

**Members of the Irish Apostolate celebrate  
Pope's Visit to Washington, DC and  
New York City**

Pope Benedict XVI was greeted by President and Laura Bush on the South Lawn of the White House on the morning of April 16, 2008. **Geri Garvey** was among the more than 12,000 people who enthusiastically applauded the Pope's arrival at the welcoming ceremony. The crowd spontaneously sang "Happy Birthday" to the Pope, who was celebrating his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday that day. The half-hour ceremony included inspiring remarks by President Bush and the Pope, national anthems of the USA and the Vatican, a beautifully sung Lord's Prayer, and other music. After private remarks with the President, Pope Benedict departed the White House grounds in his popemobile on the way to the Apostolic Nuncio's Residence on Massachusetts Avenue.



**Trish O'Callaghan**, who works in the Catholic Charities Communications Office, Arch-

diocese of New York, sent us this first-hand report and photo. 212 371-1000 x 3640 – [Patricia.ocallaghan@archny.org](mailto:Patricia.ocallaghan@archny.org)

**Pope Benedict XVI Blesses 50 Local  
Disabled Children**

More than 50 disabled children received personal blessings from His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI on Saturday, April 19 at St. Joseph's Seminary Chapel in Yonkers during the Pope's visit to the United States.

The children were selected from parishes, schools, and Catholic Charities agencies that provide services to the disabled. The last time the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church came to the United States was in 1995, when Pope John Paul II visited New Jersey, New York, and Baltimore.

"I am so pleased that Pope Benedict is meeting with children and young people with disabilities on his trip to the United States," said Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, executive director of The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, and the coordinator of this special meeting with the Holy Father. "This powerfully affirms our belief in the dignity of each person as made in God's image – even when that life might be severely vulnerable and challenged. This provides both hope and encouragement for the work of Catholic Charities and others in supporting those in need with dignity and compassion."



As a special part of the event, the Archdiocesan Deaf Choir used sign language to perform "Take Lord, Receive," a hymn based on the Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola. They will be accompanied by the St. Patrick's Cathedral Youth Choir in the performance.

**Sr. Christine Hennessy** sent the following report: There have been so many photos, news reports and personal stories about those who were privileged to see Pope Benedict in person during his recent visit to the United States. I was one of the lucky ones who won a ticket to the Mass at Yankee Stadium from our parish, St. Barnabas in the Bronx. There were two busloads of us who traveled together to join the thousands of others who attended the event. The mood was jubilant, whether we were walking from the parking lot, waiting on line to enter the stadium, or enjoying the wonderful two hour Concert of Hope before the arrival of the Pope. The weather was perfect, and the stadium was transformed into a beautifully decorated place of worship. It would be hard to describe the energy and enthusiasm which filled the air. Praying and singing together with so many other faithful Catholics gave me a renewed sense of hope and joy. As was true of his reflections and homilies at the other sites he visited, his words to us were very affirming, encouraging and challenging. I know that it will be a day I will not forget.

At the Celebration of Vespers and Meeting with the Bishops of the United States of America, Pope Benedict XVI made the following remarks regarding **immigration**:

*"Many of the people to whom John Carroll and his fellow Bishops were ministering two centuries ago had traveled from distant lands. The diversity of their origins is reflected in the rich variety of ecclesial life in present-day America. Brother Bishops, I want to encourage you and your communities to continue to welcome the immigrants who join your ranks today, to share their joys and hopes, to support them in their sorrow and trials, and to help them flourish in their new home. This, indeed, is what your fellow countrymen have done for generations. From the beginning, they have opened their doors to the tired, the poor, the 'huddled masses yearning to breathe free.' These are the people whom America has made her own."*

### **Update on the JFI Campaign** **SAVE LETTERS TO CONGRESS – April 2008**

The *Justice for Immigrants* campaign organizations, in collaboration with 19 other faith-based organizations, began a campaign on April 7 faxing letters regarding the flaws of the SAVE Act (HR 4088) "Shuler-Tancredo" bill to ALL MEMBERS of the House of Representatives. The Interfaith Immigrant Coalition initiated this effort in response to the discharge petition filed last month on the bill. Under House Rules, any petition that garners 218 signatures places a bill on the calendar for full House consideration outside of the regular committee process. We believe that the SAVE Act does not address our immigration problems and would create more chaos by relying on inadequate government databases.

The JFI campaign's date to fax the letters was April 29. In addition to the letter to all House members, the JFI legislative team visited the offices of some Catholic Democrats and Republicans to offer our support and thank them for NOT signing the petition. Grassroots networks in these Congressional districts also contacted the offices the same day enabling us to have a more coordinated effort. The JFI legislative team distributed copies of quotes by Pope Benedict XVI regarding immigration on his visit to Washington and New York.

Some of the other faith groups participating in the *SAVE Letter Campaign* include: Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Church World Service, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, American Jewish Committee, Jesuit Conference, United Methodist Church, Sojourners, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, NETWORK, Interfaith Worker Justice, Catholic Charities, United Church of Christ, Episcopal Church, and the American Friends Service Committee.

Karen Herrling, attorney at CLINIC, will discuss employment verification systems and their use as ICE enforcement tools. This webinar will provide an overview of the E-verify system, the Social Security Number Verifications System, and the Social Security Administration's No-Match Program. CLINIC attorney Peggy Gleason will also participate in the call. It is free to IAN members. The only cost for this webinar is long distance telephone charges. To register, visit <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/link.cfm?9837> (login required)

### **IMMIGRATION ADVOCATES NETWORK**

[www.immigrationadvocates.org](http://www.immigrationadvocates.org)

**Who We Are:** The Immigration Advocates Network ("IAN") is an exciting and innovative resource for non-profit advocates and service providers. IAN is a collaboration of leading immigrants' rights organizations designed to increase access to justice for low income immigrants. IAN will promote more effective and efficient communication among existing immigration organizations by providing easily accessible and comprehensive online resources in a password-protected website for legal service providers, pro bono attorneys and advocates. By establishing a website for non-profit organizations with timely information and links to other sites, we will enhance our collective advocacy efforts, share information, and support the work and visibility of our members.

**Join Us!!!** To join us, click "register" at [www.immigrationadvocates.org](http://www.immigrationadvocates.org). Registration is free.

**Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) is offering two free webinars to members of the Immigration Advocates Network.**

***ICE Enforcement in the Workplace:  
Verification Systems - Wednesday, April 23***

### ***Select Issues in Immigrating Through Marriage - Tuesday, May 6th***

This webinar will review the rules on conditional permanent residence, the requirements for filing the joint petition or waiver to remove the condition, the consequences of failing to timely file, the requirements for conditional resident children and other considerations for conditional residents. The session will also examine the requirements and process for widow/widower petitions. The trainers for this webinar are CLINIC's Director of Training and Technical Support, Charles Wheeler and CLINIC attorney Kristina Karpinski. It is free to IAN members. The only cost for this webinar is long distance telephone charges. To register, visit <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/link.cfm?9743> (login required)

### ***Detention – Rights Working Group Presentation***

Margaret Huang and Pabitra Benjamin of the Rights Working Group gave an overview of the upcoming **June 19<sup>th</sup> Night of 1000 Conversations** at a recent Interfaith Immigration Coalition meeting, which will kick-off a new campaign to demand improved conditions in immigration detention centers and other due process protections for non-citizens. The **Night of 1000 Conversations** offers an innovative way for faith-based organizations to engage their communities and allies in discussions about immigration enforcement. Rights Working Group will also be implementing a national communications strategy to target local and national media outlets in covering the activities in

locations around the country. More details to follow!

### IAUSA Board Visits DC

On April 7-8, **Fr. Brendan McBride, Fr. Michael Leonard, Fr. John McCarthy, Celine Kennelly, and Geri Garvey** met to review last year's accomplishments of IAUSA and to plan for the coming year. The group met with Orla O'Hanrahan and Aoife McGarry at the Embassy to encourage the Irish government to continue working for a solution for the undocumented Irish in the United States.

The Board visited the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops where the priests had an opportunity to concelebrate Mass in the Chapel. Additionally, they were able to hear a presentation on *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* and met with Antonio Cube, the new JFI Campaign Manager.

The meeting was very productive and they outlined some new objectives for the coming year.



(l to r) Michael Leonard, Brendan McBride, John McCarthy

### Employer Eases Path to Citizenship

A businessman who operates a statewide chain of pizzerias and has invested millions of dollars into redeveloping old Lawrence mills is pushing a new initiative aimed at aiding his immigrant workers to obtain United States

citizenship. And he wants area businesses to join him.

Salvatore Lupoli, president and CEO of Lupoli Cos. in Lawrence, said the new Lawrence Citizenship Initiative could serve as a model for Massachusetts businesses struggling with keeping a stable workforce. It is a partnership between his company, which will pay for attorney and application fees, and various nonprofits that will offer citizenship classes.

Under the plan, which is also sponsored by the city of Lawrence, Lupoli will help cover the cost for 10 of his employees in their quest to obtain citizenship while they learn English and American history. Meanwhile, groups like the Fish Family Foundation and the Leadership and Literacy Foundation will provide education and training for the workers as they address their immigration status.

**Abby Colbert, a lawyer with the Irish Immigration Center**, said the cost of applying for citizenship varies depending on attorneys' fees and what documents the individual needs. She said it can cost some immigrants thousands of dollars.

To apply for help under the initiative, workers must be employed at the same company for at least six months and be legal residents. No plans have been proposed on how long employees must stay with their current companies once they receive citizenship.

*Source: Boston Globe*

### U.S. Hits Cap On H-1B Visa Petitions for Fiscal 2009

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said it received more than enough H-1B visa petitions to meet the annual cap of 85,000 for fiscal 2009 beginning Oct. 1.

The cap includes 65,000 general H-1B visas and 20,000 H-1B visa exemptions for foreign-born students who received advanced degrees from U.S. schools.

USCIS accepted the petitions for five days, beginning on April 1 and ending April 7. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

announced early this month that it had received enough petitions within 24 hours to meet the congressional cap of 65,000 H-1B visas for those for highly skilled foreign workers that available for next year.

The Dept. of Homeland Security also issued an additional interim final ruling, extending by 17 months the Optional Practical Training (OPT) for qualified foreign students with F-1 visas and degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This allows those students to work for employers up to 29 months instead of only 12 months, giving those students more time to receive H-1B visas before their F-1 visas expire.

The hitch for employers: The extension is only available to students employed by companies that are enrolled in the Dept. of Homeland Security's E-Verify program, the government's electronic system for companies to verify that a job candidate is in the U.S. legally.

Source: Information Week

### **House Passes Extension of Religious Worker Visa Program**

The House passed a bill April 15 to renew a special visa program for religious workers, which has been plagued by fraud. The bill (HR 5570), which passed by voice vote, would extend the R-1 visa program until 2016. The program allows churches, synagogues and mosques to sponsor qualified foreigners to fill non-ministerial religious jobs.

The measure would require the Homeland Security Department to issue regulations to reduce R-1 visa fraud, and it conditions extension of the program on issuance of those rules. It also would require the department's inspector general to report to Congress by Sept. 30, 2010, on the effectiveness of the anti-fraud regulations.

Source: *Congressional Quarterly*

### **Immigration Inertia**

"I'm in favor of immigration," Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.) once said. "But we also need rules." Most Americans probably agree. So why are sensible rules so hard to come by?

Last year, lawmakers on Capitol Hill tried and failed to pass comprehensive immigration and border security reform. The bill died largely because it tried to do too many things. For example, it would have granted amnesty to the millions here illegally and put all of them -- whether they came here to work hard or to commit crimes -- on a path to citizenship.

Fortunately, that approach collapsed. But the problems persist. America needs to regain control of its broken southern border and restore the integrity of U.S. immigration laws. Employers, meanwhile, need legal workers to grow the American economy. Doing nothing won't make these troubles go away.

There is, in fact, a lot that can be done. Yes, without disgorging a massive comprehensive bill hundreds of pages long and stuffed with special-interest demands -- one that members are expected to vote on first and read later. The problem is, congressional leaders appear unwillingly to let anything come to the floor. Certain lawmakers are insisting that nothing be done unless Congress follows last year's flawed formula. Right now, the leadership is listening.

*James Jay Carafano, Ph.D., is Senior Research Fellow for National Security and Homeland Security at The Heritage Foundation ([heritage.org](http://heritage.org)) and author of "G.I. Ingenuity."*

For the entire article, see:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/11/AR2008041103173.html>

Source: *Washington Post*

### **Obama: Enforce Tighter Border, Employer Verifications**

One of my fundamental beliefs is that for too long we have had a politics of division and distraction in Washington that's stopped us from coming together to bring about real change. There are few better examples of how broken our politics has become than the immigration debate. Just last summer, we saw comprehensive reform fail in part because of bitter partisanship.

While I understand the passions -- and legitimate differences -- on both sides of this difficult issue, we must restore civility and reason to the conversation. The longer we go without comprehensive reform, the more pronounced this problem will become.

We must find common ground and take action on the two central issues that lie at the heart of this debate -- and we cannot effectively address one without addressing the other at the same time.

First, we must reinforce our borders to deter the more than 2,000 immigrants who cross them illegally each day. Most of these aspiring laborers risk death in the desert to come here illegally, and they are diverting our attention from those trying to enter to do us harm. ...

Second, we must require the 12 million undocumented immigrants who are already here, including more than 300,000 in North Carolina, to step out of the shadows and onto a path that includes the ability to earn citizenship by demonstrating a sound character, a commitment to America, and a strong work ethic.

We are a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants, and we must reconcile those traditions. It's time to move beyond our broken politics and achieve real progress on immigration reform, not just for the sake of passing a bill, and not as a favor to immigrants, but so that we can finally address the concerns of the American people, and make real the hopes of all those who want nothing more than a chance at the American Dream.

For the entire article, go to:

<http://www.charlotte.com/171/story/580080.html>

*Source: Charlotte Observer*

### **San Francisco Advertises Services for Illegal Immigrants**

This city has long considered itself a compassionate place, promoting gay marriages and expanded homeless welfare programs.

Now officials are extending a very public welcome to undocumented workers.

This week, the city launched a campaign featuring TV and radio ads, billboards and bus signs reminding residents of its status as a sanctuary city for illegal immigrants. The \$83,000 blitz will include brochures distributed at police stations and hospitals, promising safe access to city services regardless of residency status.

"We're inviting people to come out of the shadows and take advantage of services," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. San Francisco has tried to make this point clear for years.

Since it became a sanctuary city in 1989, the city has barred employees from assisting federal officials with immigration investigations or arrests. But Newsom said recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in San Francisco and the Bay Area convinced him the city needed to do more.

City officials wanted to remind illegal workers that the city would not play a part in any possible discrimination they might encounter at the hands of the federal government, the mayor said.

While numerous communities -- including San Jose, Oakland, Seattle and Miami -- consider themselves sanctuary cities, none of the others has launched a campaign to advertise that fact, officials here say.

Los Angeles does not consider itself a sanctuary city, but officials say police will not take part in federal immigration raids. "Our officers are not immigration officers," said Matt Szabo, a spokesman for Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

*Source: Los Angeles Times*

Your comments regarding this newsletter are welcome. Please fax or email any information you would like included in this newsletter to:

Geri Garvey, Administrator

**Irish Apostolate, USA**

1005 Downs Drive

Silver Spring, MD 20904

Phone/Fax: 301-384-3375

Email: [administrator@usairish.org](mailto:administrator@usairish.org)

Website: [www.usairish.org](http://www.usairish.org)