



The Human Family Cries Out ~ We Respond

We, the Sisters of St. Agnes, are in solidarity with our brothers and sisters from south of our border, mainly from Honduras and Guatemala, who are fleeing violence and extreme poverty. They are seeking the opportunity for protection, for the right to a livelihood, and to live and raise their families in peace. In these migrants we recognize our common humanity, our shared human needs and desires, and our collective moral responsibility to protect those most in need.

We acknowledge each country's responsibility to address conditions and concerns of safety and livelihood; we also acknowledge each country's legitimate borders and sovereignty. However, when human conditions rise to the level of desperation and crisis, we as a neighboring country with abundant resources have a moral responsibility to respond with compassion and assistance.

If they were willing to do so, our government leaders could find the means to receive these migrants with respect, to ensure that they have access to legal counsel, to receive a fair resolution to their claims and to relocate them in welcoming communities. We ask you to join us in urging our leaders to act with compassion and justice on behalf of the people approaching our border. We firmly believe that this action of welcome will not only address the needs of our brothers and sisters but will enrich and transform our communities. It will rekindle our country's deep heritage and capacity for diversity, compassion and integration of untold immigrant populations. This *is* who we are as a country; this *is* how we became a nation.

Sister Jean Steffes CSA, General Superior

Sister Rhea Emmer CSA, General Councilor

Sister Susan Seeby CSA, General Councilor

Sister Cyndi Nienhaus CSA, General Councilor