

### Update on the JFI Campaign

*Celine Kennelly* from the San Francisco IIPC and *Geri Garvey* were among the more than 800 persons who attended the **2008 National Migration Conference, “Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice,”** in Washington, DC from July 28-31, 2008 sponsored by the USSCB Migration and Refugee Services and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

Some of the highlights of the program included a keynote address by Roger Cardinal Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles. In his presentation Cardinal Mahony assessed the role and importance of the Church’s involvement in the national immigration debate.

Dr. Marcelo Suarez-Orozco, Professor of Globalization and Education at the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University, spoke from his extensive expertise and research on global migration to bring a broader focus to the immigration debate and an examination of the factors that compel the movement of persons within and across borders.

A very informative workshop led by Kevin Appleby, MRS Policy Director and Ali Noorani, Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum on **“Back to the Future-Comprehensive Immigration Reform-The Road to Victory”** focused upon reasons for the failures of past comprehensive immigration reform legislation. We heard how the Catholic community can prepare for a return to comprehensive immigration reform in the future. Suggestions were given on new strategies and methods, including effective coalition building and educational tools. A political overview and perspective from Capitol Hill along with the view from the business community was shared, as well as how dioceses can partner with businesses for effective immigration reform in their area.

This session was followed by a workshop that concentrated on the appropriate use of messaging in the immigration debate. Panelists provided responses to such questions as: How do we respond to the amnesty charge? What pro-immigrant messages resonate with the American public generally, and Catholics specifically; and what are best methods for getting out a pro-immigrant message?

The workshops were divided into *Policy, Refugee, Pastoral Care and Legal Services* sections to assist participants in focusing on their areas of relevance.

Over 300 attendees participated in the **July 30 Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill.** Attendees were divided by states and meetings were scheduled with Senate and House offices. The day began with a keynote address by Honorable Christopher H. Smith (R-4th, NJ), who gave a Capitol Hill perspective on migration issues under consideration by Congress, including human trafficking, refugee protection, and immigration reform.



The **Justice for Immigrants** Website is undergoing revision. Please check the site for updated information about The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform: [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

## CQ POLITICS: Immigration Fades as Presidential Campaign Issue

How powerful an issue will immigration be in the presidential campaign? A [Gallup survey](#) conducted June 5 through July 6 suggests that it will not be as hot-button an issue as it was in some primary states and in the tangling of legislation on Capitol Hill.

Gallup says 39 percent of Americans favor a reduction in immigration compared to 45 percent a year ago. Gallup says that during much of the post-9/11 period at least a plurality of Americans had previously favored cutbacks, with the high point being 58 percent after the terrorist attacks. Americans think immigration is a good thing for the country by a 64 percent to 30 percent margin, a slight increase from a year ago. Gallup noted that its polling in June found only 27 percent of Americans said immigration would be an "extremely important" factor in how they voted, which ranked it last among eight issues tested.

Forty-one percent of whites said immigration should be kept at its present level, 15 percent said it should be increased and 42 percent said it should be decreased. Thirty-five percent of blacks said it should stay at current levels, 21 percent said it should be increased and 39 percent said it should be decreased. As for Hispanics, 40 percent favored keeping it at current levels while those who favored increases or decreases tied at 28 percent. Large majorities of whites and blacks said immigrants costs taxpayers too much while not paying their fair share of taxes. Hispanics believed the opposite, also by large margins.

For the entire article, go to:

<http://blogs.cqpolitics.com/polltracker/2008/07/immigration-fades-as-president.html>

## House and Senate Pass Repeal of the HIV Travel/Immigration Ban

On 07/24/2008, the House passed the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act ([H.R. 5501](#)) by roll call vote #531, 303-115. On 07/16/08, the Senate passed the same bill ([S. 2731](#)). The bill will now be sent to the president

for his signature. President Bush, who championed the original law in 2003 ([PL 108-25](#)) and pushed for reauthorization this year, is expected to sign the bill into law.

The bill authorizes \$48 billion over the next five years to fight AIDS and other diseases overseas. The bill includes a provision that would repeal the HIV travel/immigration ban by amending the current health-related ground of inadmissibility to exclude any reference to HIV. This provision returns the authority to the Department of Health and Human Services to determine whether individuals with HIV should be permitted to travel to the U.S.

The ban, a long-standing discriminatory policy against individuals with HIV/AIDS, was enacted in 1987 at a time of rampant fear about the HIV virus and how it is spread. While the Department of Health and Human Services evaluates all other diseases to determine if a travel ban is appropriate, only HIV has been designated as a ground of inadmissibility in the U.S. Code. The ban has created one of the world's harshest immigration policies for individuals who are HIV-positive: the U.S. is one of only 12 countries including Iraq, Libya and Syria that ban travel for individuals with HIV.

*Source: American Immigration Law Association*

## 50 Influential Irish Women Awards Night



Irish Consul General Niall Burgess, honoree Celine Kennelly, Irish America/Irish Voice publisher Niall O'Dowd

If you missed the press on this event, please read the article by Niall O'Dowd in the Irish Voice: <http://www.irishabroad.com/news/irish->

[voice/niall-odowd/Articles/womans-world160708.aspx](http://voice/niall-odowd/Articles/womans-world160708.aspx)

Congratulations to our Colleagues who were chosen for this honor: **Siobhan Dennehy**, Executive Director, Emerald Isle Immigration Center, **Kelly Fincham**, Executive Director, ILIR, **Orla Kelleher**, Executive Director, Aisling Irish Community Center, and **Celine Kennelly**, Executive Director, San Francisco Irish Immigration Pastoral Center

### Report from the CIIC Meeting with the Taoiseach



Standing (l-r):

Sheila Gleeson, *Executive Director, Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers*  
Ambassador Michael Collins  
Fr Michael Leonard, *Chaplin, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support*  
Patricia O'Callaghan, *Coordinator, Project Irish Outreach, Catholic Charities*  
Taoiseach Brian Cowen  
Fr. Brendan McBride  
Siobhan Dennehy, *Executive Director, Emerald Isle Immigration Center*  
Sr Lena Deevy, *Executive Director, Irish Immigration Center, Boston*  
Chris Lavery Ask., *Immigration Attorney & Board Member, Irish Pastoral Center, Boston*  
Consul General Niall Burgess

Sitting (l-r):

Orla Kelleher, *Executive Director, Aisling Irish Center*  
Liz Kenny, *Executive Director, New York Irish Center*  
Celine Kennelly, *Executive Director, Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, San Francisco*

The above photo was taken at the meeting of the CIIC Members and the Taoiseach, Brian Cowan on July 16 in New York. The members discussed a range of issues and concerns faced by the Irish immigrant community and Irish

Centers. The agenda included the increase in new arrivals to the US, the difficulties faced by undocumented immigrants, those who are detained and imprisoned as well as the situation of seniors, barriers faced by those who are returning to Ireland, challenges experienced by J-1 visa holders and the impact of substance abuse in our communities. The members who were present offered a coordinated summary on behalf of all the centers and overall the consensus was that the meeting was very productive. We had an opportunity to thank the Taoiseach for his work on the Task Force and his continued support of immigrant centers. He restated his commitment to continue to work towards a resolution of the issue of undocumented immigrants and expressed his appreciation for the valuable work of the Irish Centers in the US. He was very interested in the updates and we will be following up in writing to highlight our issues and concerns.

### House Foreign National Survivor Measure Advances

A measure designed to help foreign nationals obtain legal residency when their U.S. citizen spouse or parent dies before their applications are cleared was approved Wednesday (July 16) by the House Judiciary Committee on a voice vote.

The bill ([HR 6034](#)), sponsored by [Jim McGovern](#), D-Mass., was designed to deal with situations in which the death of a citizen makes it impossible for a family member who entered the country legally to obtain permanent legal status. Under such scenarios, the surviving relative instead faces deportation.

“Widows and widowers often face difficult decisions when mourning the death of a spouse,” said [Zoe Lofgren](#), D-Calif.

Survivors would be allowed under the bill to petition for permanent residency in cases in which the death occurs within the first two years of marriage and an application filed by the citizen is already pending.

Survivors also would be allowed to self-petition in cases in which the process had not begun at the time of death.

That situation is among top immigration-related circumstances that lead to private relief bills in Congress, according to a Congressional Research Service report that has been cited by Lofgren.

Source: *CQ Today Print Edition – Immigration*

### **Immigration Debate: Lies, Hate, and Lack of True Journalism**

By [Cristina Jimenez](#), [Drum Major Institute](#).

Hateful language is too often the standard for mainstream media while discussing undocumented immigrants and minorities.

To read the entire article, go to: [http://www.alternet.org/immigration/92421/immigration\\_debate\\_lies\\_hate\\_and\\_lack\\_of\\_true\\_journalism/](http://www.alternet.org/immigration/92421/immigration_debate_lies_hate_and_lack_of_true_journalism/)

Source: *alternet.org*

### **In Immigration Cases, Employers Feel the Pressure**

A three-year-old enforcement campaign against employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants is increasingly resulting in arrests and criminal convictions, using evidence gathered by phone taps, undercover agents and prisoners who agree to serve as government witnesses.

To view the entire article, go to: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/20/AR2008072002293.html?referrer=emailarticle>

Source: *Washington Post*

### **Cathedral Hosts Hearing on Investigation of Alleged Abuse by ICE agents at Worksites**

Addressing members of a federal commission investigating allegations of abuse and misconduct by federal agents against immigrants at worksites, Cardinal Roger Mahony "strongly recommitted" the Catholic Church in the United States to defending the rights of every immigrant.

"To proclaim and defend the dignity and rights of all people - especially our workers - and to point out their wonderful contributions that made this country great is part of our heritage," he told the eight members of the National Commission on ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency) Misconduct and Violations of 4th Amendment Rights and more than 500 workers and activists at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels' Conference Center on June 24.

"It's an irony that these raids are taking place at locations where people are working," the cardinal noted. "They're not having raids on banks because there are no banks being robbed. These are people working, contributing to their own welfare, that of their families, the companies they work for, the community. They're paying taxes and helping make this country strong.

"This is really ironic and such a tragedy for our county," he stressed. "And so we must all work together to lift up our voices to protest this."

Cardinal Mahony said the ICE raids on worksites - which have ranged from large meatpacking plants in the Midwest to textile companies in Massachusetts to printing businesses in California during the last two years - "illustrate like nothing else our broken immigration system."

He noted the imbalance between jobs that need to be performed and American workers available to do them, saying the current system is incapable of closing that divide. Moreover, he said the raids "do nothing" to ensure national security; on the contrary, they create enormous human and family suffering.

The cardinal urged the national commission, composed of labor leaders, politicians, academics and civil rights advocates, to enlist the help of businessmen, industries and commercial leaders, who are not only feeling the economic impact of raids but also fearing arrest themselves. And he said the new president and Congress must pass a reform immigration bill that is truly comprehensive.

For the entire article, go to: <http://www.the-tidings.com/2008/070408/ice.htm>

Source: *TIDINGS ONLINE*

## Visa Waiver Program Update

By Sheila Gleeson

More information on the new system for electronic verification for travelers entering the US on the Visa Waiver program is now available at the Customs and Border Patrol Website at [http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id\\_visa/esta/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/). They are introducing the program on August 1 on a voluntary basis. The plan is to implement a mandatory program by January 2009.

## No News is Not so Bad News: Political Context

By Maurice Belanger

Momentum for harsh measures against immigrants has slowed. There are many reasons...

In the House, leadership has come up with a strategy to slow things down. A series of hearings on mandatory worker verification, and in particular the engagement of the Committee on Ways and Means, have contributed to an understanding among members of Congress that the issue is a complex one, and will impact many constituents in a variety of ways.

Thanks to the patient and persistent work of immigration advocates, Members of Congress who are in the middle on this issue are learning that there is a way of talking about the issue that is different from the way immigration restrictionists talk about it, but does not alienate constituents. At the same time, it is beginning to sink in to some of these Members in the middle that the use of immigration as a wedge issue is not working quite the way restrictionists have hoped. (That lesson is still being learned, and will be chronicled this election season on the [Web site of Immigration '08](#).)

As a symbol of the shift in momentum, we can look at the [discharge petition for the Shuler/Tancredo bill](#). It was filed on March 11 of this year, and by the end of the day, there were 139 signatures. By the end of March, there were

184 signatures. A month later, 186 members had signed on, and today, there are 190 signatures.

Meanwhile, various constellations of interests, including business and faith groups, are getting more organized, and are pushing for various specific fixes to the broken immigration system. At the same time, there has been press attention to egregious behavior fostered by current enforcement policy that is playing out in the context of broken laws.

## Small fixes may be possible

The shift in momentum, the persistent pressure of pro-immigrant interests, and the nearly constant reminders—via press reports of raids, deaths in immigration detention, etc.—that the system is broken, have created some space for members to at least try to gain a few small fixes for the immigration system. We reported in a previous update that Rep. Zoe Lofgren (R) has reached across the aisle and teamed up with Republican members who are ordinarily associated with the restrictionist agenda to introduce legislation that would provide minor relief for the victims of the broken immigration system. For example, H.R. 5882, co-sponsored with James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) would recapture unused visas from previous years and award them to immigrants currently waiting in employment and family visa backlogs.

Last week in the House, the Judiciary Committee passed a bill (H.R. 6034) that would allow immigrant spouses in a two-year conditional resident status (based on their marriage to a citizen) to self-petition if the citizen spouse dies prior to completion of the immigration process.

On the Senate side, in reaction to the above-referenced egregious DHS behavior, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) introduced a bill (S. 3005) that aims to ensure that immigrants in detention receive proper medical care.

Whether or not even these small changes and others that have been introduced or are contemplated could pass in this Congress is an open question.

And of course, all of this could change. All it might take is one more high-profile horror story

involving an undocumented immigrant for restrictionists to re-ignite their base.

**Reauthorization of expiring programs**

The House and Senate are considering the reauthorization of several immigration programs that are about to expire.

In the House, we expect to see a vote to reauthorize Basic Pilot, or “E-Verify.” The exact parameters of the reauthorization are still being worked out, such as the length of the reauthorization, reimbursement for the Social Security Administration for taking on this work not directly related to its mission; and how many protections for authorized workers it should contain. In the Senate, the approach has been to include the reauthorization in a package that would extend several popular programs, including the religious worker, or “R” visa, the “Conrad 30” program (that gives special preference to immigrant physicians willing to serve in medically-underserved rural areas), and the EB-5 investor visa preference category.

While the reauthorization of E-verify is probably inevitable (re-authorization allows a program to continue; funding for a program, however, is governed by annual appropriations bills), it should be noted that, even after 20 years, the program has so many flaws that it is still being considered, in effect, a test pilot, as Congress is not mandating its nationwide use.

Source: National Immigration Forum

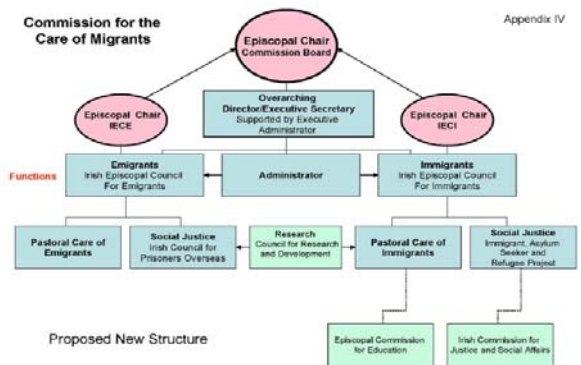
**Emigrants(IECE) and the Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants (IECI).**

**Bishop Seamus Hegarty** will remain as chair of IECE and Bishop Eamonn Walsh will be chair of IECI. Bishop Hegarty is planning a pastoral visit and meeting with the staff and volunteers from the Irish Immigration Pastoral Centers in November 2008. The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas is a sub-committee of IECE.

Bishop Christopher Jones has been appointed as chairman of the Irish Episcopal Commission for the Care of Migrants (IECCM) while Bishop Eamonn Walsh is currently establishing a board for the Council for Immigrants.

The Bishops are also actively seeking the appointment of a Director/Executive Secretary to oversee the work of the two councils. In the meantime, *Mr. Harry Casey* has been appointed by Conference as acting director of IECE.

*Diagram of the Structure of the Irish Episcopal Commission for the Care of Migrants.*



**NEWS FROM IRELAND**

**Restructuring of IECE**

A strategic review of the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants took place in 2007 and the final report was presented to the Bishops at their general meeting in March 2008. The main recommendations of the review are as follows:

The **Irish Episcopal Commission for the Care of Migrants(IECCM)** has been established as a Commission of the Irish Bishop’s Conference and is the umbrella body for two councils, namely the **Irish Episcopal Council for**

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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