



### JFI Campaign Update

The JFI Legislative Strategy Group comprised of USCCB, CLINIC, Catholic Relief Services, Sisters of Mercy, Catholic Charities USA, Jesuit Conference, and the Irish Apostolate USA held a brainstorming session to develop a plan of action for the next 6-12 months.

The following objectives were outlined:

1. Develop Diocesan and Local Efforts by creating an informational packet on Enforcement, State & Local Ordinances, and Raids for use by the Bishops and other Catholic networks. Packet would include talking points, editorials, and a checklist of how local groups can respond.
2. Strengthen our Organizing Capacity by sharing best practices, facilitating local networking and identifying contacts in dioceses not in the JFI campaign.
3. Improve our Education Outreach by working with the diocesan Communications Directors, disseminating information on root causes of migration, sharing best educational practices, and participating in CCUSA Webinars on migration topics.
4. Review our Legislative strategy to develop a plan to work with members of Congress to prevent negative amendments and to find allies on important committees that may help with positive legislation. USCCB will continue to write and disseminate the "TAKE 5 on Amendments" to the JFI campaign organizations for their use by their networks.

5. Improve communications at every level and publicize how the issues of Migration and Development are connected and have global dimensions.

### Labor Day 2007: A Time to Remember; A Time to Recommit

**By Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Brooklyn  
Chairman, Domestic-Policy Committee  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

**(selected text)**

#### A Look Back: A Failed Immigration Debate

Labor Day, while not as clear in its purpose as it might be, still marks a turning point in the calendar and our lives. In some ways, Labor Day may seem like a second New Year's Day, a time for looking back at what has happened and looking ahead at the work that lies before us. In this reflection, I would like to look back to something that did not go well for our nation and look ahead to some signs of hope.

What did not go well was the national debate over immigration reform. I focus on this as we approach Labor Day because at its core immigration is about workers who come to our land to try to secure better lives for themselves and their families by their labor. This vital national immigration discussion polarized our people, paralyzed the Congress, and failed our nation. This debate was truly a case of "more heat than light," more passion than progress. In my view, sometimes anger trumped wisdom, myths overwhelmed facts, and slogans replaced solutions. After this debate, we are a society more divided, a people more confused, and a nation unable to move forward on one of the most

serious and complicated issues we face as a nation.

This should not surprise us, but it should not dissuade us either. I have spent much of my life and ministry working on immigration programs and policies. I know how frustrating and complicated, how emotional and fundamental these issues are. But we have to do better. We have to find a way to re-start the discussion, to re-engage the hard issues, to search for practical and realistic solutions. This debate brought out some of the worst in us. Now we need to draw on the best in us if we are ever going to move forward as a whole, healthy society and nation.

Let me suggest a few starting points for a new and better immigration discussion: **reality, civility, morality, and consistency.**

The full text of the statement in pdf format is being sent with this newsletter. A copy of the USCCB 2007 Labor Day Statement can also be found on the USCCB ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) and Irish Apostolate USA websites ([www.usairish.org](http://www.usairish.org))

### **A Less Ambitious Approach to Immigration**

*By Arlen Specter, Senator from Pennsylvania*

The charge of amnesty defeated comprehensive [immigration reform](#) in the Senate this summer. It is too important, and there has been too much legislative investment, not to try again. The time to do so is now.

Certainly the government should implement the provisions it has already enacted to improve border security and crack down on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants. But the important additions on those subjects contained in the bill [defeated](#) in June will not be enacted without also dealing with the 12 million-plus undocumented immigrants and the guest worker program.

So let's take a fresh look and try a narrower approach.

To read the entire article, go to:  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/05/AR2007080501058.html>

### **Another Win for Immigrant Rights**

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, as a result of a federal court settlement with MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund), the police department improved its procedures by clearly stating that officers will not investigate a person's immigration status nor will they enforce federal civil immigration laws. This agreement stems from the settlement of Gonzalez v. the City of Albuquerque, a civil rights lawsuit filed by MALDEF in May 2005.

In that case, local police and school officials detained three high school students until immigration officials could question them about their immigration status. The Albuquerque Police Department's revised procedures should be applauded not only as an effective tool for enhancing the city's community policing efforts and avoiding unlawful practices such as racial profiling, but also for being in line with recent court decisions in California, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Texas that have consistently held that federal immigration authorities have sole and exclusive authority over the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

**Visit the Irish Apostolate USA website for current news and press releases on immigration and information on our Irish Immigration Pastoral Centers and Outreach Programs in the U.S. [www.usairish.org](http://www.usairish.org)**

### **Chamber sues Gov. Napolitano over Immigration Law**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday (Aug 22) joined businesses suing Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano over the recent law she signed that will revoke business licenses for companies caught twice with undocumented workers.

The national heavyweight intends to put more pressure on U.S. lawmakers to address illegal immigration by arguing piecemeal state laws like Arizona's are unconstitutional.

The Washington, D.C.-based chamber

boasts 3 million member businesses, and has a staff of 300 in the capital.

*Source: The Arizona Republic*

### **Busy Summer for Ocean City and San Diego**

Bill Ferguson and Bernadette Cashman report a busy summer working with the Irish students in the United States under the J-1 visa program. Besides welcoming the students, their offices give information about housing and employment options and warn the visitors to avoid problems with the law. They also become advocates for the students when any problems arise.

Bill reports: "It has been a good summer. We had more than 100 Students again and because of the fewer number as compared to what we had in the past we were able to give them more attention with some new ideas. When we met them at the Social Security Office we got them to fill out forms which indicated their needs for things such as sheets, towels, pillows, bikes, microwaves, etc. One of the things not on our list was tea kettles and I think we ended up buying all the tea kettles in Ocean City. I also had each of our people "adopt" a group of the Students and look in on them occasionally. We had three arrests and two citations. One went to trial and was dismissed and the others were resolved with community service. There was one girl whose Father died suddenly and we had to rush her to Dulles Airport, and one case of a bad sunburn. It was a delightful group of young people and I enjoyed visiting with them. They seem to be leaving earlier and by the end of this week most will be gone. When asked if they had a good summer and if they would recommend Ocean City to their friends they all answered very positively."

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BILL AND BERNADETTE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE TO THESE YOUNG STUDENTS!**

**Christian Version of YouTube: Godtube.com**  
**Good clip on immigration:**  
[http://www.godtube.com/view\\_video?viewkey=2e20a9e3d4b5f83723a6](http://www.godtube.com/view_video?viewkey=2e20a9e3d4b5f83723a6)

## **NATIONAL CALL IN DAYS**

**On September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, use this toll free number 1-888-732-9404. Ask to be connected to your Senator's office and tell your Senator:**

- **Please say NO to S. 1984! - I urge you to oppose the Immigration Enforcement and Border Security Act of 2007 (S. 1984). More fences, walls, detention centers, agents and rounding up immigrants at their homes and workplaces are not the answer.**
- **Please SUPPORT Congressional oversight of DHS's SSA "no match" letter policy including employer liability for employment discrimination and the complaint process.**
- **Please say YES to constructive immigration reform that includes a path to permanent residency and citizenship, restores due process rights, stops the militarization of the southern border, and ensures humane policies that keep families together.**

### **Bush Administration Announced Plan to Enact New Immigration Measures**

In early August, the Bush Administration announced plans to step up immigration enforcement. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Commerce Secretary Carlos Guitierrez unveiled a plan comprised of more than two dozen steps the Administration is taking to address worksite, border, and interior enforcement. Although the plan focuses on polices which are already in place or in progress, such as increasing border patrol and ending the border catch-and-release polices, it also would also crack down on employers who hire undocumented immigrants. While current law

already allows employers to be fined, the new policy clarifies the employer liability should they fail to take steps within 90 days of receiving a "no-match" letter. In addition, the new initiative would:

- Require that all federal contractors and vendors use the federal verification system to verify the legal work status of their employee;
- Limit the number of documents that an employer can accept to verify a person's identity and employment eligibility;
- Expand detention facilities;
- Allow states to voluntarily permit the federal government to access photographs in their Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) databases;
- Streamline guestworker programs, including the H-2A agricultural worker program and the H-2B program for non-agricultural and skilled workers;
- Revise the naturalization test;
- Expand efforts to criminally prosecute and increase fines for employers that knowingly hire undocumented workers;
- Mandate a study for a detailed plan on how federal agencies will share data to eliminate workers from getting credit for social security benefits before obtaining legal status.

NOTE: The "No Match Ruling" was passed on August 15. It will go into effect in 30 days. CIR organizations believe it will disrupt people's lives, the economy as well as communities across the United States.

ICE is now using the Social Security Administration "No Match" letters as a tool for enforcement (NEW). If employers follow the rules and jump through the hoop, they told they will be considered "safe harbors."

When an employer receives a "No Match" letter he has 30 days to re-verify his data with the Social Security Administration (SSA). If there are no errors on his part, he must notify the employee who has 90 days to go to the SSA and fix the problem. If the employee claims he fixed the problem, the employer must verify this with the SSA. If an employee cannot fix it, the employer has 3 days to re-verify the employee's documents and resubmit a new I-9. The identity documents presented must include a photo.

#### CONCERNS BY CIR GROUPS:

- This ruling will result in a massive turning over of the workforce and will create a larger cash economy.
- There will also be more exploitation of the undocumented and discrimination of some ethnic groups in the workplace.
- There is concern that there will be Information sharing between the SSA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Employers may opt to terminate workers rather than being found complicit in hiring undocumented workers. Many unjust firings will result. The SSA says there are 17.8 million records in their data base that are "No Match."
- The ruling will have disproportionate effect on the Foreign Born, women with name changes from marriage or divorce, and naturalized citizens.
- "Bad" employers will use "No Match" as retaliation against workers who fight for unions, worker rights, or workmen compensation claims.

**This ruling may have one positive result. Because of the impact on business and the economy, let alone individuals and communities, this may push Congress to do something about comprehensive immigration reform.**

#### POSSIBLE LEGAL CHALLENGES:

Businesses are looking under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. DHS said that this ruling was not a major rule that would affect small and large business as well as the economy. (\$100 million annually) However, depriving 7 million undocumented who are now in the workforce and their contributions to taxes and SSA would be more than that. A lawsuit may be filed by U.S. businesses.

The National Immigration Law Center (NILC) has legal challenges to DHS that they exceeded their authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act. The SSA "No Match" letters were never meant to be an enforcement tool. They are also looking at challenges to the due

process rights of immigrants. [A lawsuit was filed by AFL-CIO, NILC, et al against DHS on Aug 30.]

Advocates are also looking at Appropriations Bills to limit funding for the ruling's implementation.

The National Immigration Law Center (NILC) would like to hear from any organization who has encountered someone who has been terminated unjustly. Any organizations that are working with clients who have been terminated should get copies of all documents from the employer and copies of all correspondence.

### **Diplomat, State Department Veteran Named To Head Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services Office**

**Career Ambassador Johnny Young**, a distinguished U.S. Foreign Service officer from 1967 to 2005, has been named executive director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS).

He succeeds Mark Franken, who retired in June from the USCCB. Ambassador Young begins his position August 13.

Ambassador Young's diplomatic service has included heading U.S. embassies in Slovenia, 2001-2004; Bahrain, 1997-2001; Togo, 1994-1997; and Sierra Leone, 1989-1992. In addition he has held various other State Department positions in Washington and around the world.

"The work of the USCCB to aid refugees and victims of human trafficking is high priority for the Catholic bishops of the United States," Msgr. Malloy said in appointing Ambassador Young. "Because of his work in Africa, especially with refugees in Sierra Leone, and in Slovenia, where he worked against the scourge of human trafficking, Johnny Young has profound knowledge of the depths of these problems." "In addition, his experiences with various government agencies, such as the Department of State's Office of Career Development and Assignments and the Office of the Inspector General, give him a breadth of perspective and exceptional management skills that will enable him to make a significant contribution to the work of the

Department of Migration and Refugee Services," Msgr. Malloy said.

Ambassador Young is a native of Savannah, Georgia, and grew up in Philadelphia where he graduated from Temple University. He is married to Angelena V. Young and is the father of two adult children.

The U.S. bishops' efforts with migrants and refugees go back to the days of Ellis Island where between 1920 and 1930 alone, the church assisted more than 100,000 immigrants in their efforts to enter the United States.

*Source: Catholic News Service*

### **Facts About Immigration and Housing**

**IMMIGRATION GROWTH:** As many as half a million U.S. housing units are newly occupied each year by immigrants. In some parts of the U.S., immigrants account for more than 90 percent of all growth in housing demand.

**URBAN POPULATIONS:** Without the addition of immigrants, the New York metro area would have lost nearly 600,000 people from 2000 to 2006. The Los Angeles area would have lost more than 200,000, the San Francisco area 188,000 and the Boston area 101,000.

**OVER THE DECADES:** From 1970 to 2000, immigrants' share of the nations' rental households rose from 9 percent to 17 percent and from 7 percent to 9 percent of owner-occupied households. Foreign-born households increased by 1.5 million in the 1970s, 1.8 million in the 1980s, and 4.4 million in the 1990s.

**HOME OWNERSHIP:** Immigrants who had been in the U.S. for more than 30 years were just as likely to own a home as native-born citizens of all ages, according to data from the 2000 census. After spending more than 35 years in the U.S., immigrants were slightly more likely to own homes than those who were born here.

*Sources: Census data, Harvard University's Joint Center on Housing Studies, University of Southern California's School of Policy, Planning and Development, Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia.*

**The National Immigration Forum has compiled editorials from around the country on Congress' failure to enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform. To read them, go to: <http://immigrationforum.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=917>**

### **Sacred Refuge**

With comprehensive immigration reform off the congressional agenda, the New Sanctuary Movement steps into the breach. Click this link to read the article: <http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=magazine.article&issue=soj0709&article=070910>

### **States Tackle Immigration as National Move Fails**

The National Conference of State Legislatures said state lawmakers had introduced roughly 2-1/2 times more bills related to immigration in 2007 than in 2006. So far this year, 170 bills have been enacted in 41 states, up from 84 in 2006.

The report by the NCSL said that by July 2, 1,404 pieces of legislation related to immigration had been introduced among the 50 state legislatures. The 170 that were enacted covered a range of areas from access to healthcare and education to eligibility for public benefits and voting rights.

*Source: Reuters.com*

### **U.S. Agency is Swamped by Requests for Visas**

Immigration authorities have received about 300,000 applications for high-skilled-employment visas since July 1, federal officials said yesterday, a deluge unleashed after the federal government first said it would not accept any applications for those visas during July and then reversed course.

Citizenship and Immigration Services, the federal agency, was still receiving applications for

employment visas yesterday, the last day of a special period it announced on July 17 for immigrants with professional skills to file petitions for permanent residence visas, known as green cards. As a result, the total tally of applications received in the last six weeks was not available.

The agency admitted it was swamped by the applications it had already received, which was more than double the annual limit of 140,000 employment visas.

*Source: New York Times*

### **U.S. Facing Reverse Brain Drain Threat**

One million skilled migrants are caught in a US green card backlog and a third are thinking of returning to their homeland. A new study warns the US may be about to experience a "reverse brain drain" of its technological knowhow.

The study, "Intellectual Property, the Immigration Backlog and a Reverse Brain Drain," warns of increasing frustration among skilled immigrants who have to wait for several years to become US permanent residents.

About 30 per cent of these immigrants, says the study's lead author Vivek Wadhwa of Harvard University, are Indians. As India's economic rises, many are increasingly open to returning to their home country creating "the potential for a sizeable reverse brain-drain from the US."

*Source: Hindustan Times*

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