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Immigration Advocates say: DACA Ruling Should Push Congress to Act

~ by Carol Zimmerman, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Catholic immigration advocates are emphasizing that the October 5 ruling by a federal appeals court – finding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is unlawful – sends another signal that permanent legislation is needed to protect young immigrants from deportation and put them on a path to U.S. Citizenship.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans affirmed a lower court's ruling last year that said the Obama administration did not have the legal authority in 2012 to create DACA in the first place.

This appeals court decision, similar to the ruling last summer from a federal judge in Texas, prevents the Biden administration from enrolling new participants in the program.



Demonstrators attend a rally near the US Capitol calling for passage of the DREAM ACT, which would have created a path to citizenship for “Dreamers”.

The new court decision continues to leave DACA in limbo. It did not say the program had to completely shut down or stop processing renewal applications, but it leaves in place last year's order from U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen that said DACA could continue only for current recipients with no new participants.

“DACA, like asylum, the border – immigration policy writ large – doesn’t belong in the courts,” Dylan Corbett, Executive Director of Hope Border Institute, tweeted after the ruling was announced. “Congress and the White House need to pass legislation that honors our values, the rights and dignity of those who migrate, and the contributions of those who make America home.”

Similarly, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., or CLINIC, tweeted that the court’s decision “only exacerbates the uncertainty felt by current and future #DACA recipients. We must enact permanent legislative solutions so #DACA recipients can live and work in the U.S. – free from fear or threat of deportation!”

Cabrini Immigrant Services of New York City, retweeted messages from a local immigration group urging current DACA recipients to renew their status as soon as possible and urging President Joe Biden and Congress to take action on this issue now.



DACA had enabled about 700,000 qualifying young people, described as Dreamers to work, go to college, get health insurance, a driver’s license and not face deportation. These young adults were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents without legal documentation.

In an October 6 statement, Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville, Chairman of the Committee on Migration of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said, “We implore Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, to provide a permanent solution for all Dreamers out of respect for their God-given dignity.”

In response to this latest ruling, the Justice Department said it would “vigorously defend the lawfulness of DACA as this case proceeds,” and President Biden said in an October 5 statement that he was disappointed with it.

“The court’s stay provided a temporary reprieve for DACA recipients, but one thing remains clear: The lives of Dreamers remain in limbo, adding: “It is long past time for Congress to pass permanent protections for Dreamers, including a pathway to citizenship.”

His administration will likely file a formal appeal, which could bring DACA back to the Supreme Court for the third time. To read the entire account, please click [here](#)

The “Father of Migrants” Canonized

~ by Claire Giangrave, *The Washington Post*

VATICAN CITY – On Sunday, October 9th, Pope Francis canonized a 19th-century bishop known as “the father of migrants” sending a message to Catholic leaders of the importance the pontiff places on the care of refugees at a time when immigration is roiling politics, including the Italian government at the Vatican’s doorstep.



Giovanni Battista Scalabrini

Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, bishop of the northern Italian City of Piacenza from 1876 to 1905, lived at a time of mass migrations in Europe brought by economic, industrial and scientific changes that led millions to seek a new life in the Americas. Scalabrini’s advocacy for immigrants created the foundation for the church’s pastoral approach to migration today.

“The Holy Father introduces us to a bishop who was capable of not just fully and capably managing his diocese, but was able to look beyond,” said the Rev. Graziano Battistella, who shepherded Scalabrini’s cause for sainthood.

“With this canonization, I think the Holy Father wants to offer the church a model to imitate,” Battistella said. “A model for bishops, a model for the church.”

Born in Como, Italy, in 1839, Scalabrini was appointed bishop at age 36, as millions of Italians were fleeing their homeland for Brazil, Argentina, and the United States, leaving behind their families, their culture and their faith.

Migration was viewed negatively at the time, but Scalabrini took a different approach, seeing the upheaval as a chance to ease socioeconomic tensions at home while promoting cultural encounter and jump-starting progress. But, he warned that, without the proper laws and protections in place, migration could strip people of their roots, and make them prey to human traffickers.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Scalabrini believed migration is not only “a sacred human right” but a basic fact of human existence.

To read the complete account, please click [here](#)

Pope Francis: Refusal to Help Migrants is Sinful

~ by Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The refusal to help desperate migrants “is revolting, it’s sinful, it’s criminal,” Pope Francis said as he canonized a bishop dedicated to assisting migrants.

“The exclusion of migrants is criminal. It makes them die in front of us,” the Pope said on October 9th referring to the deaths of migrants and refugees crossing dangerous seas in search of freedom and a dignified life.

At the beginning of the liturgy in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis formally recognized the holiness of St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, an Italian who founded the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo to care for migrants and St. Artemide Zatti, an Italian immigrant in Argentina who became a Salesian brother, pharmacist and nurse.



The prayers at the Mass included one for “those forced to leave their homeland,” and asking God to teach people to share “his welcoming gaze toward all people” and “heal the throwaway culture of indifference.”

“With great vision,” the Pope said, St. Scalabrini “looked forward to a world and a church without barriers, where no one was a foreigner.” To read the entire account, please click [here](#)

Historical footnote

It was at the time of her first trip to Rome that Mother Cabrini met Bishop Scalabrini. It is said that Bishop Scalabrini was the man who was the single most important individual responsible for Mother Cabrini’s decision to go to America.

On January 23, 1889, Bishop Scalabrini wrote to Archbishop Corrigan of New York: “The Sisters destined for New York will be the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, a new community, but stable and well-experienced.” Actually, Mother Cabrini did not finally determine with Bishop Scalabrini an exact departure date for New York until February 1889.

The Sisters arrived in New York harbor on March 31, 1889. Wrote Mother Cabrini’s companion, Sr. Umilia, “Finally, we saw the beautiful Statue of Liberty. Oh, how happy Mother Cabrini was. I could read the joy on her face. She called us together to sing the ‘Ave Maris Stella.’”

~ excerpts from Mother Cabrini - Italian Immigrant of the Century, by Sr. M.L. Sullivan, MSC, PhD

Prayer Requests

Hurricane Ian Victims

We continue our prayers for all those suffering the after effects of Hurricane Ian. May they be given the health, fortitude and support to rebuild their lives. We pray especially for the elderly and poor residents of the affected areas that they will have the strength and stamina to reestablish themselves in communities that are familiar and welcoming to them.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Provincial Assembly

On this Sunday, October 16th, the Provincial Assembly of the Guadalupe Province will commence in New Jersey. Please keep all participants – Missionary Sisters and lay collaborators – in your prayers that this may be a time of grace, wisdom, inspiration and ever-deepening commitment to mission. Pray too, that all may travel safely to and from the Assembly.

