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News from the Archdiocese of Chicago

From Elena Segura

"FAMILY UNITY CAN'T WAIT": "SEND-OFF" PRAYER & PRESS CONFERENCE,

This prayer and press conference supported over 3,000 pilgrims from around the country on their stop at the Federal Plaza (Chicago), prior to their departure for an October 13 rally and lobby day in Washington, DC. Leaders of the Priests for Justice for Immigrants and the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants have been among the organizers/supporters for the trip to Washington, DC.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER & WITNESS for Immigration Reform, October 13 (Washington, D.C.)

Themed "Family Unity Can't Wait," this national day of prayer and witness is intended to continue building momentum for comprehensive immigration reform. Immigration reform advocates came from around the country, with buses signed up from as far away as Texas, Minnesota, Florida, and

Michigan. Pilgrims from Chicago include at least 50 priests, religious, lay leaders and family members from various parishes around the archdiocese. Other participating organizations include the Reform Immigration FOR America Campaign, Familias Unidas and the National Capital Immigrant Coalition.

CATHOLIC FESTIVAL OF FAITH, October 16-17

This two-day gathering was sponsored by the Department of Evangelization, Catechesis and Worship and the Office of Catholic Schools, and included keynote speakers, workshops, special events and Spanish and Polish tracks. Festival of Faith sessions related to immigrants and immigration included:

- "The Immigrant Among Us ... Welcoming International Priests and Religious Women Into Our Parish Communities"
- "Catechesis in the Multicultural Parish: Practical Frameworks for Success"
- "Walls or Bridges?" - This session took a holistic approach of pastoral

ministry in the Latino community in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

- "Hermano migrante, tu momento histórico ha llegado: Iglesia Católica y su rol profético en el movimiento por reforma migratoria en E. U."
- "Responsible Leadership within a Multi-Cultural Community"

IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS - Oct 23, 9am-4:30pm at DePaul University Student Center "PERSPECTIVES ON IMMIGRATION: GET INFORMED & GET INVOLVED"

Sponsored by Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education, DePaul University, Dominican University, Loyola University. The conference seeks to engage students, faculty, religious, lawyers, service providers and other community members to provide information on immigration-related issues and to provide opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, service and action.

Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform – Illinois Statewide Network

Diocese of Belleville
Archdiocese of Chicago
Diocese of Joliet
Diocese of Peoria
Diocese of Rockford
Diocese of Springfield-in-Illinois

About the Network

The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform (CCIR) – Illinois Statewide Network is composed of individuals from the six Roman Catholic dioceses in Illinois. The members include representatives who were appointed by their Diocesan Bishop along with other interested people who work with and minister to immigrants in communities throughout Illinois.

The Statewide Network is coordinated through the Catholic Conference of Illinois to discuss how to better serve immigrants in Illinois through our parishes and Catholic organizations as well as to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform, in conjunction with the USCCB's National Justice for Immigrants Campaign (www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

For further information on the CCIR – Illinois Statewide Network, please contact:

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CENSUS 2010 – U.S. Bishops urge participation

With 2010 upon us in just a few short months, efforts will increase to get the word out about the census to be taken next year. Much of federal funding for community programs and social services takes into account information gathered by the census. The U.S. Bishops have

encouraged participation in the census in order to reach “hard to count populations.” Parishes and dioceses are being urged to encourage parishioners to complete the census survey next year. Information gathered by the U.S. Census is confidential.

A press release from April with further information on the urging of the US Bishops to participate in Census 2010 can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/com/archives/2009/09-093.shtml>.

Immigration in the News

Submitted by Elena Segura

Cardinal McCarrick Testifies Before US Senate Subcommittee

<http://research.scottrade.com/public/markets/news/news.asp?docKey=100-282x2014-1§ion=headlines>; Also <http://www.usccb.org/com/archives/2009/09-199.shtml>

On October 8, Cardinal McCarrick testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration as one of five faith leaders on a panel entitled “Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Faith-Based Perspectives.”

CLINIC Welcomes DHS Initiatives for Detention Reform

<http://www.cliniclegal.org/news/0910/clinic-welcomes-dhs-initiatives-detention-reform>

“The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) views the recommendations as a welcome first step in addressing our broken immigration system, and moving away from the flawed penal system model that has been adopted for immigrant detention. CLINIC urges DHS to move thoughtfully

to implement the recommendations and ensure that the detention system maintains the humanity and dignity of immigrants.”

Human Rights Groups Call for Basic Fairness for Immigrants with Mental Illness

<http://www.immigrantjustice.org/press/detention/human-rights-groups-call-for-basic-fairness-for-mentally-ill-immigrants.html>

“Heartland Alliance’s National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) and 76 human rights advocates, doctors, and community organizations have publicly released a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder calling for basic fairness for people with mental disabilities who face deportation. The letter points out that the U.S. Constitution guarantees due process protections for all people, including those with disabilities.”

DHS Terminates the “No Match” Rule that was Harmful to Legal Workers

http://NILC.ORG/IMMSEM/PLYMNT/SSA_RELATED_INFO/NO-MATCH-RESCISSION-STMNT-2009-10-07.PDF

“The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) formally issued a final rule rescinding the Social Security ‘no match’ rule. The ‘no match’ rule, which was never implemented, would have forced employers to fire workers based on discrepancies in their Social Security records. DHS first announced its plan to rescind the rule in July, and with [the] publication of a final rule in the Federal Register, the rescission will go into effect in 30 days” from October 7.

NY Times Editorial Supports Termination of 287(g)

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/12/opinion/12mon2.html?_r=2

“Programs like 287(g) rest on the dishonest premise that illegal immigrants are a vast criminal threat. But only a small percentage are dangerous felons. The vast majority are those whom President Obama has vowed to help get right with the law, by paying fines and earning citizenship. Treating the majority of illegal immigrants as potential Americans, not a criminal horde, is the right response to the problem.”