



MINNESOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis • Diocese of Crookston • Diocese of Duluth
Diocese of New Ulm • Diocese of St. Cloud • Diocese of Winona

November 2008



Dear Friends,

The Minnesota Catholic Conference invites you to join Catholic parishes throughout Minnesota in celebrating Statewide Immigration Sunday on **January 4, 2009, the Feast of the Epiphany**. The theme for Immigration Sunday, *Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice*, invites us to renew our commitment to welcome our immigrant sisters and brothers. The Feast of the Epiphany is a perfect day to celebrate Immigration Sunday, because it is a day that centers on our unity as one human family, and our call to welcome everyone with dignity, respect and love.

We hope and pray that Statewide Immigration Sunday will be an opportunity for your parish community to: renew hope and seek justice for newcomers; learn more about the many obstacles encountered by our immigrants, migrants and refugees; and join in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers to create peace and justice for all.

The Social Concerns Department of the Minnesota Catholic Conference created a series of educational materials to help parishes prepare for Statewide Immigration Sunday. The *Statewide Immigration Sunday Planning Guide* includes the following materials:

- Immigration Sunday prayer;
- Catholic social teaching on immigration;
- Liturgy guide;
- Bulletin insert;
- Activities for children;
- Activities for adults; and
- Resource list.

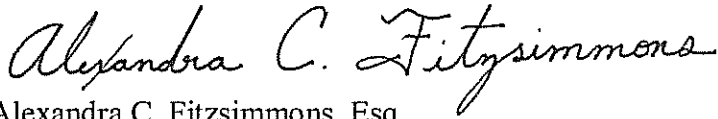
The *Statewide Immigration Sunday Planning Guide* can be downloaded from the MCC Web site: www.mncc.org.

We also encourage you to participate in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) National Migration Week, which is observed January 4 through 10, 2009. During National Migration Week, we encourage parishes to organize events (e.g., book study, film screening and discussion, prayer group, educational forum, food and music celebration) to deepen awareness, knowledge and understanding of immigrant issues. National Migration Week materials can be downloaded from the USCCB Web site: www.usccb.org/mrs.

We hope that increased awareness about the obstacles facing many of our immigrant sisters and brothers, and a deeper understanding of Catholic social teaching, will enable Catholics to participate in compassionate and constructive dialogue about comprehensive immigration reform. Our prayers are with you in this important work.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

May God Bless You,



Alexandra C. Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Social Concerns Director

Minnesota Catholic Conference

(651) 227-8777

afitzsimmons@mncc.org

Members of the Minnesota Catholic Conference Social Concerns Department

Danielle Baas Molliver, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Suzanne Belongia, Diocese of Winona

Steve Bresnahan, Diocese of Saint Cloud

Patrice Critchley Menor, Diocese of Duluth

Father John Estrem, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Dr. Bernie Evans, Saint John's University

Alexandra Fitzsimmons, Minnesota Catholic Conference

Veronica Gaidelis-Langer, Diocese of Duluth

Deacon Stan Hennen, Diocese of Saint Cloud

Kathy Langer, Diocese of Saint Cloud

Christopher Leifeld, Minnesota Catholic Conference

Christopher Loetscher, Diocese of New Ulm

Patrick Ness, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Father Mario Prada, Diocese of Crookston

Sister Anna Marie Reha, Diocese of New Ulm

Brian Rusche, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

Robert Tereba, Diocese of Winona

Kathy Tomlin, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Sister Leona Ulewicz, Diocese of Crookston