



Homeland
Security

November 20, 2025

Sister Norma Pimentel, M.J.
President and CEO
Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley
700 Virgen de San Juan Blvd.
San Juan, TX 78589

Re: Suspension and Proposed Debarment of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley

Dear Sister Norma:

Every day, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security safeguards our country and its people, all in service of the dignity of the human person. The violation of our country's just laws by illegal aliens, and those who entice them to abandon their communities, hinder those efforts. Further, illegal mass migration is itself offensive to human dignity and it dramatically increases human and drug trafficking. It, in fact, breaks the bonds of subsidiarity, wherein a nation must first serve those closest: its own citizens. It also decreases the sense of stewardship so necessary for the safeguarding of that essential social cohesion and societal order required for the maximum amount of human flourishing in a sovereign country.

Consequently, unlike the enforcement of our just laws, illegal immigration damages the common good – both in our country and in the countries from which the illegal migrants come.¹ Furthermore, it threatens the American economy and robs civil authorities of their right to govern.

¹ The damage in your home state is well documented. In Garland, Texas, a group of illegal aliens from Venezuela shot and killed a man and sexually assaulted a woman at gunpoint during a motel crime spree. Also, an illegal alien from Honduras kidnapped and sexually assaulted a woman in Pasadena, Texas. And another illegal alien from Honduras kidnapped, tied up, beat, and sexually assaulted a woman in Houston, Texas. *DHS Honors Victims of Illegal Alien Crime*, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (Aug. 6, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/08/06/dhs-honors-victims-illegal-alien-crime> (last visited Nov. 20, 2025).

In contrast, American immigration law is just. It reflects Congress's prudential judgment about how to defend against the harms of unlimited, unvetted migration while still giving each person his due. The prior administration abdicated its responsibility to uphold these ordinances of reason that Congress promulgated to promote the common good. But the moral imperative to follow the law – rather than incentivizing dangerous, sometimes fatal, illegal migration – remains.

In support of accomplishing the missions given to it by Congress and the President, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security began a careful review to ensure that federal grant funds were not being used to encourage illegal immigration, transport illegal aliens, and/or harbor illegal aliens. As part of that review, I sent your organization an inquiry regarding its use of Federal Emergency Management Agency grant funds.²

Your response was deeply troubling. You admitted to submitting incomplete and inaccurate data. When the Department followed up, you said that you “are aware of the data accuracy issue” and that you “are unable to provide [] the correct data.” Additionally, a review of payment requests shows that you served hundreds of illegal aliens beyond their period of eligibility for services under the grant program you were administering.

Regardless of whether these problems stem from gross mismanagement or an affirmative intent to facilitate lawlessness, this pattern must end. FEMA entrusted Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley to manage more money than the average American will ever see in their lifetime. You broke that trust. Pursuant to my referral, the relevant suspension and debarment personnel have reviewed this matter and agree that immediate action is necessary to protect the public interest.

² July 8, 2025 Notice of Investigation and Demand for Records: Shelter and Services Program and Emergency Food and Shelter Program-Humanitarian Grant Awards.

Therefore, the Department has suspended Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and proposed debarment. Today, your attorney will receive a letter from the Department's suspension and debarment official with additional details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph N. Mazzara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Mazzara" clearly legible.

Joseph N. Mazzara
General Counsel (Acting)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

CC: David Garza, J.D.