

**Catholic Campaign for  
Immigration Reform -  
Illinois Statewide Network**



***IMMIGRATION 101***  
*CLINIC & Pastoral Migratoria*

On August 7, 2010, the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform-Illinois Statewide Network (coordinated under the Catholic Conference of Illinois), hosted Susan Schreiber from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) and representatives of Pastoral Migratoria of the Archdiocese of Chicago, for an “Immigration 101” training. The three hour training took place in Springfield, Illinois at the Diocese of Springfield Pastoral Center, primarily for non-legal service advocates.

Over 40 people from parishes and community organizations across the six Catholic dioceses of Illinois participated in the event. Susan Schreiber, a Senior Attorney with CLINIC, provided an overview of current immigration law. Susan covered a number of topics, including family-based immigration, basic know your rights, and recommendations of what non-legal services advocates can do. She suggested that advocates sponsor “know your rights” and “safety planning” forums, establish networks in their communities and monitor and report abuses to civil rights organizations.

Susan also spoke on immigration remedies for crime victims. This included discussion of the Violence Against Women Act and U Visas for victims of designated crimes. These offer other ways under current federal law to provide remedies to immigrants that cannot be addressed under other aspects of immigration law. Participants at the training found Susan’s presentation to be very helpful, with good information and background knowledge to have as advocates and those involved in ministry to immigrants.



Susan Schreiber, Senior Attorney – CLINIC

The training also included presentations by representatives of Pastoral Migratoria in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Pastoral Migratoria is an immigrant to immigrant ministry. There are four areas of focus in this ministry: service, justice, reflection, and leadership development. The service aspect is conducted in collaboration with the Consulate of Mexico.

The three representatives of Pastoral Migratoria - Dian Alarcon, Raymundo Valdez, and Katie Sosa - shared their individual experiences as immigrants and spoke on their involvement in this ministry in the Archdiocese. They encouraged the other five dioceses in Illinois to consider Pastoral Migratoria as a possible model for immigrant to immigrant ministry around the state.



Dian Alarcon from St. Victor, Calumet City



Raymundo Valdez from Our Lady of Guadalupe, East Chicago



Katie Sosa from Blessed Sacrament, Chicago

Participants, most of whom were invited to attend the training by diocesan representatives of the CCIR-Illinois Statewide Network, were urged to continue working in collaboration with the Network members as they go forth in their dedicated work to minister to, educate, and advocate on behalf of immigrants in parish communities around the State of Illinois.

***About CCIR-Illinois Statewide 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](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)).*