

# Immigration

## Proposal

Be it resolved that the Loretto Community gathered in Assembly 2009 recognizes that the moral imperative to fix a broken immigration system that undermines the dignity of immigrants is long overdue. The Loretto Community will issue a public statement of support for the rights and dignity of all immigrants, regardless of their legal status. The Loretto Community supports President Obama and his administration in calling for comprehensive, just and humane immigration now. The Loretto Community calls upon its membership to actively promote immigration reform with their Congress persons.

## Background/Rationale

The past year witnessed a new era in the enforcement of immigration laws that resulted in the Department of Homeland Security detaining on average over 30,000 people per day. In 2008, the largest immigration raid in US history took place in Postville, Iowa. This has caused tremendous suffering and fear for immigrants and their families. Due to the strains on the judicial system, many immigrants have been in detention for months and even years while awaiting court proceedings. Some have resorted to hunger strikes to call attention to their situation. Raids and border walls have not changed the situation. The immigration system is broken, outdated and replete with obstacles to obtaining timely legalization for immigrants and refugees.

The often times emotional debate over undocumented immigration has become an engine for hate speech and crimes. The extreme rhetoric has infected mainstream political and media discourse. The global economic crisis has a doubly negative effect on migrants. As people become more fearful for their own futures, the stranger becomes the target of anger and resentment.

The Loretto Community needs to join its collective voice with those of many other reform advocates as momentum for reform is increasing in the new Obama Administration. Along with people of various faith traditions and humanitarians, the Loretto Community knows that inhumane raids, detention, deportations, abusive treatment, and anti-immigrant and racist sentiment towards immigrants fly in the face of the admonition to “not oppress the stranger” and to “love the stranger as oneself.” Our work is to live out these admonitions in our local communities and to advocate on behalf of immigration reform.

## Implementation

The Loretto Community membership will actively promote immigration reform with their Congress persons. The membership will voice support for three pieces of legislation that are necessary building blocks for broader immigration reform: the DREAM Act [S.729/HR1751]; the AgJobs Bill [S.1038/HR2414]; and the Reuniting Families Act [S.424/HR1024]. The LACC will help keep the membership informed about immigration legislation. The LACC will forward this public statement in support of immigrants and immigration reform to President Obama and his administration in the name of the Loretto Community.

## *Submitted by*

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**June 26, 2009 — Passed unanimously by all present. Proposal approved**