



USCCB Committee on Migration

C/O MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

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WEBSITE: www.usccb.org/mrs

January 2006

Dear Parish Leader:

The Church's voice on behalf of immigrants is more critically needed than ever before. A growing anti-immigrant sentiment is taking hold in this nation of immigrants, even among some Catholics who themselves trace their roots to the immigrant experience. You and your parishioners have an opportunity to become better informed about the situation of immigrants and how our nation's laws need to be changed to reflect a more just approach toward immigrants and immigration policy.

The information and materials that follow are designed to help your parishioners become involved in the *Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope* campaign.

For this important Campaign of the Church to be successful, a conversion of hearts and minds, resulting in Christian attitudes toward immigrants, must be achieved. Therefore, you will find materials within this Parish Kit that can be used in educational settings, including homilies, parish workshops, bulletins, prayer groups, and other opportunities for reflection.

As your parishioners become familiar with the Scriptural and Catholic Social Teachings that inform Christian attitudes toward immigrants, it will be important to provide them opportunities to actively live their faith through acts of Christian charity and advocacy on behalf of immigrants. The Parish Kit contains materials designed to assist your parish in advocacy and public education activities to bring about needed immigration policy reforms.

I invite and encourage you and your parishioners to visit often the *Justice for Immigrants* website [www.justiceforimmigrants.org], for it contains a number of useful tools for your parish to use to participate in this campaign.

If your parish is interested in learning more about activities/projects designed to become a more welcoming presence for newcomers/immigrants, please visit www.usccb.org/mrs/welcome.shtml to access the *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity* parish kit and other useful materials.

Thank you for your consideration in becoming involved in this important effort and for all you do to promote God's Kingdom on earth.

Yours in Christ our Lord,

Most Reverend Gerald Barnes
Bishop of San Bernardino
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Migration

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