



AMERICAN NATIONAL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 24, 2025

Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" - Isaiah 41:10

In the Name of the Father and of the Son+, and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Beloved Immigrant Priests and Faithful People of God in the American National Catholic Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In these times of trial and uncertainty, we write to you with hearts full of gratitude and admiration for your courage, faith, and perseverance. The recent illegal ICE raids, marked by their cruelty and intent to intimidate, have shaken the peace of many communities. Yet, amid these challenges, your unwavering commitment to proclaiming the all-inclusive message of the Gospel shines as a beacon of hope and love for all.

Your dedication to serving God's people—often in the face of fear and injustice—is a testament to the strength of your faith and the boundless love you embody. You remind us all of Jesus' words: *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 5:10). Your ministry and witness inspire the entire American National Catholic Church and call us to deeper solidarity with one another.

Please know that you are not alone. We, as the wider Church, stand firmly and lovingly by your side. Your struggles are our struggles, and your safety and well-being are of utmost importance to us. We are committed to doing everything within our power to provide support, protection, and advocacy for you and those you serve.

If there are specific ways we can assist—be it through legal support, community outreach, or creating safe spaces—please do not hesitate to reach out. Our love for you and our commitment to justice compel us to act. Together, as one body in Christ, we will continue to proclaim the Good News of God's boundless love and radical inclusion, undeterred by fear or oppression.

Let us draw strength from our shared faith and the promise of God's abiding presence. As we navigate these challenges together, may we remain steadfast in hope and united in love, ever confident that *"perfect love casts out fear"* (1 John 4:18).

With deepest love and unwavering support,

Most Rev. George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop