



## Bulletin Announcements on Immigration Reform

### **Example Bulletin Announcements for Just Immigration Reform:**

These announcements could be used in Sunday Parish Bulletins, Social Justice Committee websites, Facebook, blogs, Twitter, bulletin boards, or newsletters

- Our new Pope Francis shared on the day of his election, “**How I would love a church that is poor and for the poor.**” How might we be a Church for the poor? By supporting Just Immigration Reform providing a roadmap to citizenship, we can be a church for poor and vulnerable migrants in our community. 2013 is a window of opportunity for creating Just Immigration Reform.
- As people of faith, we can support Just Immigration Reform providing a roadmap to citizenship for those vulnerable aspiring citizens living and working in our communities. 64% of Minnesotans AGREE the Government should create a roadmap to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already here (according to Star Tribune Minnesota Poll - April 1, 2013). Just Immigration Reform should **provide a “roadmap” to citizenship for aspiring American citizens who are currently undocumented.** 2013 is a window of opportunity for creating Just Immigration Reform.
- The Minnesota Catholic Bishops are “deeply concerned about the nation’s immigration policy.” What would an Immigration Process that respects human rights and the dignity of all persons, especially families, look like? Just Immigration Reform should **expand opportunities to reunify families** by enacting “policies designed to keep families together” (Minnesota Bishops’ *Unlocking the Gates of our Hearts*). Migrant families and our entire community would be strengthened by Just Immigration Reform providing a roadmap to citizenship which reunites families. 2013 is a window of opportunity for creating Just Immigration Reform.
- Just Immigration Reform could change the lives of 95,000 Minnesotan migrants while bringing about “significant economic gains” for the entire state such as earnings, tax revenues, jobs, and increased economic growth (Center for American Progress, Report of March 20, 2013). Just Immigration Reform should **provide opportunities particularly focused on unskilled workers (such as temporary worker programs, agricultural workers)** which includes making the roadmap to citizenship financially accessible to the poor. Who would be impacted by Just Immigration Reform providing a roadmap to citizenship? We ALL would benefit. 2013 is a window of opportunity for creating Just Immigration Reform.

- Just Immigration Reform should **ensure that the process of reforms and the roadmap to citizenship happen in a timely manner.** "We recognize that finding solutions to the plight of immigrants today will sometimes necessitate the overcoming of boundaries in the heart, not just on the land" (Minnesota Bishops' *Unlocking the Gates of our Hearts*). How long is a reasonable and loving process towards citizenship? Just Immigration Reform should allow aspiring citizens a reasonable time-line for completing the process for their well-being, the well-being of their families, and the benefit of our entire community. 2013 is a window of opportunity for creating Just Immigration Reform.
- The Church supports the rights of all people to seek economic stability for themselves and their family's. If families were able to support themselves in their homeland, there would be less need for migration across borders in search of freedom, jobs, and a better life. "Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families" (Minnesota Bishops' *Unlocking the Gates of our Hearts*). A just immigration process **strengthens global anti-poverty efforts.** 2013 is a window of opportunity for creating Just Immigration Reform.
- The Church recognizes the rights of all sovereign nations to protect their borders, but challenges us, "at some point, however, we must reach out to human persons in need, and the demands of our common human nature compel us to open a gate in the wall, so that what human dignity demands is not denied to a sister or brother" (Minnesota Bishops' *Unlocking the Gates of our Hearts*). **Protecting the integrity of our borders while protecting due process for immigrants and their families needs to be balanced in our approaches to immigration reform.** Just Immigration Reform seeks for a gate to be opened in our hearts. 2013 is a window of opportunity for creating Just Immigration Reform.
- The Minnesota Catholic Bishops believe that in the complex area of immigration policy "the human rights and human dignity of all persons, including undocumented immigrants, should be respected." What would a Just Immigration Process that respects human rights and the dignity of all persons consist of? Just Immigration Reform should **protect the God given human dignity of all persons** that protect the most vulnerable while "recognizing the rich contributions to the community by those immigrants and migrants who work and live here" (Minnesota Bishops' *Unlocking the Gates of our Hearts*). We embrace Catholic Social Teaching and strengthened our community when we respect the dignity of all. 2013 is a window of opportunity for creating Just Immigration Reform.