Corporate Stance for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Background:
The Daughters of Charity of the United States of America, some of whom are themselves immigrants, and some of whom work closely with immigrant populations, believe and teach the Catholic social traditions based on human rights and inherent dignity of all persons. We extend our welcome to people from other countries who seek refuge in the United States. We assert the fundamental rights of every person to family unity, to safe employment with a moral wage and to physical and emotional safety. Inspired by these beliefs, we fervently advocate for change to the current U.S. immigration law that allows for harmful family separation, serious workplace abuse of foreign born workers and widespread fear within the immigrant community.

Daughters of Charity support comprehensive immigration reform that:

1) Establishes a compassionate and attainable pathway to full citizenship, without having to leave the USA, for foreign born nationals residing in the USA;

2) Promotes reunification of families by making effective the naturalization process, increasing the number of family visas and reducing the waiting times for family reunification;

3) Eliminates the detention of children;

4) Outlines a future worker program to permit foreign-born workers to enter the country safely and legally and includes workplace protections and living wages;

5) Focuses law enforcement on those who truly threaten public safety, e.g., drug and human traffickers, smugglers and would-be terrorists, in a targeted, proportional and humane manner; and

6) Addresses the root causes of immigration and directs the government to establish long-term solutions involving trade policies, international economic aid, debt relief, wage disparities, taxes and tariffs.

Rooted in these principles, we commit ourselves to:

1) Expose, through education and advocacy, the impact of current and proposed legislation for asylum seekers, other aspiring Americans, immigrant workers and their families;
2) Utilize public forums to boldly speak out on the behalf of our immigrant brothers and sisters.

3) Publically pray for justice for our immigrant brothers and sisters in parish churches and social gatherings.

4) Continue to educate ourselves and others about immigration and seek to understand facts, as opposed to myths, about immigration.

5) Support and advocate for legislation that will ensure the elements in the above position statement by contacting our legislators and encouraging others to do so.

Rationale:

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Heb. 13:2

Pope Francis’s first pastoral trip outside of Rome was to the Italian island of Lampedusa in July 2013, where hundreds have died while trying to immigrate into the country. There Pope Francis lambasted the “globalization of indifference,” which characterizes a society that lacks compassion for immigrants. http://famvin.org/en/2014/09/15/church-isnt-going-away-immigration-reform/

“You tell us that to love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus”. - Pope Francis, Address during Visit at the Homeless Shelter "Dono Di Maria," 5/21/13.

During his visit to the United States in April, 2008, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI chose migration and immigration as one theme of his visit, citing the importance of keeping families together and addressing the issue not only nationally, but regionally and globally as well: “The fundamental solution is that there would no longer exist the need to emigrate because there would be in one’s own country sufficient work, a sufficient social fabric, such that no one has to emigrate. Besides this, short-term measures: It is very important to help the families above all.” Interview with His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, during his flight to America, April 15, 2008. http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/congressional-testimony/upload/Kicanasfinal.pdf

Immigration reform based on “the unique dignity of the person” is a moral concern for all Catholics—and the only rational approach to social and economic realities in today’s interdependent world, said Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, bishop of Brooklyn, as part of St. John’s University’s annual Catholic Lecture Series. “…we must remember that workers “do not leave their humanity behind . . . when they cross our borders.” - See more at: http://www.stjohns.edu/about/news/2014-04-03/human-dignity-crucial-immigration-reform-bishop-declares-sju#sthash.Lz8M31Fq.dpuf

All of our Provinces face modern forms of slavery, for example, immigration, human trafficking, etc,...How far are we willing to go in our solidarity with these persons living in poverty? Let us Risk to: increase networking at all levels- interprovincial and international-in order to facilitate effective collaborative service for the defense and reintegration of migrants, refugees and victims of modern forms of slavery. Inter Assembly Document, Daughters of Charity: The Boldness of Charity for a New Missionary Momentum, 2015.

"This view is consistent with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who calls upon all to ‘welcome the stranger’ and who declared ‘for whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto me.’ Mt. 25: 35, 40” (from the Statement of the Participants in the Regional Consultation on Migration, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C., June 4, 2010)

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