



# **Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 7, 2017**

## **Immaculate Conception Church Will Sponsor Letter-Writing Campaign in Support of DACA parishioners**

This weekend after each of its Masses Immaculate Conception will offer parishioners the opportunity to write letters in support of the DACA youth who have been told that the Trump administration is ending DACA. The church estimates that between 200 and 300 youth in the parish have DACA status. We urge Senators Tillis and Burr and our four congressional representatives to support the passage of a clean DREAM Act bill in the short term and a just immigration reform bill in the long term.

“Many of the young people in our parish are distraught at the prospect of being uprooted from their families, friends, jobs and church community,” says Fr. Christopher VanHaight, pastor at the church. “They are involved as teachers of our children and youth, in prayer groups and ministries to the sick and homebound. We are committed in our parish and as part of the global Catholic Church to fight alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ, who seek to be treated with the human dignity that God bestows.”

Many of the affected youth first completed their applications for DACA several years ago at clinics jointly-sponsored by Immaculate Conception and Catholic Charities. They relied on assurances made by the government at that time that the information they gave would not be used against them by ICE at a later time.

Letter-writing will take place after the English Masses at 5:30 on Saturday and 7:45, 9:30 and 11:15 on Sunday and the Spanish Masses at 1:30 and 5 pm on Sunday. DACA students from the parish and Durham community will be helping with the campaign this weekend and with future events.

### **Contact**

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