



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

Reformed Catholic Church
www.reformedcatholic.org

19 E. Eldridge Street
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April 10th, 2025

Dear Members of the Reformed Catholic Church, Other People of Faith, and all Concerned American Citizens:

As Christians commemorate Holy Week between now and Easter Sunday, we are reminded once again of how the self-interested political leaders of Jesus' time employed unjust tactics to condemn our Lord that led to his arrest, torture and death on the cross. Jesus ultimately triumphed over this, but his mistreatment approximately 2,000 years ago remains to this day a strong historical example of miscarriage of justice and inexcusable cruelty.

The Reformed Catholic Church places a significant emphasis on the concept of mercy, which is deeply rooted in Christian theology and tradition. Mercy, in this context, is understood as the compassionate treatment of those in any kind of distress, reflecting God's infinite love and forgiveness towards humanity.

Mercy is a fundamental aspect of God's nature. This is evident in the numerous biblical accounts where God shows mercy to people who have violated God's commandments. For instance, the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) illustrates God's readiness to forgive and embrace those who repent and return to God. God's mercy is not just a passive feeling but an active, loving response to human frailty and sin. As Saint Thomas Aquinas later explained, God's mercy does not negate divine justice; rather, it goes beyond justice by offering more than what is due. This understanding is crucial, as it underscores that mercy is an expression of God's omnipotence and love.

The call to act mercifully, therefore, contradicts the use of cruelty by any human being against another. We are called to emulate God's mercy by showing compassion and forgiveness to others, even if punishment might be considered legally justified.

We, the leaders of the Reformed Catholic Church, are gravely concerned about how cruelty rather than mercy is currently being employed by political leaders against US citizens, protected immigrants, and others who are being perceived as "enemies" to our nation. This is patently un-



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Christian and likely in violation of one or more sections of the US Constitution. If the latter is proven, then such political persecution can be termed fundamentally un-American.

We condemn the cruel, callous actions that have seen innocent people sent to foreign prisons, families separated through deportation, federal funding withheld from schools and important social service agencies (including church- or religious-run agencies), and the dehumanization of transgender people. These and other brazenly inhumane moves by political leaders are morally unacceptable.

Though we may feel justifiably angry at such actions and those who perpetrate them, we must take care to respond with mercy rather than further cruelty. Mercy can be shown in these situations by each of us through compassion, understanding, and justice. Here's how we can manifest God's mercy in these current circumstances:

****Immigrants fearing deportation can be shown mercy through hospitality, advocacy, and protection. People of faith can offer sanctuary, speak out against unjust policies, and provide support to those in fear. The Bible calls believers to care for the foreigner and the stranger (e.g., Leviticus 19:34, Matthew 25:35).**

****Charities being denied funding can be shown mercy through the support and care of communities that stand in solidarity with these organizations. God's mercy may also manifest in creative ways to keep helping those in need, such as finding alternate sources of support or providing direct help. Historically, God has worked through individuals and smaller communities when larger, human systems have failed (e.g., Acts 4:32-35).**

****Those businesses, schools, other organizations and individuals being threatened for their support of DEI initiatives can be shown justice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are Gospel principles. God's mercy calls for the dignity and worth of all people to be respected, as everyone is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Mercy is shown by those standing up for the rights of others, promoting equality, and building a society where every individual is treated with respect.**

****We can show transgender and non-binary individuals that we value their unique identity and respect their journey toward self-definition. Mercy is found in being compassionate, offering support, and creating spaces where people can live authentically without fear of judgment or condemnation. God's love for all people transcends gender labels and identities (Galatians 3:28).**



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****For LGBTQ+ individuals and couples, God's mercy can be demonstrated through our acceptance, love, and protection. Mercy calls people of faith to love our neighbor(s), regardless of their identity or orientation (Matthew 22:39). It involves standing against hate, offering support, and advocating for the dignity and human rights of all people. Mercy in this case can be seen in our efforts to create a society where all can love and live without fear of discrimination or harassment.**

In all of these situations, God's faithful people are called to stand with the marginalized, offer love and justice, and promote an environment where all people are treated with dignity and mercy regardless of their background, identity, or beliefs.

We wish to thank our fellow religious leaders and communities who have already spoken out about the current US political situation in this regard. May we work together to build and defend a society—and country--that reflects God's love for all.

Let this Easter serve as the occasion for us Christians and all Americans to renew our commitment to this critical task. God bless you, and God bless America!

Sincerely in Christ,

The Bishops and Board of Directors of the Reformed Catholic Church
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