



U.S. Catholic Bishop Quotes on Family Separation

Attached are a few quotes from various Bishops around the country. Please note that this list is not exhaustive. Email us at familyseparation@usccb.org for information on your Bishop!

“Family separation is immoral”

- Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, June 24, 2018

“Knowing that we are "one nation under God", I have no doubt that our Heavenly Father hears the cries of these children. Recognizing that we are all made in His image, we are prompted to respond to this situation with love, compassion, and mercy.”

- Bishop Edward J. Burns, Diocese of Dallas, June 18, 2018

“Do not use children as pawns to enforce a hostile immigration policy.”

- Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, Archdiocese of Boston, June 13, 2018

“Many of those coming to our borders are fleeing starvation, violence or death. The separation of children from their parents in these situations, whether as a means of punishment or deterrence, is inhumane and entirely unacceptable.”

- Arizona Conference of Catholic Bishops, June 4, 2018

“The unity of the family is a foundational element of Catholic social teaching... These institutions are undermined when children are unnecessarily separated from their parents. This practice is contrary to our Catholic values.”

- Bishop Thomas A. Daly, Diocese of Spokane, June 18, 2018

“The separation of detained minor children from their parents is un-American, un-Christian and inhumane. This practice is mean-spirited and betrays our nation’s tradition of welcome to migrants and refugees.”

- Bishop Patrick J. McGrath, Diocese of San Jose, CA, June 18, 2018

“Our government has the discretion in our laws to ensure that young children are not separated from their



parents and exposed to irreparable harm and trauma. Families are the foundational element of our society and they must be able to stay together. While protecting our borders is important, we can and must do better as a government, and as a society, to find other ways to ensure that safety. Separating babies from their mothers is not the answer and is immoral”.

- Bishop Michael Mulvey, Diocese of Corpus Christi, June 13, 2018

“As bishops of a border state, we respond with dismay to President Donald Trump’s overturning of asylum protections for victims of domestic violence and carrying out the practice of separating families to stem migration... We are greatly appalled at those who would promote such terrible border policies. Seeking asylum is not a crime, and those who are seeking it should not be compared to those committing strong-arm robbery, a felony”

- New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops, June 15, 2018

“While protecting our borders is important, we can and must do better as a government, and as a society, to find other ways to ensure that safety. There is a better way to solve this problem; it is God’s way of love and mercy.”

- Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Diocese of Kalamazoo, June 18, 2018

“As a people of faith, we must speak out for these children.”

- Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Archdiocese of New Orleans, June 18, 2018