



## **Mobilizing Your Parish Community**

### **Step 1: Educate**

Not everyone within your parish will be aware of or onboard with Immigration Reform. Some people may be willing to help in leading the effort in your parish community, but the vast majority might simply be on the fence, seeking further education on the issue, and needing encouragement to take action in a manner which speaks to the core values of our faith. The key to our success will be in our ability to reach out to those in the middle. Therefore, it is essential we find ways to spark and increase interest in the issue through attention grabbing information that leaves people eager to learn more about the need for immigration reform.

**To start a buzz about immigration reform at your parish, you need to increase parishioner:**

- **Awareness -- providing publicity that spark interest in the issue**
- **Basic Education – introductory educational materials that address common questions, concerns, or misconceptions, and Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration Reform**

**How could you create initial awareness about immigration reform within your parish?**

- Using simple bulletin announcements over a period of weeks can be a very simple way to spark interest and attention around Just Immigration Reform, examples provided (These could also be shared via social media)
- Hang signs or posters around your parish and/or put one page flyer inserts in your parish bulletin, examples provided.

**What could introductory educational opportunities look like within your parish?**

- Providing copies of the MN Bishop's document in a public space
- Providing copies of the JFI Myths & Facts about Immigration handout to the parish
- Sharing your passion about this particular issue with your pastor, and seeing if he might be willing to speak about it from the pulpit. The MN Bishop's document provides great material for preaching on Just Immigration Reform.
- Host a Catholic Social Teaching Reflection with a small group of interested individuals (available through MN Catholic Conference or Office for Social Justice)
- Share resources for further learnings