

### JFI Campaign Update

At the October JFI Core meeting of the organizations involved in the **Justice for Immigrants** Campaign, participants discussed the need for strengthening public relations, improving communications and improving the JFI website. These tasks will be undertaken during the next few months. The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) is increasing capacity for legalization on the local level and currently has 90 programs with BIA accreditation. CLINIC is continually offering training sessions for those involved in immigration. For more information, see [www.cliniclegal.org](http://www.cliniclegal.org). In response to the need for greater support for immigration reform at the grassroots level, Catholic Charities USA is also working on capacity building for 2008. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is collaborating with European colleagues to discover how to more effectively engage in dialogue about migration. The Jesuit Conference reported that the Jesuit colleges and universities have been actively involved in gathering support for the DREAM Act.

The Core members also stressed the need for more of the U.S. Catholic bishops to become involved in the immigration debate through op-ed pieces for newspapers, pro-actively engaging the media, and using their authority to proclaim the Catholic Social Teaching message on migration to their flocks.

Sr. Jane Burke, the JFI National Manager, will be leaving her position on November 1 to assume duties for her religious order. Migration and Refugee Services at USCCB is looking to hire a person for this position as well as for the Public Education and Outreach Coordinator position. Interested persons can check the USCCB website, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) for more information.

### “In the Light of Love”

A joint statement signed by:

*Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory, Catholic Archbishop of Atlanta; Plemon Tauheed El-Amin, Imam, the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam; Rabbi Scott Saulson of Atlanta  
The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Episcopal Bishop of Atlanta*

As people of faith with a strong belief in individual human dignity - regardless of race, language or place of birth - we are concerned about the callous and hateful perspective of many of the loudest voices heard lately around immigration issues.

Our concern includes constant reference to men, women and children in derogatory terms that seem to dismiss their, and our own, humanity and to justify any proposed mistreatment or punishment.

Defaming, diminishing and dismissing newcomers as less than human strikes us as neither very faith-filled nor very American. Our concern is with family, civic and faith values.

If we are to treat others as we would like to be treated, if we believe that mercy will be measured out to us even as we measure it out to others, it seems important to look at forgiving those who once violated the unworkable immigration laws of our country.

These are people who, lacking a “line to stand in,” crossed the border at great peril, or who have stayed here on an expired visa, or who have joined family members while waiting a decade or more for immigration documents to be processed. These are people who are taking risks to work for a better life for themselves and their families in a new land. Legal status in civil law is important, but it is not a final measure of humanity.

It is not a great leap to consider divine law, about "loving the stranger" (Deut. 10:19), "you shall not wrong or oppress the stranger, for you were once strangers. . ." (Ex. 22:21), and "... I was a stranger and you welcomed me. . ." (Matt. 25:35).

We are not suggesting that the United States must not act to secure its borders. Nor do we believe that the failed Senate legislation was without major flaws and inadequacies in such areas as family reunification and temporary workers.

We are remembering that most of our ancestors, under a much simpler immigration policy of generations ago, made the voyage to the United States. Some arrived in iron shackles; others shared the dream of a better future for themselves and their families. Insulting nicknames were coined and phrases such as "yellow horde," and "Irish need not apply" were common. Racism and bigotry led to actions which still stain our national history. Such wounds take much time and effort to heal.

Our blaming newcomers for long-standing problems of health care, education and employment, our denigrating those who may look and sound different from us, does not make us stronger or safer – it diminishes us.

We accept the labor of the desperate, the suffering of separated families, the taxes and the purchasing power of millions of people. It is wrong to say those same people may not be accorded basic human rights and protections or to deny that they are essential to our economy and our future.

May God forgive us even as we forgive others. Forgiveness has always been a value at the very core of the major faith traditions. It is the mutual path to healing.

Let us open our hearts with the hope of finding solutions that are best for our nation, for our world, for our souls, and for the future of our children who are listening so intently to this lesson.

We are sowing the future with our words and our actions in the vast field of our global neighborhood. We will reap what we sow. May God help us.

## **N.Y. Will Offer Secure Driver's Licenses to Citizens**

*Illegal Immigrants Will Be Allowed to Get a Version, a Move Homeland Security Secretary Criticizes*

The Bush administration and New York announced an agreement yesterday to create a generation of super-secure driver's licenses for U.S. citizens, but also to allow illegal immigrants to get a version.

New York is the largest state to sign on so far to the government's post-Sept. 11 effort to make identification cards more secure. The agreement with the Department of Homeland Security will create a three-tiered license system.

Under the compromise, New York will produce an "enhanced driver's license" that will be as secure as a passport. It is intended for people who will soon need to meet such ID requirements, even for a short drive to Canada.

A second version of the license will meet the new federal standards of the Real ID Act. That law was designed to make it much harder for illegal immigrants or would-be terrorists to obtain licenses.

A third type of license will be available to undocumented immigrants. New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer (D) has said that this ID will make the state more secure by bringing those people "out of the shadows" and into American society, and will lower auto insurance rates.

For the entire article, see:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/27/AR2007102701032.html?referrer=emailarticle>

## **A License for Safer Roads**

By Sister Lena Deevy  
*As You Were Saying, Op-Ed*

Sr. Lena Deevy's recent Op-Ed piece in the Boston Herald commended New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's recent decision to allow people to obtain a driver's license without a Social Security number. In her article she encourages Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick to follow this

lead, which will make driving safer and cheaper for ordinary motorists.

She writes, “By following suit, Massachusetts would make our roads safer, generate increased state revenue and make the task of law enforcement easier. Whether we like it or not, we have in the range of 150,000 undocumented immigrants living and working in our state.

These are men and women without Social Security numbers and, therefore, without driver’s licenses, but with no less a need to drive than you or I.

Whether to get to work, to get the kids to school or to get to a doctor’s appointment, these families need to drive and they will drive regardless of whether we choose to give them licenses....

By preventing undocumented immigrants from acquiring driver’s licenses, we are preventing them from taking driving lessons, from taking the driving test and from purchasing insurance. That defies all common sense and sound reason.”

For the entire article, see:

[http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op\\_e\\_d/view.bg?articleid=1039264](http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_e_d/view.bg?articleid=1039264)

### **A Win-Win Idea Loses in Senate**

Hard to believe, but the U.S. Senate on Wednesday turned down a potential pool of 1 million new soldiers. They told them to forget about going to college, too.

The message they sent was that our country doesn't need any more teachers, doctors, lawyers or soldiers. They might as well have said we want more dishwashers, maids and farm workers.

Their decision means that fewer young immigrants will pay taxes and more will rely on public health care. Ultimately, there will be fewer young people contributing to the economy, building our brain trust.

*Source: Chicago Sun Times*

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/commentary/619693,CST-EDT-edit25a.article>

### **Pro-immigrant Opinions enter the Blogosphere**

After the defeat of the Senate bill this past June, the members of the **Justice for Immigrants** campaign as well as the broader Interfaith Coalition realized that one of the reasons we failed was that we weren't communicating with the grassroots on how our faith calls us to respond to immigrants within our midst.

The Interfaith Coalition for Immigration Reform has collaborated with the Street Prophets blogosphere so that its members will have the opportunity to post opinions and articles that present a faith-based perspective on immigration.

Please bookmark this website and tell your friends:

<http://www.streetprophets.com/story/2007/10/24/85741/134>

### **ILIR News**

Grant Lally recently wrote that he was leaving his position as the ILIR President after two years of committed effort on behalf of the undocumented Irish.

He wrote: “One real success of ILIR has been the empowerment of our Irish community. It is a legacy that will last, and strengthen you, for the rest of your lives. “

Mr. Lally will be succeeded by Jeffrey Cleary, an Irish-American, who has been a longstanding and tireless leader in the Irish community. He serves on the Board of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and the Irish American Republicans, and served as Deputy Commissioner in the administration of NY Governor George Pataki.

### **Effort to Curb Illegal Workers' Hiring Blocked**

A federal judge barred the Bush administration yesterday (Oct 10) from launching

a planned crackdown on U.S. companies that employ illegal immigrants, warning of its potentially "staggering" impact on law-abiding workers and companies.

In a firm rebuke of the White House, U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer of San Francisco granted a preliminary injunction against the president's plan to press employers to fire as many as 8.7 million workers with suspect Social Security numbers, starting this fall.

President Bush made the effort the centerpiece of a re-energized enforcement drive against illegal immigration in August after the Senate rejected his proposal to overhaul immigration laws. But the court ruling -- sought by major American labor, business and farm organizations -- highlighted the chasm that the issue has opened between the Republican Party and its traditional business allies.

The case also called attention to the gulf between Washington rhetoric about the need to curtail illegal immigration and the economic reality that many U.S. employers rely on illegal labor, as well as to the government's inability for nearly three decades to develop adequate tools for identifying undocumented workers.

In a 22-page ruling, Breyer said the plaintiffs -- an unusual coalition that included the AFL-CIO, the American Civil Liberties Union and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce -- had raised serious questions about the legality of the administration's plan to mail Social Security "no-match" letters to 140,000 U.S. employers.

*Source: The Washington Post*

### **New Law Prevents Cities From Turning Landlords Into Immigration Police**

As cities across the country grapple with illegal immigration, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a new state law Wednesday that prohibits county and municipal governments in California from enacting local laws that would require landlords to ask a tenant's immigration status.

The bills' sponsor, Assemblyman Charles M. Calderon, D-City of Industry, and leaders of a state association of apartment owners, hailed

the new law, which takes effect on Jan. 1, as a civil rights victory.

*Source: San Jose Mercury News*

### **No Need for a Warrant: You're an Immigrant**

Editorial

LONG ISLAND officials protested when federal agents searching for immigrant gang members raided local homes two weeks ago. The agents had roused American citizens and legal immigrants from their beds in the night, complained Lawrence W. Mulvey, the Nassau County police commissioner, and arrested suspected illegal immigrants without so much as a warrant.

"We don't need warrants to make the arrests," responded Peter J. Smith, the special agent in charge in New York for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, the agency that conducted the raids.

His concise answer helps explain the friction that the Bush administration's recent campaign of immigration enforcement has caused. Last week, immigration officials announced that they had made more than 1,300 arrests across the country over the summer when they went looking for gang members. Since the raids were carried out under immigration law, many protections in place under the American criminal codes did not apply. Foreign residents of the United States, whether here legally or not, answer to a different set of rules.

Immigration agents are not required to obtain warrants to detain suspects. The agents also have broad authority to question people about their immigration status and to search them and their homes. There are no Miranda rights that agents must read when making arrests. Detained immigrants have the right to a lawyer, but only one they can pay for.

*Source: New York Times, Oct 14*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/14/weekinreview/14preston.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/14/weekinreview/14preston.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

## Pro-Immigrant Measures Available to State or Local Governments: A Quick Menu of Affirmative Ideas

Following is a menu of ideas for effectively incorporating immigrants into communities, investing in instead of marginalizing them. This approach recognizes immigrants as a key ingredient of shared prosperity and seeks to maximize the economic, social, and cultural benefits of such immigration on towns, cities, counties, and states.

### Resources on state and local initiatives

We provide links to several existing resources below.

- **Join the State and Local Immigration Policy Working Group listserv and web community:** The listserv connects you to advocates who are working in your region or who are engaged on similar issues in other parts of the country. The listserv also facilitates widespread distribution and access to relevant articles and research. The web community is an archive of articles, legislation, and resources categorized by geographic region and subject matter. To sign up for the listserv and/or the web community, please email Flavia Jimenez at the National Council of La Raza: [fjimenez@nclr.org](mailto:fjimenez@nclr.org).
- **The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) is prepared to assist in local litigation and advocacy efforts.** If you are looking for additional support locally, contact Jenny Levy at 202-216-2407 or via email at [jlevy@aila.org](mailto:jlevy@aila.org).

AILA has also developed **resources on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) workplace enforcement raids** and other similar enforcement actions, including information regarding employment verification issues and related Social Security no-match letter issues. Please follow this link to review this information: <http://www.aila.org/issues/issue.aspx?docid=21267>.

- Other additional resources on state and local legislation and advocacy include:
  - American Civil Liberties Union: <http://www.aclu.org>
  - American Immigration Lawyers Association: <http://www.aila.org>
  - Appleseed: <http://www.appleseeds.net>
  - Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.: <http://www.cliniclegal.org>
  - National Conference of State Legislatures: <http://www.ncsl.org>

## NEWS FROM IRELAND

### Moving On



Recently all of you should have received a copy of Fr. Alan Hilliard's letter informing us that he is "moving on" from his position as the Director of the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants at the end of November 2007. Alan

joined the IECE in 2000 and set up the chaplaincy in Sydney, Australia to minister to the Irish immigrants living there. Several years later Alan returned to Dublin to assume the position of Director of IECE. Alan has been instrumental in helping the Irish Apostolate USA increase our capacity and outreach to immigrants across the United States. Alan's energetic leadership has inspired the staff and volunteers at the various Irish Immigration Pastoral Centers to initiate new programs in response to emerging needs. He has supported our advocacy efforts to help the Irish undocumented legalize their status. Alan has been a wonderful colleague and a true friend to everyone involved in the Irish Apostolate USA and the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers. He will be truly missed!

The Board of IAUSA hopes to express our gratitude in person to Alan sometime during his sabbatical year. For now, all good wishes on this next part of his ministry.

### IECE Plans Conference – November 07

A conference marking 50 years of service by the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain will take place between 21 and 23 November, 2007, in Dunboyne Castle Hotel, Dunboyne, Co Meath. The conference is being organised by the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants, which is a commission of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

The conference title: 'From Pastoral Care to Public Policy - Journeying with the

**Migrant'** will address two main issues: (i) the Gospel inspired service commitment to people on the move; and, (ii) how effective this service has been in terms of contributing to policy initiatives which have benefited the common good.

Importantly, as contemporary Ireland experiences the phenomenon of inward migration, this conference will highlight the value of a sustainable pastoral care response which, at its core, identifies with the needs of migrants. The conference speakers will help us set migration in a global context while also addressing the cultural and policy deficits that currently exist in Ireland. [A detailed program is available at [www.usairish.org/iece.html](http://www.usairish.org/iece.html).]

### **Irish Illegals in US**

A fresh effort is being made in the US to find a solution to the thousands of illegal Irish immigrants who status there is precarious, to say the least. The focus of these efforts was the visit last week of Minister for Foreign Affairs Dermot Ahern to New York (where he addressed the UN General Assembly) and Washington, where, among other appointments, he met the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice and other politicians sympathetic to Ireland.

Efforts to make conclusive headway on the issue of Irish illegals have run into the sands of wider political battles in Washington. Since last year's mid-term elections, Congress and the White House have not co-existed in harmony.

There are about 12 million illegals in the US (the vast majority of them from Latin America) and the problems of the estimated 5,000 to 25,000 Irish are, it must be acknowledged, modest by comparison.

Irish-American interests are seeking now to decouple the matter of Irish illegals from the others. They have proposed that a link be made instead between the case of the Irish and the Northern Ireland peace process.... Proponents hope eventually that a Bill allowing for more visas for Irish in the US, and for Americans coming to Ireland, might allow for a wiping clean of the slate and thus regularize the illegals status.

*Source: The Irish Times*

### **P.J. Bradley: The 'Undocumented' Irish Will Be Dismayed At Lack Of Support From Paisley And McGuinness**

South Down SDLP representative PJ Bradley has expressed disappointment at a reply he received from the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) to a question he posed seeking a record of their work, since taking up office, on behalf of the 'undocumented' Irish in America.

Mr. Bradley said, "I was taken aback when told by OFMDFM that the best that was happening was that the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington was keeping the situation monitored. I would be surprised if that Branch of the Northern Ireland Office was not monitoring the situation but what I was hoping to hear from OFMDFM was that they had taken positive action in support of the 'undocumented'. Monitoring is simply not good enough – it is active support that is required. Continuing he said "I am extremely disappointed to be told that neither the First Minister Rev. Ian Paisley nor the Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness have taken any action on behalf of the exiles from the six counties living under duress in the United States.

"The unacceptable reply makes me all the more grateful to Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Dermot Ahern TD and to the Dublin Government for their efforts on behalf of the people of Ireland caught up in the immigration debate in the United States. I, in my elected role, and on behalf of the SDLP, will not relent on the issue until a level of justice acceptable to our exiles is delivered by the US Administration"

*Source: SLP Daily Press Release*

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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