



Where Justice and Truth Meet

February 2013

Gospel Call to Welcome the Stranger and Care for Those in Need

Marie Joseph House of Hospitality

Marie Joseph had nowhere to go when she was released from the Broadview Detention Center in the dead of winter. Seeking shelter in an abandoned building, she froze to death. Vowing not to let that happen to anyone else, [Brothers and Sisters of Immigrants](#) are preparing to open the Marie Joseph House of Hospitality for immigrants released from the detention center who have to stay in the area to await court dates—often for several months. Through grants and donations they are preparing a former convent at St. Mary of Czestochowa parish in Cicero, Illinois, to provide a temporary home for those who have nowhere to go. Religious and parish groups are invited to sponsor and furnish one of the 18 bedrooms and common areas at the home which they hope to have ready by April 1. Sr. Martha Marie Kirbach was there to help on a recent cleaning crew. Among the items still needed are curtains for the windows, bath and kitchen towels, and shower curtains.



Comprehensive, fair and compassionate immigration reform is one way to respond to the

Gospel call to love our neighbor. Many and diverse voices (including U.S. Catholic Bishops, LCWR and other faith-based groups, a bipartisan Senate commission, and the Obama Administration) are calling for major overhaul to our flawed immigration system. Common elements in these calls include:

- **Earned Legalization** - Allow foreign nationals who are living in the U.S. to apply for lawful permanent residence and an eventual path to citizenship. Background checks, fines, and eligibility requirements would be required of applicants. Goals: to help stabilize the workforce, promote family unity, and bring a large population "out of the shadows," as members of their communities.
- **Provision for Future Workers** –Streamline our legal immigration system and establish an improved process for admitting future workers to

serve our nation's workforce needs, while simultaneously protecting all workers.

- **Enforcement** –Strengthen border security and create an effective employment verification system to eliminate hiring of future unauthorized workers.

The U.S. Bishops, faith-based groups, and the Obama Administration proposal also focus on a compassionate response to **prioritize family reunification**, calling for changes to increase the number of family visas available and reduce family reunification waiting times. Such a program could reduce illegal immigration by addressing one of the root causes. In addition, the Bishops call for **addressing the root causes** of migration, such as under-development and poverty in sending countries, and seeking long-term solutions. Saying that migration should be driven by choice, not necessity, they recognize that one antidote to the problem of illegal immigration is sustainable economic development in sending countries.

For further study:

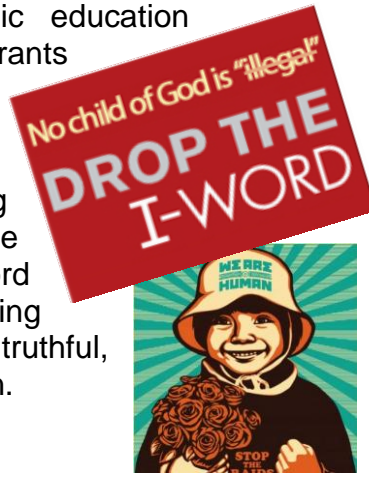
In [Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope](#), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) outline elements needed for just and comprehensive immigration reform.

- [Bipartisan Framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#)
- [Obama Administration's Principles for Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#)

Do the Bipartisan Framework and Obama Administration principles address the elements necessary for a just immigration reform proposal, as outlined by the Bishops? See a side-by-side [comparison](#) and call to action prepared by the Adrian Dominicans. **Take action:** [Send an email](#) to Congress members or use text prepared by the *Inter-community Peace and Justice Center* as [talking points](#) for a phone call to your legislators. Deepen your understanding and pray daily for immigrants and immigration reform. Download a [Lenten Calendar](#) prepared by the Office for Immigrant Affairs from the Archdiocese of Chicago with reflections/suggestions for each day of Lent.

Drop the I-Word is a public education campaign powered by immigrants and diverse communities across the country that value human dignity and are working to eradicate the dehumanizing slur "illegals" from everyday use and public discourse. The i-word opens the door to racial profiling and violence and prevents truthful, respectful debate on immigration.

No human being is "illegal."



Take the Pledge

I will not call any human being "illegal." The racially charged slur and related terms confuse the immigration debate, fuel violence and don't reflect my values. I join communities nationwide in challenging all media to do the same.



“Amen, I say to you, what you did for one of these least ones, you did for me.” Mt 25:45-46

In recent months you were asked to dialogue on a Consistent Ethic of Life from the lenses of

- Both/and thinking* (instead of either/or; working through differences to find solutions)
- Conscious Evolution* (embracing the totality as one integrated whole)
- Right Relationship* (preserving the integrity, resilience, and beauty of the commonwealth of life; all aspects make a whole)
- Contemplative Response* (gazing on the world with the eyes of love)
- Ascetic Response* (practicing discipline in our thinking and acting)
- Prophetic Response* (moving us to action on behalf of justice)

Your responses to those dialogues gave rich insight into our shared desire to recognize the sanctity of life in all forms and stages as gift of God to be cherished and protected.

(A compilation of the [dialogue responses](#) is available on the *Sisters Only* section of the website.)

From these responses the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation committee has crafted a Proposed Corporate Stance on a Consistent

Ethic of Life. Please read and pray with this proposed stance and discuss it in community. Let us know what you think of it. You can send responses to the JPIC committee at kmulcahyop@spdom.org.

Knowing that life is both sacred and vulnerable, we acknowledge that it is impossible to list all of the threats to life in our time and maintain a focus on the positive and consistent ethic of life.

Proposed Corporate Stance on a Consistent Ethic of Life

We believe in the interconnection of all life which is at the heart of a consistent ethic of life. We commit to the protection of the whole of life on Earth. We see that life in our time is threatened by the violence of abortion, armed conflict, climate change, consumerism, ecological devastation, euthanasia, nuclear proliferation, poverty, racism, violence against women, and xenophobia. Our commitment fundamentally requires a conversion of heart and compels us to address any injustice that diminishes the community of life. We reverence the sacredness of life and address injustice in a spirit of respect, compassion, and solidarity.