



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
**OF CHARLESTON**

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

## **PRESS RELEASE** — *For Immediate Release*

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### **Diocese of Charleston supports DACA youth on World Children's Day**

CHARLESTON, SC—Human rights are universal and transcend borders. While countries have the right and responsibility to regulate their borders, these laws must be based on justice and fairness. The Catholic Church has always proclaimed and upheld the inherent dignity of every person.

Nov. 20 is World Children's Day, a day that recognizes the international rights of every child. This year, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston is asking the community to join its effort to protect the rights of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) youth, in our state and country. "God creates and loves all people equally," said Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, Bishop of Charleston. "The Catholic Church believes DACA youth are entitled to the same protection as any other child."

DACA recipients provide overwhelming contributions to our state and communities. "These young people attend school with our children, pay taxes, serve honorably in the various branches of our armed services, are essential workers in the health care industry, and worship with us in our churches," Bishop Fabre said.

According to the American Immigration Council, as of 2020, there are 5,750 active DACA recipients residing in South Carolina. Catholic Charities of South Carolina assists these young men and women via its various immigration legal services.

"We must always remember God's commitment to equality and the common good," said Lydia Doyle, executive director of Catholic Charities of South Carolina. "This is particularly true for children who often did not have a choice about whether to migrate and have known no home outside of the United States. Catholic Charities is committed to defending the legal and human rights of migrant children."

The diocese is encouraging the public to contact their state and national representatives and voice their support for DACA youth. "They are an important part of the future of our Church and country," said Bishop Fabre.

#### **ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON**

Founded in 1820, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston is composed of 114 parishes and missions, 32 Catholic schools, and 350,000 people. It encompasses the state of South Carolina.

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