



USCCB Urges Immigration Reform in 2010

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From USCCB

On December 23, USCCB sent a letter to Rep. Luis Gutierrez welcoming his introduction of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act (CIR ASAP). See attached for the full letter.

On January 6, USCCB announced further plans to support the passage of comprehensive immigration reform legislation in 2010. Steps announced include:

- "The launch of a nationwide postcard campaign under the Justice for Immigrants campaign, with 1.5

million postcards already ordered;

- The launch of two Web sites, a new Justice for Immigrants Web site with tools for parishes (www.justiceforimmigrants.org), and the National Migration Week Web site, which provides other resources (www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml); and
- A nationwide action alert asking for Congress to enact immigration reform as soon as possible."

The full January 6 USCCB press release can be found at

www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2010/10-003.

The Archdiocese of Chicago is among the dioceses participating in the postcard campaign. As of January 6, over 60 parishes in the Archdiocese had committed to participating and over 40,000 postcards had been distributed.

If you would like to send a postcard to your Congress member and U.S. Senators, an electronic version of the postcard can be sent via the Justice for Immigrants website or consult the Justice for Immigrants campaign at (202)541-3174, for further information.

Immigration in the News

Submitted by Marcia Brown-Medina

America's Secret Ice Castles

<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20100104/stevens>
"... [I]n addition to the publicly listed field offices and detention sites, ICE is also confining people in 186 unlisted and unmarked subfield offices, many in suburban office parks or commercial spaces revealing no information about their ICE tenants...."

Submitted by Archdiocese of Chicago

Immigration's New Year –

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/06/opinion/06wed1.html>
"... The Obama administration has vowed to press ahead with reform this year. Given the hard economic times, the politics may be bleaker even than 2007... The need is just as real – for the undocumented and for

the country.

America needs to shut the path to illegal entry and employment while opening smoother and more rational routes to legal immigration. Opponents of reform say the downturn is a terrible time to fix the system, but they are wrong. When the recovery comes, the country will need a functioning system more than ever-one that encourages legal entry and bolsters all workers' rights...."

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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News from the Archdiocese of Chicago

From Elena Segura

January 7 Press Conference for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

On January 7, a press conference and prayer service was held at the Chapel at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. Approximately 40 priests and 20 religious sisters and brothers attended and signed a calendar for prayer and fasting during January, February and March in support of enactment of comprehensive immigration reform.

Co-sponsored by the Priests for Justice for Immigrants and the Sisters and Brothers for Immigrants, they called for the passage of compassionate

comprehensive immigration reform. The activities committed to by participants coincide with the Justice of Immigrants postcard campaign in cities throughout the country.

See the following for related news coverage:
><http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=7208673>
><http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1000047.htm>

Full Citizenship and Full Employment for Full Equality

On January 16, the Priests for Justice for Immigrants and the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants also co-sponsored with other groups an event where hundreds of community

members, elected officials, labor leaders, and faith leaders came together in honor of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to affirm their commitment to rebuild. They spoke on the need for just and humane immigration reform and a job program for all Chicagoans.

New Website for Office for Immigrant Affairs & Immigration Education

The newly updated website of the Office for Immigrant Affairs & Immigration Education includes valuable action alerts, announcements, resources, legislative news, and photos and news pertaining to CCIR networks, Pastoral Migratoria, etc. Go to www.archchicago.org/immigration.

Federal Update: Health Care Reform

From USCCB

As of this writing, discussions are still taking place between leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate on health care reform legislation. Each chamber passed a

different version of legislation and a compromise bill is being discussed.

USCCB has called on U.S. Senators and Representatives to 1) maintain current conscience protections and prohibition of federal

funding for abortions and abortion coverage; 2) provide adequate and affordable coverage for all, especially the poor and vulnerable; and 3) protect access to coverage and health care for immigrants.

For further information go to www.usccb.org/healthcare.

CATHOLICS at the CAPITOL

SAVE THE DATE! March 3, 2010

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. and the Bishops of Illinois, along with the Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI), are hosting the second *Catholics at*

the Capitol day on March 3 in Springfield, IL. This is an opportunity for all Catholics to come together to speak with elected officials on issues based on our gospel values.

For further information on *Catholics at the Capitol*, go to www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org or call CCI at (312) 368-1066 or (217) 528-9200.