

# Compassion

Faith doing justice in the Central and Southern Province...and beyond

May 2018



## IN SOLIDARITY WITH NICARAGUA

The Jesuits of the CAM Province and the Conference of Provincials of Latin America are calling for our solidarity with the people of Nicaragua. After the government announced a 5% reduction in the nation's social security benefits, while at the same time increasing contributions to the pension, citizens began protesting. The peaceful protests led to the death of more than two dozen people, including a 15-year-old student at the Jesuit High School in Managua. While the proposed overhaul to the social security system was canceled by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on April 22, the situation across the country remains unstable, as protestors are now calling for the president to resign. UCS Regent Brian Strassburger, who is working in the country, has written [an article for America Media](#) on what he and others are experiencing there: You can also read statements on the situation in the country by the [Jesuits of Central America](#); the [Conference of Provincials of Latin America](#); and the [Jesuits of Canada and the U.S.](#)



## JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICES #DO1 THING CAMPAIGN

Pope Francis has called Catholics around to world to welcome,

protect, promote and integrate our brothers and sisters who have been forced to flee their homes. With more than 65 million displaced people worldwide, it can feel daunting to respond to this call. Jesuit Refugee Services believes that

no matter where you live there are ways that you can respond to today's refugee crisis. Doing just one thing in your community or to advocate on behalf of refugees can help refugees and migrants. Here are some recommendations for some possible "one things"...

- **Experience** – Use JRS/USA's [Walk a Mile in My Shoes Refugee Simulation](#) and provide your community with an opportunity to pause and learn about the experience, the frustrations, disappointments and hopes that refugees around the world face.
- **Write** – Send a message of hope and solidarity by writing a postcard to a refugee. Visit [anyrefugee.org](#) to learn more about how.
- **Advocate** – [Send a letter to your elected officials](#) and urge foreign policy decision-makers to demonstrate leadership on refugee issues.
- **Pray** – Pray for protection for refugees as well as for personal transformation as we face the needs of refugees everywhere. [Click here for a prayer for refugees.](#)
- **Shop** – Purchase refugee-made items. [Click here to find vendors.](#) By purchasing a product, you are helping families to sustain an income.

## TAKE ACTION FOR DREAMERS!

On April 25, the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's Committee on Migration, Bishop Joe Vásquez, of Austin, Texas, announced support for [H.R. 4796](#), the "Uniting and Securing America" (USA) Act of 2018 as it is currently written. The USA Act is a bipartisan bill that offers Dreamers a path to citizenship and protection from deportation and augments existing border security technology at the U.S./ Mexico border.

Additionally, the USA Act of 2018 would deploy new technology, increase the number of immigration judges and Board of Immigration Appeals staff attorneys, and seek to address root causes and prevent future irregular migration from Central America.

The USCCB's announcement came less than 24 hours after Federal Judge John D. Bates of Federal District Court for the District of Columbia said that the Trump administration's decision to terminate Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA program, was based on the "virtually unexplained" grounds that the program was "unlawful." Judge Bates stayed his decision for 90 days and gave the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which administers the program, the opportunity to better explain its reasoning for canceling the program. If DHS fails to offer a rationale, Bates will require them to begin accepting and processing new applications and renew applications for current DACA recipients.

Join Bishop Vásquez and the US Bishops in advocating for the USA Act by [contacting your Congressional Representative](#).

## IVC ST. LOUIS DIRECTOR JOB OPENING

The Jesuits of the USA Central and Southern Province invite applications for the full-time position of regional director, Ignatian Volunteer Corps – St. Louis, a service program for women and men over 50 who commit two days a week to serving the poor. The director fosters the faith formation and development of IVC members in Ignatian spirituality, recruits and screens partner agencies and potential members and, with an advisory council, seeks to grow and enhance the program in St. Louis. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate:

- Competence in office administration, personnel and meeting management and collaboration
- Experience in volunteer service particularly with poor and vulnerable populations
- Knowledge of the Jesuit tradition of service and interest in fostering spiritual reflection and growth in this volunteer community.

[A full job description is available on our website.](#)

Submit resume, cover letter and contact information for at least one reference by **June 1, 2018** to Mary Baudouin at [mbaudouin@jesuits.org](mailto:mbaudouin@jesuits.org)



God of our Wandering Ancestors,

Long have we known  
That your heart is with the refugee:  
That you were born into time  
In a family of refugees  
Fleeing violence in their homeland,  
Who then gathered up their hungry child  
And fled into alien country.

Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:  
"Will you let me in?"  
Give us hearts that break open

When our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry.  
Then surely all these things will follow:

Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.  
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.  
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.  
And hands will reach out—  
working for peace in their homeland,  
working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.  
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.

May they find a friend in me  
And so make me worthy  
Of the refuge I have found in you.

Amen