

### JFI Campaign Update

On September 21, members of the *Justice for Immigrants* Campaign Legislative Strategy Team held a conference call to discuss the current situation regarding immigration reform. The group reviewed the status of on-going projects. It is anticipated that an informational packet on how groups can respond to a raid in the community will be produced in the near future. It will be disseminated to all of the JFI networks.

Kevin Appleby reported that DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff will be invited to the November meetings of the U.S. bishops. The JFI legislative strategy group also discussed meeting with DHS officials in the near future.



Senators Durbin, Hagel and Lugar hope to attach the DREAM Act to the Department of Defense authorization bill before the Senate during the last week of September. Everyone has been urged to contact their Senators these past few weeks in support of this effort. Senators Kennedy, Craig, and Feinstein plan to attach an amendment regarding AgJOBS to the Farm Bill that will come before the Senate later this fall.

The JFI team has identified Congressional members to work with over the next few months to indicate our support for any positive immigration reform legislation and to express our concerns over negative legislation that may arise.

### Visit to Ireland

On September 11 Geri Garvey met with Fr. Alan Hilliard, Caroline Navagh and the staff of the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas at Maynooth (Gráinne Prior – Co-ordinator; Sr. Anne Sheehy – Family Support; Catherine Jackson – Caseworker). Geri was able to share information about her role in the work of the Irish Apostolate USA and she learned about the important role that the ICPO staff plays in the lives of Irish nationals who are in prisons overseas.

Fr. Alan Hilliard and Geri Garvey met with several members of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin to discuss the current situation regarding immigration in the United States. The Irish government continues to be concerned for the welfare of undocumented Irish immigrants and advocates on their behalf with the U.S. government agencies.

Geri Garvey traveled to Derry and met with Fr. Paul McCafferty, Secretary to Bishop Seamus Hegarty. That week Bishop Hegarty was in Austria meeting with Pope Benedict XVI and other European bishops. Fr. Paul and Geri discussed the work of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Centers and Outreach Programs in the United States and their services to Irish immigrants. Fr. Paul reported that Bishop Hegarty hopes to visit the United States in the near future.

### CLEAR Act of 2007

On September 7, 2007 Rep. Marsha Blackburn (TN-7) introduced the **Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act**

of 2007 also titled the **Charlie Norwood CLEAR Act of 2007**. The bill number is **H.R. 3494**. The bill currently has [94 co-sponsors](#) and has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**Title:** To provide for enhanced Federal, State, and local assistance in the enforcement of the immigration laws, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, to authorize appropriations to carry out the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

**Text:** <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.3494>:

### **San Francisco IIPC Wins Community Best Services Award**

On Saturday, September 15th, the San Francisco Irish Immigration Pastoral Center received a “*Community Best Services Award in the area of Immigration Reform*” from the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC). The award recognizes the outstanding contribution that the IIPC has made to improve, enhance and preserve the quality of life and civic participation of all immigrants in the City & County of San Francisco.

The presentation took place during the lunch period of the Immigrant Rights Summit in the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. Celine Kennelly accepted the award from IRC Chair Sonia Melara on behalf of the directors, staff and volunteers of the Center. Ms. Melara prefaced her remarks with ‘I have saved the best award until last’. She went on to highlight the vital importance of comprehensive immigration reform to all immigrant communities and to thank the IIPC for the work they had done among the immigrant communities in San Francisco.

The work of the Center was also acknowledged by State Assemblyman Mark Leno and State Senator Carol Migden, both of whom traveled from Sacramento to present Certificates of Recognition.



Celine Kennelly and Immigrant Rights Commissioner Angus McCarthy

**Congratulations To Everyone At The San Francisco IIPC !!!**

### **U.S. Bishops Support DREAM Act**

Bishop Thomas Wenski, bishop of Orlando, Florida, and consultant to the Committee on Migration of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops testified in the Senate to relay the support of the U.S. bishops for the DREAM Act.

“As a provider of education to thousands of children and young adults nationwide, the Catholic Church has witnessed the suffering of young persons who, through no fault of their own, reside in an undocumented status and are denied access to legal status in this country and an opportunity to continue their education. These young persons are indeed America’s future and it would be foolhardy and unjust for our nation to turn our back on them.

The DREAM Act would give these young people an opportunity to meet their potential and to fully contribute to our society. This is not only good for them, but good for our country.

For those who would call this legislation an amnesty, I say shame on you. These are children who were brought to this country illegally through no fault of their own. While they are in an undocumented status, they are so not because of their own choice or decision, but because they were dependent on their parents, who were simply trying to make a better life for their family. The United States is the only country and home many of them know.

Are we to deport some of our future leaders to a country they do not know in the name of an unjust law? Should we forsake these young people because we lack the political will and courage to provide them a just remedy?

Our elected officials should resist the voices of dissension and fear this time and vote for the DREAM Act. By investing in these young people, our nation will receive benefits for years to come. It also is the right and moral thing to do.

#### **DREAM Act at a glance**

##### **What it would do:**

Give six-year conditional legal status to undocumented immigrants who entered the United States before age 16 and lived in this country continuously for five years before the bill's enactment.

##### **Who would be eligible?**

Those who have no criminal record, are under the age of 30, have graduated from high school and completed two years of military service or college.

##### **How many would qualify?**

360,000 high school graduates ages 18 to 24 would qualify immediately.

715,000 children between the ages of 5 and 17 would be eligible later.

**Sept 27 - The DREAM Act was shelved when Republicans used parliamentary procedures to end debate on the bill and stop new measures from being considered.**

#### **Letter Opposing S. 1984**

Seventeen national interfaith organizations (including IAUSA) signed a letter to Senators Specter, McCain, Graham, and Martinez expressing our opposition to S.1984, the Immigration Enforcement and Border Security Act of 2007. "We are extremely disappointed that, as one of the leading advocates for comprehensive, and therefore constructive, immigration reform, you would sponsor a piecemeal, enforcement-only measure. Our organizations are wholly committed to the right of the government to enforce the law and to protect the national security interests of the United States, yet this bill will do little, if anything, to achieve its stated goal of securing America's borders. Instead of addressing the many underlying problems with our nation's broken immigration system, S.1984 would simply perpetuate the disorderly system, contribute to this nation's insecurity, and undermine America's historic role as a welcoming nation of immigrants."

#### **U. S Bishops Urge Congress To Make Changes To "Material Support" Statute Affecting Refugee And Asylum Seekers**

In congressional testimony September 19, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urged members of Congress to correct the unintended consequences of recent changes in immigration law language relating to the issue of "material support."

Bishop Thomas Wenski of Orlando, Florida, a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Migration and chairman of the Bishop's Committee on International Policy, told the Human Rights and Law Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee that language contained in the USA PATRIOT Act and the REAL ID Act have expanded the Immigration and Nationality Act in ways that have had unintended, negative impacts on bona fide refugee and asylum seekers.

These provisions, known as the "material support" bar, deny U.S. entry to an individual who provides material support to a terrorist

organization, broadly defined in immigration law, even under duress. Under the definition, pro-democracy resistance movements that pose no threat to the United States would qualify as a terrorist organization.

The full text of Bishop Wenski's testimony is available at:  
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/testimony.shtml>

### Pass the Dream Act

Editorial

A small but worthy step toward immigration reform is returning as an amendment to the defense authorization bill. As the Senate debates that fat holiday wish book for the Pentagon, it should rescue this sliver of bipartisan good sense from the wreckage of last summer's failed immigration debate.

It's called the Dream Act, and it offers a path to citizenship to illegal immigrants' children after they graduate from high school and complete two years of military service or college. Its Senate sponsors, including Richard J. Durbin of Illinois and Richard Lugar of Indiana, have championed it as a way to open a future to talented children whose opportunities are closed because of their parents' decision to immigrate here illegally. They also see it as giving a needed boost to the military by opening a new stream of high-quality recruits.

To read the entire article, go to  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/20/opinion/20thur2.html?th&emc=th>

*Source: New York Times*

### U.S. Rule Limits Emergency Care for Immigrants

The federal government has told [New York State](#) health officials that [chemotherapy](#), which had been covered for illegal immigrants under a government-financed program for emergency medical care, does not qualify for coverage. The decision sets the stage for a battle between the state and federal governments over how medical emergencies are defined.

The article can be found at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/22/washington/22emergency.html?pagewanted=1&r=1&adxnnl=0&emc=th&adxnnlx=1190643980-0y3QJt9x2FvryAYBR6JRLQ>

*Source: New York Times*

### Drivers' Licenses for NY Immigrants

Last week Governor Eliot Spitzer courageously decided to do something that not only would increase the safety of New Yorker residents, but also make it possible for many immigrants to obtain their Drivers' Licenses.

The new rules would expand the kinds of documents that would be accepted by the state to get a license. A Social Security card would no longer be required if there are enough other documents, like an up-to-date passport, a birth certificate or other items. The governor promised new security measures as well.

With these enlightened changes, New York will join eight other states that do not require applicants for drivers' licenses to prove their immigration status. Like New York, these states want a drivers' license to achieve what it is supposed to do — certify a safe driver.

*Source: New York Times*

### Immigration: Pledging Even More Allegiance

For the first time in two decades, the U.S. citizenship test has been revamped—and the new version, which will be unveiled this week for use starting Oct. 1, 2008, will mark a profound shift in what it takes to become an American. Gone are many of the old trivia-style questions such as "How many stripes are on the American flag?" They've been replaced by queries that focus on concepts rather than facts—for instance, "Why does the flag have 13 stripes?" The new test, 10 years in the making at a price tag of \$6.5 million, will also cover subjects such as "checks and balances," "inalienable rights" and other constitutional ideas.

Driving the change is the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services, which wants to create "patriots" and not just naturalized residents out of the more than 500,000 immigrants who become citizens each year. "What's at stake is really the survival of our democracy," says Alfonso Aguilar, head of the Office of Citizenship.

To read the entire article, go to:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20920369/site/newsweek/from/ET/>

Source: *Newsweek*

## **NEWS FROM IRELAND**

### **Role of the Receiving and Sending Church as outlined in *Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi***

*Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi (EMCC)*, issued by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People in May 2003 has placed emphasis on the role of the receiving church. This emphasis arises for many reasons among which there are practical and administrative duties whereby the pastoral care of immigrants are better served. The duty of care and need for fraternal vigilance needs to be vested in one particular agent of authority, notably the receiving Church, where the migrant is domicile. This is not to the exclusion of a role for the Sending Church. 'To ensure that the pastoral care of migrants may be one of communion, it is essential that the Churches of Departure and Arrival establish an intense collaboration with one another' [para 70].

The entire article written by Fr. Alan Hilliard can be found on the IAUSA website: <http://www.usairish.org/dublinupdates.html>

### **7th Regional Consultation Meeting for the Filipino Ministry in Europe**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation Meeting for the Filipino Ministry in Europe met on August 27<sup>th</sup> in Dublin. Fr. Alan Hilliard addressed the

chaplains and pastoral workers for Filipino migrants in Europe.

Excerpts from Fr. Hilliard's speech:

### **MIGRANTS AND RIGHTS**

This is where the mission of the Church is invaluable. To join together the thoughts, the stories of those who are sinking further into insecurity and remind the 'market' of the importance of the human being who is neither solely a producer or a consumer but precisely a human being made with a dignity that the market may not respect. The human being has rights.

### **SENDING CHURCH**

Your home Church is acutely aware of the issues facing migrants in today's world. Their efforts to support you are to be acknowledged. In a country that makes emigration part of its economic development strategy the Church needs to highlight the human cost of this policy. Family separation, elderly migrants returning home to nothing, the need to care for the most poor among your community notably those who work on shipping; are issues of growing importance. The Philippines Overseas Agency has identified that 25% of the world's total maritime population is from the Philippines. The Episcopal Commission for the pastoral care of migrants and itinerant People (ECMI) has identified that 40% of all Filipino families are affected by emigration from the Philippines. There is no doubt that migration will continue to be a feature of the Philippines for many years to come. There is no doubt either that the work of this Conference is key to making migration a more positive experience.

### **People of Faith**

#### ***From the Emerald Isle to the Beehive State***

The Catholic Church in Utah has always looked to Ireland for priests. Lawrence Scanlon, first bishop of the Salt Lake Diocese, was born in the Emerald Isle, and his vicar general for 40 years, Denis Kiely, accompanied him to Utah.

That, said Monsignor Terrence Fitzgerald, vicar general for the diocese, was

part of a tradition. Europeans migrating to America from Germany, Ireland and Italy often came with priests.

The Rev. Terence Moore of St. John the Baptist Church joins the Rev. Francis Mannion of St. Vincent de Paul Church, the Rev. Patrick Carley of St. Joseph the Worker Church, the Rev. Matthew Wixsted of St. Marguerite Church and the retired Rev. John Hart as Ireland natives who came to the Western United States to serve.

The 64-year-old Moore, who grew up in the tiny Irish town of Mount Mellick as the second son of a farmer, recently returned to his native land to celebrate the 40th year of his ordination.

Sitting in the St. John the Baptist office recently, he reflected on a spiritual journey that included a stint with the state's refugee-settlement program, an educational path that awarded him a doctorate in social work, and a pastoral career that included heading Catholic Community Services. He also helped build his current parish church as well as St. Thomas More Church in Sandy. Fr. Moore said he became a priest out of an interest in teaching,

*Source: The Salt Lake Tribune*

### **Priests Urged To Oppose 'Anti-Family' Immigration Laws**

Catholic priests are being urged to oppose "anti-family" aspects of Ireland's immigration laws and policies.

Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy of the Immigrant Council of Ireland told the National Council of Priests today that the Church had an obligation to lobby the Government for a more compassionate approach to families that are separated by migration. She says the ICI and other NGOs will be seeking to raise this issue and a number of other concerns about new immigration legislation before it goes back to the Dail.

*Source: Belfast Telegraph*

### **EU Justice Chief Announces Landmark Immigration Proposal**

The European Union's top justice official is advocating for the bloc to open it's doors to 20 million more immigrant workers over the course of the next two decades.

Justice Commissioner Franco Frattini called on the 27-member states to "look at immigration as an enrichment and as an inescapable phenomenon of today's world, not as a threat," in a speech delivered at an immigration conference in Lisbon Thursday.

He said that he is weighing proposals to develop a "Blue EU Labour Card" program, which would "attract the workers needed to fill specific gaps." Under the proposal, highly qualified foreigners would enter one of the EU's member states for a period of two years before either returning to their home countries or applying for a renewal in the same or a second member country. After five consecutive years in any one state, they would be able to seek longer-term residency status, at which point they would be entitled to move freely across borders.

To read the entire article, go to:

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7008521848>

*Source: AHN Media Group*

**Speaking Notes for Fr. Alan Hilliard, Director, IECE, at the Irish Australian Community Support Association of Queensland (IACSAQ) in the Irish Club Brisbane on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2007 can be found at: <http://www.usairish.org/index.html>**

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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