



## **USCCB Committee on Migration**

**C/O MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES**

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3227 • FAX 202-541-8755

WEBSITE: [www.usccb.org/mrs](http://www.usccb.org/mrs)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 13, 2006**

**Statement of Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes  
Bishop of San Bernardino  
Chairman, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration**

The recent raids by the U.S. government targeted at meat packing facilities across the country demonstrate that our nation lacks a sensible immigration policy. While we acknowledge the right of the U.S. government to enforce immigration laws, we do not believe enforcement tactics such as raids are the most humane and effective approach.

Enforcement raids do not address the root causes of undocumented migration and are evidence of an incongruent national immigration system. While our country needs immigrant workers to fill crucial jobs in important industries, at the same time we do not grant them protection of our laws so they can work without fear.

Instead, we employ enforcement strategies, such as raids, which separate families in a traumatic fashion, leaving children without fathers and wives without husbands.

Comprehensive immigration reform which addresses the legal status of the undocumented is needed to establish order and humanity to our immigration system. I urge Congress to enact comprehensive reform before the end of the year.

*+ Gerald R. Barnes*

*Bishop of San Bernardino*

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