

Sisters of Notre Dame announce stand on immigration reform
National Migration Week is January 7-13, 2007

Toledo, OH - The Sisters of Notre Dame, Toledo Province have established a stance on immigration reform because of their long-term commitment to migrant farm worker ministries that began in the early 1960's when they taught catechism to migrant children during the summer season in the parish schools of Leipsic, Delphos and Fremont, Ohio.

"The Sisters of Notre Dame decided to make our stance on immigration known during National Migration Week and especially since the topic has been discussed recently on the national level," said Sr. Joanne Mary Frania, SND, and member of the Sisters of Notre Dame social justice committee.

The Sisters of Notre Dame have taken the following stance:

We, the Sisters of Notre Dame of the Toledo Province, call on our United States government to implement Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

We understand Comprehensive Immigration Reform to include:

1. Legalization of persons having a history of work in the United States
2. Pathway to citizenship
3. Protection for workers (citizens, residents and newcomers)
4. Reunification of families by adjusting the current visa system
5. Restoration of national security.

"In addition to the Sisters of Notre Dame, the U.S. and Mexican Catholic Bishops' document "Strangers No Longer" clearly articulates the values behind our stand," continued Sr. Joanne Mary. "Women religious believe and teach the Catholic social tradition based on human life and human dignity of all persons. This tradition includes the biblical mandate of welcoming the stranger. In fact, our own Sr. Mary Jo Toll, has served as the Diocesan Director of En Camino, Catholic Charities outreach to migrants, for eight years," she concluded. The En Camino mission is to be a presence of the Catholic Church of Northwest Ohio to the migrant farm workers. En Camino staff go to the camps to welcome the people as part of northwest Ohio parishes.

For further information about the Sisters of Notre Dame and their stance on immigration reform, please contact Teri Bockstahler, 419-474-5485.

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