Jeff Sessions made in a speech to law enforcement officers in Fort Wayne, Indiana. As a means of defending the government's decision to separate children from parents in detention, he references the Bible. He said, "I would cite you to the Apostle Paul and his clear and wise command in Romans 13, to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained the government for his purposes." Apparently, Sessions is of the belief that a government can do whatever it wants and that Christians are supposed to concur because God allowed for the establishment of the government. Following Sessions' logic, the U.S. should support the world's brutal dictatorships as God has allowed those evil forms of governance to exist. Sadly, Sessions has a profoundly weak understanding of St. Paul (and theology), and it was very wrong of him to attempt to use Sacred Scripture as a defense of a morally unjust government decision to separate children from their parents. It is my fervent hope and prayer that our government will immediately cease this sinful practice, while allowing our elected officials to propose legislation that both meet's our country's need for border security and equally protects the right to migration.

The Catholic Church has a rich history in social justice teachings, which includes the issue of migration. It would take a lot of print space to expound on the Church's teachings on this issue but I will point out five principles the Catholic Church states that must be a part of any healthy debate regarding migration/immigration. They are: 1. Nations have a right to secure borders for the protection of its people. 2. Families have the right to migrate for safety, freedom from oppression, and economic opportunity/advancement. 3. Justice obliges countries who can receive immigrants without undue detriment to the welfare of their citizens to do so. 4. Wealthy and stable nations have a moral responsibility to assist unstable and economically deprived countries. 5. Families are sacred and sovereign, and the rights of families precedes the rights of states.

Our Church teaching on social justice issues has its foundation in that each human person is created in the image and likeness of God; thus making the human person sacred. God gave his human family the world and its resources as a place to share so that all people may enjoy access

(continued)

June 23 - July 1, 2018
Readings and Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 23 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 2 Chr 24:17-25/Ps 89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34 [29a]/
 Mt 6:24-34
Mass intention for Thelma Drouet

Sunday, June 24 9:00am—Mass
 Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15 [14a]/
 Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, June 25 4:30pm—Communion Service
 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18/Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13 [7b]/
 Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday, June 26 No Mass
 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4,
 10-11 [cf. 9D]/Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday, June 27 4:30pm—Communion Service
 2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3/Ps 119:33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40
 [33a]/Mt 7:15-20

Thursday, June 28 8:30am—Communion Service
 2 Kgs 24:8-17/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9 [9]/Mt 7:21-29

Friday, June 29 9:30am—Communion Service
 Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [5b]/2 Tm 4:6-8,
 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Saturday, June 30 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21
 [19b]/Mt 8:5-17
Mass intention for Thelma Drouet

Sunday, July 1 9:00am—Mass
 Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13 [2a]/
 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

I praise you, for I am wonderfully made. (Ps 139)

to the basic goods of human life (e.g. food, drinking water, shelter, work, education, health care, etc.). As God created us for unity, marriage and family life are the foundation of human relationships and no society is to enact laws or develop a culture which threatens or destroys the bond of unity of the family. It is families and family life which forms societies and societal culture. Governments then are created to promote, protect and defend the rights of the society and the families who form it. Governments are misguided when they enact laws which directly result in the breaking up of families. Let us fervently pray that our country's governmental leaders may work together to create legislation that respects the dignity of all human persons, including the immigrant.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
 Pastor

Sun. June 24 <i>Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. June 25 4:30pm—Communion Service	Tues. June 26	Wed. June 27 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Communion Service	Thurs. June 28 8:30am—Communion Service 9:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. June 29 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. June 30 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Vigil Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Father Rossi out of town June 25 - June 28						
Sun. July 1 <i>Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. July 2 4:30pm—Mass	Tues. July 3	Wed. July 4 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass	Thurs. July 5 8:30am—Mass 9:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. July 6 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. July 7 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Vigil Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

Volunteers needed for
Vacation Bible School
SonCreek Junction
 July 9-July 13, 2018
 game leader, snack maker,
 story teller, craft leader
 Contact the office at 409-283-5367 or
 Lynn Stacy at 409-489-2444 to volunteer.

Adult Faith Formation Classes
Sundays after Mass
 NEW VIDEO SERIES: *The Bible and the Sacraments Journey through Scripture*
 Led by Madeline Arnett

ANNOUNCING! ACTS Day of Recollection
Saturday, August 25, 2018
 If you've been looking for an opportunity to reunite with your ACTS brothers and sisters, we are putting together a Team to plan this day. If you've completed an ACTS Retreat, we need you.
 Pick up a Team Sign-up Brochure at the back of the church or join us for the first meeting
Tuesday, July 10th - 6:30 pm - Family Center

PRAYER REQUESTS
 Please pray for: Nelda Leathem, Maureen Peltier, Rosemary Urban, Sharon Smith, Reggie Williams, Randy Rhodes, Evelyn Schima, Theresa Dale, Rick Halliburton; Connie McDowell
 Repose of the soul: Charles Adamek; Fr. Bill Ryan
Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

Weekly Stewardship

June 16 & 17 Weekly Offering	\$ 3,941.00
Average Weekly Cost	\$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit	\$ 789.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Events

July 9-13: Vacation Bible School
 July 15: Stewardship Awards, Beaumont, TX
 July 20-21: Catholic Men's Conference, Orange, TX
 July 30-Aug 2: Donation drop off for Parish Garage Sale
 August 3-4: Annual Parish Garage Sale
 August 4: Local Youth World Day, Beaumont, TX
 August 11: Seminar, "Call to Holiness", St. Anne's, Beaumont, TX
 August 19: Family Day/Pot Luck
 August 22: CCE classes begin
 August 25: ACTS Day of Recollection