



# **A letter to our migrant brothers and sisters**

## **Nov. 19, 2024**

To our dear migrant brothers and sisters in Christ:

We write to you with hearts full of compassion and a deep desire to express our solidarity with you during this stressful time. We recognize the immense challenges you face as migrants, and we want to assure you that you are not alone.

As your bishops, we will advocate for your just treatment and dignity within the framework of the law. The Church will accompany and serve you at this time as much as we are able. We assure you of our prayerful support and ask the State of Iowa to do the same. You are our brothers and sisters. Please know that you are not forgotten and that your Church stands with you in solidarity.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has been a tireless advocate for those who find themselves in situations like yours, reminding us constantly of your inherent dignity and our responsibility to welcome you. He has said, "Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women, and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more."

Pope Francis has also reminded us, "God not only walks with his people, but also within them... In this we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation. For this reason, the encounter with [those who migrate], as with every brother and sister in need, is also an encounter with Christ. He himself said so."

Sacred Scripture provides us with countless examples of God's love for the stranger and the sojourner. These words remind us that we are all pilgrims on this earth and will all stand before Jesus at our final judgment and be held accountable for how we have treated others, especially those most in need.

May God bless you and grant you peace.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Thomas Zinkula". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

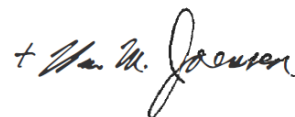
Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula  
Archbishop of Dubuque

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Dennis G. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Rev. Dennis Walsh  
Bishop of Davenport

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ R. Walker Nickless". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Rev. R. Walker Nickless  
Bishop of Sioux City

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ W. M. Joensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Rev. William Joensen  
Bishop of Des Moines