

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 31, 2023

Ciudad Juárez Fire

Statement by Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

(Silver Spring, MD) – We pray for those lost in the horrific fire in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. We pray also for the survivors and desperate family members who have given and survived so much.

And while we pray, our thoughts turn to the ghastly circumstances of the fire. How could it be that officials and employees refused to unlock the cell doors of the Mexican government migration detention facility? This international incident requires a prompt and thorough investigation and appropriate, swift action.

Increasing numbers of migrants are risking their lives to find safety in the United States. Our policies are inadequate and out-of-date. We need solutions and implementations immediately beginning with the lifting of Title 42 and a cessation of President Biden's asylum ban proposals.

Our faith teaches us that we are all created equal, all endowed with human dignity, and that each and every one of us has value and purpose. Yet, time and again, we demonstrate our inhumanity to one another. And we grieve.

The National Advocacy Center 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, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The National Advocacy Center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (better known as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd). The sisters and their agencies work in solidarity with the disenfranchised – particularly families, women and children – who often are forgotten, left-behind or dismissed.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in 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.