



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2020

Media Contact:

Maria Lemakis

314.650.7059

marialemakis@archstl.org

Statement from Archbishop Robert J. Carlson in Response to Supreme Court Decision to Halt Termination of DACA Program

ST. LOUIS - Today, the Supreme Court announced its decision to prevent President Trump's termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which helps protect more than 780,000 individuals from detention and deportation. Archbishop Robert J. Carlson and the Archdiocese of St. Louis commend this decision and the opportunities it creates for young people who have grown up and established lives in the United States to continue to contribute to our society.

"I welcome the decision of the Supreme Court which found that the Trump Administration failed to follow the administrative procedures required to repeal the DACA program. I hope this may serve as an important step toward offering a permanent solution for Dreamers and affirming the human dignity of these brothers and sisters in Christ.

I join the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in saying: 'regardless of your immigration status, you are children of God and welcome in the Catholic Church.' I offer prayers of thanksgiving to our Lord for this pivotal decision, and pray for our DACA recipients—that this provides them with hope for their futures in our nation.

We continue to call on Congress to pass legislation that offers a pathway to citizenship, and we call for the Trump Administration to end its pursuit of terminating the DACA program, which would not only abandon our neighbors who contribute much to our communities, but move us backward as a society at a moment when we are working toward greater social justice, peace, economic stability and healing as a country.

Let us consider the Gospel of Mark, which says, 'Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me' (Mk 9:37).

Together, we will continue to advocate for a more just, humane, and merciful immigration system."

- **Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson**
Apostolic Administrator of St. Louis

Today's ruling is a step forward not only for DACA recipients, but also the mixed-status families and wider Church family who, for this moment, do not have to face separation and division. These individuals will continue to have access to employment as teachers, nurses, and engineers—some of whom are caring for the ill during the coronavirus pandemic. Many are also engineers who design

buildings, clergy and lay leaders of the Church, and teachers who educate the next generation of American leaders. Just as crucially, they are neighbors, colleagues, parishioners, friends and siblings in Christ.

In response to this Supreme Court decision, the Immigration Task Force of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, along with Archbishop Carlson and other Catholic leaders, invite all of the faithful to participate in a virtual “Celebration of Hope” to express gratitude to the Lord, solidarity with DACA recipients, and to call for an increasingly more just and merciful immigration system. This prayerful celebration of hope will be live-streamed on the Archdiocese of St. Louis [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) accounts tomorrow, June 19, 2020, from 6-8 p.m. CT.

#CatholicSTL | archstl.org