



Our faith tells us: We are made in God's image.

We all have God's capacity to love, have mercy, and seek justice for each other.

We carry a God-given mandate to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Each and every person is made in the image and likeness of God. None are forgotten or excluded from being wonderfully made. It is God's image and likeness in each person that allows us to see human dignity, goodness, and potential.

When we see harm or danger towards one of us, we draw together in solidarity to honor and protect the dignity and safety of our neighbor.

Delaney Hall is a symptom of dehumanization, a large and long-term chronic ailment of brutal times in our history.

From our inception we have dehumanized indigenous, enslaved, and immigrants among others. "Illegal" is one in a long line of words used to keep us from seeing someone as fully human. No person is "illegal." So many held at Delaney Hall were participating fully in the immigration process. Someone lacking immigration documentation deserves to be treated fairly, with rights, and with respect. Everyone holds the dignity that God gave to all humankind.

We call for Delaney Hall to close and for those held there to be released as its main purpose is to enforce the dehumanization of them.

The facility serves as an expression of a federal immigration policy that denies human dignity and that disregards basic human rights for persons under government care. The conditions are inhumane and un-American.

The persons held at Delaney Hall should be returned home to continue their participation in the immigration process, which many were doing before they were abducted by federal immigration officials. They have suffered long enough.

In the meantime, while the facility remains open, the federal government must provide basic food and medical care for those inside Delaney Hall and end the violence against those outside who are practicing their First Amendment rights to free speech.

We've visited Delaney Hall. We're moved by the perseverance and courage of those held and by the passion of those who are standing witness. This is what loving our neighbor looks like.

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, now is the time to continue the struggle towards the ideals of dignity and equality that founded our country.

It's time to close Delaney Hall and free the people who have been held there.

Faithfully,



The Rt. Rev. Carlye Hughes
Bishop of Newark



The Rt. Rev. Matthew Heyd
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