



June 29, 2026

Statement regarding Sister Leticia Ugboaja's detainment by ICE

Sister Leticia Ugboaja, of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement June 28 as she was walking to Our Lady of Sorrows Church in McAllen to attend Sunday Mass.

Sister Leticia, who volunteers as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, works as a Registered Nurse at South Texas Health System (McAllen Medical Center). Previously, she worked for 10 years as a Certified Nursing Assistant at DHR Health in Edinburg.

The Diocese of Brownsville is grateful for the rapid outpouring of support for Sister Leticia from the local community. We are grateful also for the quick response of local representatives who reached out to the Department of Homeland Security to get her released from custody.

At this time, we are continuing to gather information regarding the circumstances that led to Sister Leticia's detainment and the manner in which she was detained.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores made the following remarks: "Sister Letty is a well-known source of goodness and hope in our community, and I am grateful she has been released. There are many questions remaining about the circumstances surrounding Sister Letty's arrest and detention. For now, it is clear that Homeland Security enforcement protocols that make it possible for a religious sister, or anyone, to be detained and handcuffed while peacefully walking to Church on a Sunday morning are wildly disturbing and need to be reformed."