



# The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform

NOVEMBER 15, 2005

## About the Campaign

A record high of more than 34 million foreign-born persons reside in the United States. Just in the past 20 years, about 23 million newcomers have arrived. This immigration growth has had a profound impact on the Church, with as many as 300,000 Catholics arriving each year from all regions of the world. It is estimated that 42% of Catholics in the United States today are foreign born.

At the same time, U.S. immigration laws and policies have become increasingly restrictive and even harmful to some immigrants and asylum seekers. Between 8 and 10 million people in the U.S. live on the margins of our society for lack of proper immigration documentation. U.S. residents who want to reunite with close family members must often wait 10, 15, and even more years before visas for their relatives become available. Border enforcement strategies employed along our southern border have resulted in thousands of deaths. And, asylum seekers who flee persecution in their home countries and look for safe haven in the U.S., instead find themselves detained as criminals for lengthy periods.

The bishops believe U.S. immigration policy should protect the human rights and dignity of newcomers, as well as provide legal and secure means of entry for prospective immigrants and asylum seekers. The bishops also acknowledge with concern a growing public sentiment that has led to these more restrictive immigration laws and policies. The bishops have called for broad reforms of U.S. immigration laws and policy. In a landmark pastoral letter, *Strangers No*

*Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, issued in January 2003, the U.S. and Mexican bishops outlined the elements of necessary reforms. These included legalization for the undocumented who have built equities in our country; expanded opportunities for legal entry for work and to reunite with family members; establishment of an appropriate and more responsive temporary workers program; and the re-establishment of due process rights and other safeguards.



Additionally, the bishops recognize that the conditions that compel people to leave their homes out of desperation and lack of opportunities to provide for themselves and their families, must be addressed if an effective and comprehensive response to migration is to be achieved.

Therefore, the *Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform* will work closely with the *Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty*, initiated by the USCCB Office of International Justice and Peace and Catholic Relief Services. That Campaign aims to reduce poverty through trade, aid and debt reforms. The *Immigration Reform* and *Global Poverty* campaigns are integrally related in that one addresses the rights and needs of migrants in the U.S., while the other addresses the rights and needs of persons living in their native countries.

## The Campaign Objectives

The Campaign has four primary objectives:

(1) to educate the public, especially the Catholic community, including Catholic public officials, about Church teaching on migra-

tion and immigrants; (2) to create political will for positive immigration reform; (3) to enact legislative and administrative reforms based on the principles articulated by the bishops; and (4) to organize Catholic net-

works to assist qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of the reforms.

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# Phone Conference Follow Up



**“A Journey of Hope”**

*“It is expected that the House of Representatives will consider legislation as early as December and that the U.S. Senate will address the issue in early spring, 2006”*



The Justice for Immigrants Campaign held its first nationwide phone conference call on Thursday, November 10.

We want to express our gratitude to all those who joined the conference for your great work and commitment to the Justice for Immigrants Campaign. As we informed you during the call, we will continue to have these calls in a regular basis. We will let you know when the next one is.

If you were unable to join us, the conference recording is available for people to go back and listen to it. Please call 1-888-203-1112 and follow the recorder

directions. The conference information is as follows:

*Conference:*  
1689845

*Replay Pass-code:*  
60772569

*Conference Date:*  
November 10, 2005

*Conference Time:*  
01:51 PM Central Time

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions you might have regarding our nationwide call.

# Legislative Update

## Congress Ready to Address Immigration Reform

Congressional leaders have indicated that Congress is likely to address the issue of immigration reform before the end of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress in 2006. It is expected that the House of Representatives will consider legislation as early as December and that the U.S. Senate will address the issue in early spring, 2006.

The Homeland Security Committee in the House of Representatives is writing legislation focusing on border security, which could be before the full House by the first week of December. It is unlikely that the House will consider legislation focusing on earned legalization, a temporary worker program, or family reunification.

In the Senate, however, the Senate Judiciary Committee will consider comprehensive immigration legislation in February. It is expected that the legislation considered by the committee will include elements of several bills introduced in the Senate, including provisions of the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, introduced by

Senator John McCain (R-Az.) and Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Once the Senate passes legislation, bills passed by both chambers will be reconciled in a conference committee composed of House and Senate members. It is unclear as to when a final bill will be sent to the president. Since 2006 is an election year, it is possible that the issue could be mired in election-year politics and postponed until a future date.

During the process, the JFI campaign will focus on influencing members of both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. Over the next few months, the JFI campaign will send action alerts to diocesan contacts at significant points in the debate.

In order to pass legislation which most closely comports with principles outlined by the U.S. Catholic bishops, it will be important to minimize the enforcement-only approach supported by the House of Representatives and maximize the comprehensive approach supported by the U.S. Senate. The JFI campaign will keep diocesan contacts and others of breaking developments as the process unfolds.

# Justice for Immigrants Parish Kit



The *Justice for Immigrants* recently posted an electronic parish kit designed to provide diocesan leaders, parishes, and individuals with resources necessary to engage in the *Justice for Immigrants* campaign. The

Parish Kit included hints for homilies, prayer petitions, talking points, and curriculum for study on the topic of immigration in light of Catholic social teachings as well as different tools to organize within your dioceses. Such tools will enable you to lead focused dialogue, build sustainable coalitions, and provide you with resources for working with the media.

While the Parish Kit is posted on our website, soon there will be hardcopies available to parishes working in the establishment and

development of the local *Justice for Immigrants* campaigns.

Please review the entire Parish Kit by visiting our web site [www.justiceforimmigrants.org/parishes.html](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/parishes.html). Our office will welcome comments and suggestions regarding the Kit.

For a list of materials included in the Parish Kit, see the write up that follows.

## Parish Kit Content

Among some of the many sets of information included in the *Justice for Immigrants* Parish Kit, you would find the following:

- Invitation Letter from the Chair of the USCCB Committee on Migration to Participate in the *Justice for Immigrants* Campaign.
- Implementing a *Justice for Immigrants* Campaign in the Parish:
  - ◇ Initial Organizational Tasks
  - ◇ Suggested Parish Committees and Tasks
  - ◇ Organizations to Include in Campaign
- **Educational Resources:**
  - *In the context of the Liturgy and Prayer...*
    - ◇ Liturgy and Prayer Suggestions
    - ◇ Suggestions for Homilists
    - ◇ Relevant Scriptural Passages
    - ◇ Prayer Card
  - *Faith Enrichment and Development...*
    - ◇ *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope: A Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration*
    - ◇ Catholic Social Teaching and Migration
    - ◇ Understanding Catholic Social Teaching as it Relates to Migration
    - ◇ Quotes from Catholic Teachings on Migration
  - *For Catholic Schools, Religious Education and Youth Programs...*
    - ◇ Ideas for Schools, Religious Education, and Youth Programs
  - *Understanding the Social and Public Policy Issues Relating to Migration...*
    - ◇ Frequently Asked Questions
    - ◇ Myths -- Learn the Facts
    - ◇ What Leaders Say About Immigration
    - ◇ Response to Undocumented Immigration: The Arguments
    - ◇ Economics and Migration: The Facts
    - ◇ Enforcement of Immigration Laws: Important Principles
  - *Advocacy Resources*
  - *Media Relations Resources*
  - *Miscellaneous Resources*

# Local Justice for Immigrants Campaigns

The following is a list of Diocese that have officially appointed a Local Point of Contact to coordinate the Justice for Immigrants Campaign with the national office:

- Archdiocese of Atlanta
- Archdiocese of Chicago
- Archdiocese of Denver
- Archdiocese of Dubuque
- Archdiocese of Houston-Galveston
- Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas
- Archdiocese of Miami
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Archdiocese of Newark
- Archdiocese of Omaha
- Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Archdiocese of Santa Fe
- Archdiocese of Seattle
- Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis
- Archdiocese of Washington
- Diocese of Allentown
- Diocese of Austin
- Diocese of Beaumont
- Diocese of Brooklyn
- Diocese of Charlotte
- Diocese of Cleveland
- Diocese of El Paso
- Diocese of Fall River
- Diocese of Fresno
- Diocese of Grand Rapids
- Diocese of Green Bay
- Diocese of Harrisburg
- Diocese of Kalamazoo
- Diocese of Knoxville
- Diocese of Lexington
- Diocese of Metuchen
- Diocese of Nashville
- Diocese of Oakland
- Diocese of Orlando
- Diocese of Owensboro
- Diocese of Paterson
- Diocese of Phoenix
- Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Diocese of Pueblo
- Diocese of Raleigh
- Diocese of San Bernardino
- Diocese of San Jose
- Diocese of Springfield In Illinois
- Diocese of St. Augustine
- Diocese of Syracuse
- Diocese of Toledo
- Diocese of Trenton
- Diocese of Tucson
- Diocese of Youngstown

## Justice for Immigrants In Chicago

(The following was submitted upon request and has been summarized in an effort to reflect the most relevant information)

Over the course of many decades, the Archdiocese of Chicago has been very blessed to have Cardinals who are proactive leaders in promoting social justice on behalf of the most vulnerable in our society. This year, after the USCCB launched the *Justice for Immigrants* Campaign, Cardinal George and the Archdiocese welcomed the opportunity to join a national effort towards immigration reform. The following report summarizes our office's related strategies and work performed to-date.

- Formed an archdiocesan task force with 20 leaders representing various offices and networks (Catechesis, Deaconate, Respect Life, Hispanic, European and Asian Catholics, Pastoral Associates, Catholic Charities etc.). This task force develops education, advocacy and media strategies to create awareness on the need for immigration reform.

- Conducted first training with participation of 40 non-immigrant and immigrant parishes to start dialoguing on this issue. As a result, 10 "Sharing Parish" partners began more extensive dialogue and actions on this issue.



- Formed a *Pastors for Justice for Immigrants Network* currently with over 20 pastors from non-immigrant and immigrant parishes in the city and suburbs who committed themselves to: 1) highlight immigration issues at their homilies during the Liturgical Calendar seasons, beginning with the Advent and Christmas seasons; 2) promote the use of educational resources (Advent, Lent, Pentecost, etc.) among religious education program, liturgy teams, etc.) 3) participate in post-card writing campaign to President Bush and Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert. They will mail post-cards to the White House, and the ones for Dennis Hastert will be delivered to his office by a group of pastors.
- Sought support from archdiocesan clergy leadership during their executive committee of the Presbyteral Council and were invited to do a presentation to the Presbyteral Council at their November retreat.
- Developed "take action" flyers in English, Spanish and Polish introducing the USCCB campaign encouraging Catholics to contact their elected officials. Distributed flyers in all parishes.
- Highlight "online" take action strategy by having an interactive icon in homepage of archdiocesan website which only takes three minutes to send an e-mail to congress and elected officials.

Submitted by Elena Segura  
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*Justice for Immigrants* Local Point of Contact  
Archdiocese of Chicago

"Pastors for  
Justice for  
Immigrants  
Network  
currently with  
over 20  
pastors"

# Participating Organizations Showcase

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) seeks to affirm the dignity of all newcomers. Its primary mission is to provide a full range of legal and non-legal support services to Catholic Charities' and diocesan legal immigration programs. These local Catholic programs directly represent poor immigrants with a focus on reunification of families and protection of those fleeing persecution or civil unrest.

In 1988, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) established CLINIC as a legally distinct 501(c)(3) organization to support a rapidly growing network of community-based immigration programs.

CLINIC's network originally comprised 17 programs. It has since increased to 153 programs in 260 office locations. The network employs roughly 1,000 attorneys and

"accredited" paralegals who, in turn, represent more than 100,000 low-income immigrants each year. CLINIC and its member agencies serve low-income immigrants without reference to their race, religion, gender, ethnic group, or other distinguishing characteristic.



## Participating organizations include:

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), in particular:

- *Migration and Refugee Services,*
- *the Catholic Campaign for Human Development,*
- *Domestic Social Development,*
- *International Justice and Peace, and*
- *the Hispanic Affairs Secretariat;*
- **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC);**  
**(see preceding write up)**
- Catholic Health Association (CHA);
- Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA);
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS);
- National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry (NCADDHM);
- National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW);
- National Catholic Rural Life Conference;
- National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA);
- U.S. Jesuit Conference;
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious;
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men;
- National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors (NASCCD);
- Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network;
- The Irish Apostolate USA; and
- The Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors.

## Participating Organizations

A number of Catholic organizations with national networks comprise the national Campaign. These organizations have committed themselves to mobilizing a growing network of Catholic institutions, individuals, and other persons of good faith in support of a broad legalization program and comprehensive immigration reform.





JUSTICE FOR  
IMMIGRANTS

*a journey of hope*

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In June 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration and The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, INC. (CLINIC) Board of Directors resolved to make comprehensive immigration reform, with special emphasis on legalization, a major public policy priority within the Church. Many other national Catholic institutions have also made legalization a policy priority.

As part of the Church's response, a diverse group of Catholic organizations with national networks have decided to join the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope* campaign designed to unite and mobilize a growing network of Catholic institutions, individuals, and other persons of good faith in support of a broad legalization program and comprehensive immigration reform. Its goal will be to maximize the Church's influence on this issue, consistent with the immigration reform principles enunciated in the bishops' pastoral letter.

[www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

## Justice for Immigrants Wristbands

The national *Justice for Immigrants* Campaign is making available an excellent fund raising and conscious raising tool – the *Justice for Immigrants* wristband.

These wristbands, embossed with the words, **Justice for Immigrants**, can be purchased for \$1.00 a piece and can be used by dioceses and others to raise funds to support local *Justice for Immigrants* Campaign efforts. For example, dioceses could distribute the wristbands

during conferences or parish convenings and request a donation of \$5, \$10, or more for each wristband. The wristbands can also be used to engage students in Catholic schools to become more aware of the plight of immigrants and to become involved in the Campaign.

The wristbands are available for order in increments of 700. An order form can be accessed via the website at <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/files/WristbandPurchaseOrderForm.pdf>

You may also request the order form by emailing Leo Anchondo at [LAnchondo@uscpcb.org](mailto:LAnchondo@uscpcb.org). All order requests must be accompanied by pre-payment.



**Justice for Immigrants  
Wristband**