



Thursday 10 December, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our archdiocese, as well as our country, is home to thousands of hard-working families living in the shadows, fearful of each trip to church or the grocery store and terrified by every knock at the door, because of our broken immigration system. We cannot stand by when brothers and sisters are exploited and families are divided.

The Justice for Immigrants campaign of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has been a leading voice calling for fair, federal legislation that respects the right to life and dignity of each person - immigration reform "that keeps families together, adopts smart and humane enforcement policies, and ensures that immigrants without legal status register with the government and begin a path toward citizenship."

Justice for Immigrants is launching a legislative postcard campaign on January 3, coinciding with National Migration week. A recent Archdiocesan Pastoral Communiqué included a memo to pastors welcoming parish participation in the postcard campaign. Pastors may designate their parish contact person who will receive the postcards and instructions, facilitate the signing, and return the postcards to the Parish & Social Justice Ministries program of Catholic Charities for shipment to USCCB staff. Pastors interested in participating may contact Augusto Michael Trujillo at amtrujillo@archatl.com for information.

We encourage and appreciate your implementation of this postcard campaign. It is a significant, concrete way to demonstrate love of neighbor and our Eucharistic unity in Christ. It is an answer to the question in Matthew 25, "Lord, when did we see you?"

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory Bishop Luis R. Zarama

Further details on National Migration week at www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml

Further details on Justice for Immigrants at www.justiceforimmigrants.org