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CT Catholic bishop issues statement on ICE raids: 'When one member suffers, all of us suffer'



MICHAEL McANDREWS | mmcandrews@courant.com

TRUMBULL, CT; 9/19/2013: Frank J. Caggiano smiles after being named Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport during his installation at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull Thursday afternoon.



By **STAFF REPORT** | Hartford Courant Staff

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After nearly 100 people were reportedly taken by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents [in raids on Connecticut cities this week](#), a [Catholic bishop has offered consolation](#) and prayers for those who have been separated from loved ones, are fearful or are suffering.

The Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, bishop of Bridgeport, issued a statement this week regarding recent immigrant enforcement activity affecting members of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Caggiano acknowledged the humanity of those suffering as a result of immigration enforcement, “husbands and fathers taken from their cars on the way to work, of spouses unable to find where a loved one has been brought, and of neighbors who no longer feel at ease walking to the store, dropping off a child at school, or simply going about the ordinary business of the day.”

While he said his statement was not political, he noted “Whatever one believes about the just enforcement of our nation’s laws, no person of faith can look upon this kind of suffering with indifference.”



Caggiano referred to the “human family” and said “Every person, whatever his or her country of birth or immigration status, is made in the image and likeness of God and possesses a dignity that no earthly power may set aside.”

“As your Bishop, I want you to know that the entire Diocese of Bridgeport is close to you in this moment. We are one Church, one Body in Christ, and when one member suffers, all of us suffer with him/her,” he said in reference to 1 Corinthians 12:26.

“To every family that has been separated this week, to every spouse searching for news of a husband or wife, to every child who wonders whether a parent will come home, I say clearly: you are not alone. This diocese holds you in constant prayer, and I hold you in my heart as your father in faith,” he said.

Whether Catholic or not, Caggiano said the Church stands with immigrants and its churches and offices are “places of welcome and refuge” that will never be closed to them.

The statement followed a week of ICE raids when men seeking work, parents at bus stops, a woman at a day care center, a grocery store and others were arrested by immigration enforcement. The raids quieted the cities where the raids took place – Danbury, Stamford, Bridgeport and others – with immigrants documented and otherwise feared to go out. In Danbury some 700 children stayed home from school, officials said, and local businesses were deserted.

President Donald Trump, who ordered the raids and deportation of all undocumented immigrants even as he removes legal status from previously protected groups, has said the ICE surge is about prioritizing American safety.

“Across the country, arrests of criminal illegal immigrants have soared as President Donald J. Trump makes good on his promise to rid our communities of these threats to public safety — making sure illegal immigrant killers, rapists, gangbangers and other violent

Another release, [“14 Recent Wins You Might Have Missed,”](#) from Aug. 26, lists the “largest mass visa revocation in history,” the highest single month for ICE arrests with 50,000 in July, plunging international student enrollment, a pause on immigrant visa applications, new \$103K fee proposal for H-1B visas and the first deportation flight to Haiti since the administration ended protections for Haitians.

Caggiano’s words of care and concern for immigrants echo those of the Catholic Church’s leaders, both the first American pope, Leo XIV, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which in November of 2025 [issued a special message](#), the first in 12 years, on immigration.

The message decried the state of discourse around immigration and “vilification of immigrants.” It called for immigration reform and for all people to be treated with the dignity due those created in the image of God.

"We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones," the message said.

"We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement," the USCCB message continued, noting that generations of immigrants have contributed to the well-being of the United States.

The message noted that a lack of "a just and orderly immigration system" creates the "risk

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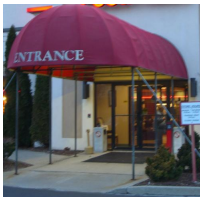
Ultimately, the message said, “the Church’s concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord’s command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).”

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