

# What should I do if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Protection (CBP) agents enter Church Property

*Church property includes the sanctuary, narthex, vestibule, parish courtyards, lawns, offices, halls, school offices and classrooms, the parish parking lot, and any adjoining buildings located across the street from the parish.*

## Step 1

- Greet ICE/CBP agent and be respectful. Understand that they may be there for valid reasons. Remind them that they are interrupting a sacred celebration and that they are on private property. At this point, the ICE agent(s) does not have consent to enter/search/seize anyone or anything. The parish priest/staff are not required to give consent or share any information with the agent.

## Step 2

- Ask them for the purpose of their visit and obtain proper credentials and documents. The ICE agent(s) must present you with their badge and a warrant to conduct a search, seizure, or arrest inside the parish. At this point, parish priest/staff are not required to give consent or share any information with the agent.

### Types of warrants

- **Administrative:** This warrant does not give ICE officials authority to enter a place where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, without consent.
- **Judicial:** an official court order signed by a judge that authorizes a search of private property, seizure, or arrest based on probable cause that a crime is being committed or has been committed. It will specify the following:
  - Your parish address to be searched
  - The time in which the search must take place
  - Description of the place or person, or both, to be searched and things to be seized
  - This type of warrant is issued by a court and signed by a Judge

## Step 3

- **If an invalid (administrative) warrant is presented:**

Kindly notify them that they will need to return with a judicial warrant, and you would like them to leave quietly and peacefully. If they wish to proceed, **DO NOT** interfere with the agent.

- **If a valid (Judicial) warrant is present:**

**During Mass:** Remind them that they are interrupting a peaceful and prayerful gathering and politely ask if the execution of the warrant can wait until after the service has ended. If they wish to proceed, **DO NOT** interfere with the agent.

**During business hours:** Ask them to wait while you get the Parish administrator/priest and a representative from the Diocese of San Bernardino.