



Catholic IMMpact Update

February 20th, 2026

Policy Update. The US Congress adjourned for a 10-day recess on February 13 without an agreement on funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), temporarily shutting down the federal agency. Democrats and Republicans could not come to an agreement on reforms to how the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency enforces immigration law.

Earlier in the week, Democrats released a list of 10 policy changes needed to ensure that ICE does not violate the civil and human rights of both US citizens and undocumented immigrants. The killing of two US-citizens in Minneapolis, combined with a large number of human rights abuses of immigrants across the nation, has generated national support for changes in how ICE conducts its enforcement operations.

On Thursday, February 12, Border Czar Tom Homan announced the end of an ICE enforcement surge in Minneapolis, marking a significant victory for immigration activists and others who protested against their presence.

On February 7, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Trump administration's policy to deny bond hearings to undocumented immigrants, affirming a policy of mandatory detention. Past administrations have permitted bond hearings for immigrants with no criminal record.

An internal DHS memo reveals that DHS intends to spend over \$38 million to convert warehouses across the country into detention centers capable of detaining 1,000 to 1,500 persons at a time. The expansion would increase the number of detention beds to 92,000.

Yesterday, on Ash Wednesday, a group of ministers distributed ashes and Holy Communion at the Broadview Detention Center in Chicago following a successful lawsuit challenging ministers' lack of access to the facility. It was followed by a [procession and Ash Wednesday Mass](#) led by Cardinal Blasé Cupich.

Upcoming Events

February 20. Catholic IMMpact will participate in a conference at Boston College entitled "[Law, Conscience and Migration Today.](#)"

February 26: Catholic IMMpact will host a webinar entitled "Ethical Immigration Enforcement: Building a Catholic Agenda," from 1 pm to 2 pm. Registration for the webinar can be found [here](#).

March 12. The Diocese of Phoenix will host a regional gathering in conjunction with Catholic IMMpact entitled “Witness to Hope: Responding to Mass Deportations,” which will be held at the diocesan offices in Phoenix. If you are in the area, contact your diocese and register [here](#).

March 24. The Diocese of El Paso will hold a March and Vigil for Human Life and an End to Mass Deportations, led by Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso and several other bishops. Bishop Evelio Menjívar of Washington DC will be the guest homilist. For more information, visit <https://fb.me/e/5A0NnPWGI>.

May 6. The Archdiocese of Detroit will host a regional gathering on the Catholic response to mass deportations. More details to come.

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About Catholic IMMpact. The Catholic Immigrant Prophetic Action Project (Catholic IMMpact) is an initiative by the Hope Border Institute (HOPE) and the Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) to assist the Catholic Church in the United States in organizing a robust response with and for migrants and refugees in the country who are living in fear of immediate deportation. Through organizing, communications, research and rapid response support, Catholic IMMpact supports (arch)dioceses in their mission to preach the Gospel and walk with immigrants. For more information, contact info@catholicimpact.org, and see our [launch webinar](#).