



and sisters; the history, identity and promise of America; and the need for more mercy and understanding in our approach to the issues.

So let's begin.

Last Sunday, we had the joy in the universal Church

feed. They are our brothers and sisters and they have faces and names and families and stories — just like every one of us.

When you really talk to them and when you listen to their stories — it can make your heart ache. Often

We don't have enough time tonight to talk about all this. I find it fascinating to study the Hispanic and Catholic roots of America. If you are interested in this topic, you can check out the little book I wrote a few years

America's founders dreamed of a nation where people from every race, religion and ethnic background could live in equality — as brothers and sisters, children of the same God.

Their beautiful vision helped make this country grow as a generous and welcoming nation — a beacon for the persecuted and the poor; a flourishing diversity of cultures, religions and ways of life.

But it is also true that at various points in American history, our faith and commitment to this original vision has



So in effect, we're asking people to make an almost inhuman choice. We're asking them to separate themselves from their children, their loved ones — for maybe a decade or more.

Is that the kind of justice we want? We need to put ourselves in the position of these people. What would we do if we were faced with that kind of a choice? Would we follow a law, if it means maybe never seeing our families again?

Again, if you talk to these people it will break your heart.

Can you imagine what it's like to live in the shadows of our society in a kind of "perpetual limbo," year after year without full rights in the workplace, without the ability to plan for your future?

Can you imagine the stress — the constant

