



# DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

Office of the Chancellor

News

***For Immediate Release***

**DATE:** August 22, 2025  
**FROM:** Deacon David Montgomery, 563-888-4222  
Chancellor [montgomery@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:montgomery@davenportdiocese.org)  
Diocese of Davenport  
**CONTACT:** Emily Pries, Executive Secretary [pries@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:pries@davenportdiocese.org)  
563-888-4360

**RE:** Pilgrims of Hope – Pastoral Letter from the Bishops of Iowa

From Bishop Dennis Walsh:

I, along with my brother bishops of Iowa, Archbishop Thomas Zinkula, Archbishop of Dubuque, Bishop William D. Joensen, Bishop of Des Moines, and Bishop John Keehner, Bishop of Sioux City, have promulgated a collaborative pastoral letter, *Pilgrims of Hope*, which articulates the Church's long-standing magisterial teaching on migration.

*Pilgrims of Hope* is intended to serve as a guide for the faithful, providing clear and authentic Catholic perspective on the complex issue of migration. The letter seeks to present the Church's teaching in a way that transcends the political rhetoric often found in secular and social media, which can focus on fear and false narratives.

At the heart of the pastoral letter is the foundation principle that a Catholic perspective on immigration must always begin with the inherent dignity of each person. The letter affirms that the rights possessed by every individual are intrinsic to the human person and cannot be disregarded for political expediency.

The pastoral letter is not just another voice in the debate; for Catholics, the magisterial teaching of the Church holds a privileged position as it presents the authentic and perennial teaching of the Church.

The document was released today on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. For as the pastoral letter states, "Mary prophetically declares God's preferential option for the poor..." Pope Francis in *Solarius Migrantium*, has given the title "Comfort of Migrants" to be added to the Litany of Loreto. "Mary stands as a powerful advocate for those who journey in hope." As the pastoral letter states: "Immigration is not merely a political or economic issue; it is a deeply moral matter that calls for a response rooted in faith, justice, and mercy."

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