

### JFI Campaign Update

The JFI Legislative team will be working with attendees at the July MRS/CLINIC National Conference during the Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The participants will be divided into their State delegations and will visit offices in the Senate as well as the House of Representatives and will deliver the message that our country needs comprehensive immigration reform more than ever. The raids that have taken place this past year have divided families, ruined communities, and provoked fear among immigrant communities. The poor medical treatment received by immigrants in detention centers has resulted in numerous deaths. The border fence is being built through private property, parklands, and endangered animal habitats. The Catholic community needs to speak out to our Congressional representatives to urge them to return to a serious dialogue on how we can maintain the security of the United States while realistically dealing with the immigrants who live here, and the needs of families and businesses.

It's Still Not too Late to Register for the MRS/CLINIC Conference, **"Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice"** from July 28-31 in Washington, DC. Register at the official website: [www.nationalmigrationconference.org](http://www.nationalmigrationconference.org).

### The Immigration Myth

Excerpts from an Interview with MRS/USCCB Director

Overcoming ignorance is a main element in the fight for justice regarding immigration issues, affirms a U.S. bishops' aide. **Johnny Young** is the director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops **Migration and Refugee Services**. That organization, along with the

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, is hosting a National Migration Conference this July 28-31.

Q: One of the goals of this conference is to "increase public awareness on migration questions." What are some of the primary misconceptions about migration that need to be eradicated?

**Young:** There are so many, but outlining some of them might help. There is the problem and negative perception that all migrants, documented and undocumented, are all the same, which, of course, is not true. Both groups are deserving of respectful and dignified treatment.

In terms of the undocumented, the problems are numerous. For example, there is the myth of the undocumented not paying taxes and draining the system of resources for social service benefits of one kind or another. The empirical evidence demonstrates otherwise. They do pay taxes and are not an undue burden on social services.

In terms of taxes, they have paid billions into the Social Security system and will not collect a penny from it. They are, in effect, helping to keep the Social Security system afloat. This, of course, is in addition to what the undocumented pay in income, real estate, sales and other federal and state taxes.

Then there is the forgotten fact that the undocumented are no different than any of us in wanting to do the best for their families.

Another stereotype is that the undocumented have become associated with the Hispanic community, when in fact many ethnic groups make up the undocumented.

Most important of all is that the plight of the undocumented is part of a dilemma that has

the American people in a conflicted situation of wanting it both ways, i.e. having the benefits of the labor and sweat of the undocumented, but without allowing them a pathway to citizenship for what they have contributed to our well-being and country.

This problem could, of course, be corrected through passage of a comprehensive immigration reform law. I could go on, but think that with these examples, you get my point.

Q: The conference "aims to develop and strengthen dioceses' and parishes' capacity to welcome and provide hospitality to newcomers and their families." What are some of the obstacles to making that welcoming attitude a reality?

**Young:** The biggest obstacle is in overcoming ingrained and uninformed attitudes about immigrants and their place in our society. Once people know and appreciate the contributions of immigrants to the strength of America, they become more receptive and welcoming. It's the old story of being frightened by that which one does not know.

This is especially true in the kind of hard economic times we are presently experiencing in this country, although the problem was bubbling up to the surface prior to the present economic downturn.

From a Catholic perspective, once parishioners become better informed of Catholic social teaching, one would expect that they would become more welcoming of the stranger. After all, that is part of what their faith is all about. Unfortunately, not enough of our Catholic brethren are sufficiently grounded in these teachings, which are based on biblical principles and are all intended to open the heart to the wonders of God's love.

That is a very simple message, but one which gets lost in the emotions of the discussion. That is why we have programs such as **Justice for Immigrants**, a program intended to change entrenched attitudes at the grass roots level.

Source: Zenit

**Irish Voice and Irish America Magazine  
Present the  
"50 Most Influential Women"  
A Celebration of Irish-American  
Women's Success in Corporate  
America, the Local Business World and  
the Irish Community**

On Wednesday, July 9, 2008, the Irish Voice newspaper will proudly publish the inaugural 50 Most Influential Women, a special supplement featuring a listing of the top Irish American women who have made an impact within the corporate sphere, the local business world and the Irish community. The 50 honorees will also be featured in a double-page spread in Irish America Magazine, and will attend the corresponding award ceremony and networking event hosted by Irish Consul General Ambassador Niall Burgess on July 10, 2008.



**Congratulations to our Colleagues who have been 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**

**Celine Kennelly, Executive Director, San  
Francisco Irish Immigration Pastoral  
Center**

**Interfaith Immigration Coalition Supports  
Congressional Legislation**

In June more than twenty faith-based organizations (including the **Irish Apostolate USA**) wrote to Congress in support of the following legislation that had been introduced in the House of Representatives.

- recapture and use visas for families that have been waiting to enter the United States (H.R. 5882),
- restore judicial discretion concerning the well-being of child citizens whose parents are scheduled for deportation (H.R. 1176),
- develop a border-protection strategy that balances border security with the protection of federal laws concerning the environment and religious freedom (H.R. 2593),
- expand English-learning programs to help communities integrate immigrants and to strengthen the workforce, and,
- ensure minimal standards of medical treatment for asylum seekers and other immigrants in detention facilities (H.R. 5950).

The letter urged Congress to “take the leadership necessary to enact humane and effective immigration reform. The above mentioned pieces of legislation are common sense first steps to reforming our broken immigration system, and we urge you to co-sponsor and support them.”

### **Bishop Seamus Hegarty Plans Pastoral Visit to USA**

The *Irish Apostolate USA* is sponsoring a meeting with representatives from its centers with Bishop Hegarty on November 11-12, 2008 in New York City. Additional details will be forthcoming!

### **Senators Introduce Bill to Provide Humane Treatment for Immigration Detainees**

A bipartisan group of senior Senators introduced legislation on June 11 to ensure humane treatment for asylum seekers and other detained immigrants.

The Secure and Safe Detention and Asylum Act, [S. 3114](#), is sponsored by Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman, ID-Conn., Senator Sam Brownback, R-Ks., Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Ted Kennedy, D-

Mass., who also chairs the Immigration Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, and Senator Chuck Hagel, R-Neb. The legislation stems from the Senators’ longstanding advocacy on behalf of asylum-seekers, refugees, and detained immigrants.

The Secure and Safe Detention and Asylum Act would:

- Mandate improved detention conditions, including prompt medical care that complies with accreditation requirements, unobstructed access to legal counsel, limits on the use of solitary confinement and other punitive treatment, and special standards for families and for victims of persecution and torture;
- Substantially enhance the rights of asylum seekers and others to have their detentions promptly reviewed by an immigration judge, and to be considered for release if they pose no risk to public safety;
- Enhance alternatives to detention such as supervised release programs;
- Require the recording of interviews with detained asylum seekers and other quality assurance measures to ensure they are not erroneously returned to countries where they fear persecution;
- Establish an Office of Detention Oversight within the Department of Homeland Security to audit and investigate detention facilities’ compliance with standards and to report to Congress; and
- Mandate the reporting and investigation of all deaths that occur in detention facilities.

### **Immigration Reform Tops Lawmaker's Priorities for Next President**

Top homeland security priorities for a new president should include getting comprehensive immigration reform legislation through Congress, strengthening the nation's ability to cope with all disasters -- not just terrorist attacks -- and making smart investments in technology, a key House appropriator said Monday.

Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman David Price, D-N.C.,

identified a handful of areas he believes the new administration should prioritize during a speech at the Center for American Progress.

Passing comprehensive immigration reform legislation topped his list, a feat that has divided lawmakers and proved too difficult for the Bush administration.

Price said such legislation would relieve the Homeland Security Department of having to direct so much of its resources and funding to stop the flow of illegal immigrants coming across the nation's borders.

In turn, the department would be able to put more resources toward tracking down and deporting criminal illegal immigrants in the United States. Price's subcommittee dedicated \$800 million to identify and deport violent illegal immigrants in its version of the fiscal 2009 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. To read the entire article, go to: [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=40305&dcn=todaysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=40305&dcn=todaysnews)

*Source: Congress Daily*

## U.S. Still Tops World on Science and Tech

The United States retains its global preeminence in science and technology, with a big boost from foreign students, scientists and engineers, a RAND Corporation report issued on Thursday said.

RAND researchers said their conclusions contradict perceptions among some Americans that the nation was losing its competitiveness in these crucial fields.

The report looked at government, corporate and academic science and technology activities. It did not provide a country-by-country ranking but cited the United States as the world's leader based on a number of measures.

The United States accounts for 40 percent of the global spending on scientific research and development, employs 70 percent of the world's Nobel Prize winners and boasts three quarters of the world's top 40 universities, the report said.

For the entire article, go to: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp->

[dyn/content/article/2008/06/12/AR2008061200956.html](http://dyn/content/article/2008/06/12/AR2008061200956.html)

*Source: Reuters*

## Supreme Court gives Immigrants a Little Leeway

You can thank (or malign) the Supreme Court for decreasing the number of illegal immigrants -- not with **fancy fencing** but with a rule switch.

In a 5-4 decision recently, the court **decided** (pdf) that an illegal immigrant who has agreed to depart voluntarily can instead stick around while trying to get approval to remain in the U.S. (Voluntary departure grants the immigrant some privileges -- they are likelier to be allowed back into the states, for example.) The ruling will make it easier for immigrants who find themselves a few documents short of legal status and want to get their papers in order even as their visas lapse.

Prominent immigrants' rights lawyers and advocates **filed in favor** (pdf) of the man at the center of this case, Nigerian Samson Dada, who overstayed a tourist visa and married an American, but couldn't get a visa as a citizen's spouse. That story probably won't win sympathy with those inclined to be tough on illegal immigration. But as the advocates note, voluntary departure is a confusing and unclear process for the immigrant agreeing to it (sort of like the entire visa regime). And, regardless of whether an immigrant leaves of his own will or reopens his case, the government avoids deportation costs. Most significantly, **with this ruling, the Supreme Court has ensured that the U.S. sticks to the stated goals of its immigration policy: granting valid claims for residence and keeping families together.** (As the advocates note, one-third of unauthorized immigrant families have mixed status.)

*Source: LA Times*

## Update on Fr. Cathal Gallagher

As reported in last month's newsletter, Fr. Gallagher, the Irish priest who is pastor of parishes in three prairie towns in South Dakota, was awaiting deportation orders. After initially

arriving on a Religious Visa, he submitted an application for U.S. permanent residency in 2001, but was denied because he was out of status. Fr. Gallagher's case was handled by CLINIC and the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

Father Gallagher recently received a call from Senator Tim Johnson's office informing him of positive progress with his immigration case. Although nothing is assured at this point, he was informed that this is a very positive development. Stay tuned!

### Immigration Resources Available

"The 'Rule of Law' and U.S. Immigration Policy" and "Due Process for Immigrants," articles by Don Kerwin at <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/link.cfm?10153> (login required)

"Immigrants and Crime: Setting the Record Straight," a position paper by the Immigration Policy Center of the American Immigration Lawyers Foundation at <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/link.cfm?10155> (login required)

American Immigration Lawyers Association The American Immigration Lawyers Association's public website includes position papers on a range of immigration issues including family immigration, comprehensive immigration reform, and other issues at <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=6796>

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's website presents its position papers on unaccompanied minors, trafficking victims and other issues at <http://www.lirs.org/DonateServe/advocate.htm>

## NEWS FROM IRELAND

### Sharing the Faith Anew in Ireland

*Excerpts from an Interview with Archbishop Martin of Dublin*

In a bid to proclaim Christ afresh to a new generation of Irish who have lost sight of the Gospel, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin has launched a major drive for evangelization.

The archbishop has invited all 200 Dublin parishes to join in a common program of missionary outreach and evangelization for the year 2009. Coordinated by the archdiocese's first

episcopal vicar for evangelization, Father Ciaran O'Carroll, the project will involve education in the faith, liturgical and scriptural formation, outreach to young people, and work for justice and charity.

Archbishop Martin said that one of the priorities for the new office will be the evangelization of the family.

In this interview with ZENIT, Archbishop Martin discusses why the initiative has become necessary, why the family is so important to its success, and what Irish Catholicism has to offer to the world of today.

Q: Why have you decided that this initiative is necessary now?

**Archbishop Martin:** I believe our holiness offers contemporary society in 2008 a new manner of living. We need to bring the message of Jesus' love to our world -- it is a unique message of truth, justice and love.

Today, so many of those who were baptized as Christians no longer really know Jesus, and their way of living demonstrates that the message of Jesus touches their lives only in a marginal way.

On the one hand, I feel there is a real sense in which the Archdiocese of Dublin is mission territory. On the other hand, I have been greatly encouraged by the manner in which laypeople have been emerging as co-workers in providing pastoral care, bringing their unique charism to the Church willingly, generously and with competence. They are waiting to have the opportunity to do more and to do it differently. In this I discern the Lord speaking to us and challenging us all.

Q: What tangible results are you hoping to achieve in the course of the year?

**Archbishop Martin:** The first element in every form of ministry is conversion. Conversion is not a process of a single moment. Formation in the faith is ongoing and lifelong.

I would like as many homes in the diocese to be visited in the course of 2009. Many parishes have already done this and others are in the process of doing so. Hopefully it will be possible

to give each home a copy of the Gospel for the year -- the Gospel which will be the object of all our reflection as we allow the Spirit to open our hearts.

Many of our Parish Pastoral Councils are also planning forms of partnership with the Church in poorer communities around the world, inspired by a sense of justice, care and of fellowship among the Churches. I would like to see new ways in which the archdiocese could also more visibly witness to this fellowship among the Churches, perhaps adopting each year a particular Church that needs our support.

Q: What will be the key elements of the new initiative?

**Archbishop Martin:** The Diocesan Office for Evangelization will provide technical and resource backup for the new missionary outreach. It will also help to coordinate the work of education in the faith, liturgical and scriptural animation, outreach to young people, and our work for justice and charity. Evangelization and renewal, not only structural renewal but renewal in holiness, means reaching out to as many people as possible in the missionary spirit. Every aspect of diocesan life and of the diocesan administration will be focused on this program. Teams of priests, deacons and laypersons will be called to work together to support parish communities.

We have a strange situation in Ireland whereby, even after many years of religious education in Catholic schools, many young men and women come away only with a superficial understanding of the faith and a superficial commitment to the faith. Faced with strong trends of secularization, their faith comes under great stress and they are unable to engage in the debate between faith and daily life.

Q: You have identified the evangelization of the family as a key priority for the new initiative. Why is the family so important in the task of evangelization?

**Archbishop Martin:** Family is the fundamental base for passing on the faith to children and young people. Where the faith life of families is weak, evangelization will lose its roots. Where families totally delegate their responsibility for the formation of their children in faith to schools, they

are losing sight not only of their responsibility but also of the special grace of the sacrament of marriage.

Q: What particular challenges are faced in the work of evangelization in Ireland today?

**Archbishop Martin:** I have said on a number of occasions that the numbers of those who regularly participate in the Eucharist in our diocese is dropping and many baptized Catholics no longer know Jesus. His message does not touch their lives.

Our catechesis was perhaps too moralistic, appearing as lists of rules for behavior in life, rather than as the response to the message of Jesus -- a demanding message, but one about the demands of love, which enables us to find the depth of our meaning.

But we cannot overlook the fact that in Ireland, the Church's good will was damaged by a series of scandals. As a Church community we must be attentive to anyone who feels that they have been wounded or hurt or abandoned by the Church in any way. The Church in Dublin must regain the good will of all. It must be a place where all the necessary measures for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons are in place. Measures for safeguarding children must be seen as a priority and not as a burden. The Diocesan Child Protection Service works with parish pastoral councils in providing training and assistance in this area.

Q: Ireland has a long tradition of sending missionaries around the world. Does the Irish vision of Catholicism still have something valuable to offer to the Church as a whole?

*Source: Zenit*

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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