

March 21, 2010
MARCH FOR AMERICA: CHANGE TAKES COURAGE AND FAITH

Over 200,000 people came to Washington, DC on Sunday, March 21, 2010 to rally for the urgency of comprehensive immigration reform and call on the President to deliver on his promise. The pro-immigration crowd also asked for strong leadership in the Senate and the House of Representatives on the issue.

The program began with an Interfaith Immigration Prayer Service at 1 pm. The rally itself had dozens of speakers who represented faith groups, business, labor, ethnic groups, and immigration organizations. There was a pre-recorded message from President Obama expressing his continued support for CIR.

Those participating agreed that the rally was inspiring, hopeful, and spirited.

Mr. Billy Lawless, from the Chicago CELTS for Immigration Reform, spoke for the Irish and Irish-Americans assembled at the rally:

IN 1855 A CHICAGO EDITOR WROTE " PUT STRYCNINE IN IMMIGRANTS FOOD,
HANG EVERY IRISHMAN FROM EVERY LAMPOST IN CHICAGO"

150 YEARS LATER DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS BUT THE SAME INFLAMATORY
MESSAGE.

BUT NOW THE IRISH ARE STANDING WITH THEIR AFRICAN, ASIAN AND LATINA
BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

30% OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS ARE NON LATINO.

THIS IS AN IMMIGRANT COUNTRY. MOST OF US ARE DECENDENTS OF IMMIGRANTS
WHO FOUND FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN THE AMERICAN DREAM.

I COME FROM CHICAGO ILLINOIS WHERE SENATOR DICK DURBIN HAS LONG BEEN
AN ADVOCATE AND LEADER OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM.

BUT WE NEED MORE THAN SENATOR DURBIN.

REPUBLICAN SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN HAVE NOT SHOWN COURAGE ON THIS
ISSUE.

MANY OF THEM BELIEVE IN IMMIGRATION REFORM AND HAVE TOLD US SO.

BUT THEY HAVE TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE, COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND
SHOW LEADERSHIP BY SUPPORTING IMMIGRATION REFORM.

ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PRESIDENT OBAMA TOLD ME THAT HE IS DILLIGENTLY WORKING ON COMPREHENSIVE REFORM AND I BELIEVE HIM.

WE WILL HOLD YOU TO YOUR PROMISE MR. PRESIDENT TO PASS A COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL THIS SESSION.

The rally is just the beginning of a national grassroots movement this spring to have comprehensive immigration reform legislation enacted in Congress. To find out more how you can be involved in this effort, go to the USCCB *Justice for Immigrants* website: www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

3 Photos of the DC National Mall during the Rally Below





