

SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD **NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER** *Rise Up AND Act for Justice* 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 19, 2018

## Imagine if Jesus had been Torn from His Parents Statement by Lawrence E. Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd raise their voices with the First Ladies of the U.S., republicans and democrats, people of faith or no faith. At every corner, people are condemning President Trump's decision to tear apart children from their parents at the border.

We are a nation of laws, but the law that this Administration is following is one that previous Administrations were able to ignore or by-pass. So why the strict enforcement now? Intimidation seems to be the answer.

A pregnant Mary with Joseph fled into the land of Egypt where Jesus was born. Imagine if Jesus had been torn from his parents upon their return to the Holy Land.

Jesus – a refugee – called us to welcome the children. We must not sit idly by while this Administration threatens and intimidates them.

This new policy of separating families at the border is a new low, but one which seems to offer a bottom. People of all stripes have spoken and said that this is not acceptable; this is not who we are.

<u>The National Advocacy Center</u> educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in over 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.

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