

# **Bishops statement on termination of DACA**

September 6, 2017 - 7:18pm

*Bishop Joe S. Vásquez and Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Garcia of Austin issued the following statement on Sept. 6:*

We are profoundly disappointed by the Administration's decision to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This decision has created unnecessary fear and anxiety for thousands of youth and their families. Those who entered this country as minors by virtue of their parents' decision have been protected by DACA since 2012.

DACA youth who work, contribute to society, and serve in the military were once filled with hope. With this decision, DACA youth now live in fear of being deported. This is a sad time in our nation's history, especially for DACA youth who seek to continue contributing to the good of this country. It is our belief that this decision lacks an acknowledgement of the many contributions these young people have made to our society.

Sadly, this decision falls short of the gospel's proclamation that "whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me" (Mk 9:37). As a local Church let us pray for these Dreamers who wish only to serve and work for the greater benefit of our country. Finally, let us continue to pray for our leaders to enact comprehensive immigration reform with reasonable and rational solutions.