



Regional Report:

Migration in North America



Presentation Outline:

- Brief overview of migration in N.A.
(emphasis on U.S. situation)
- Mexico-U.S. Church Collaboration
- U.S. Church's Response



Why Migration is an Issue in North America

- Magnitude of migration
- Economic and social impact
- War or terrorism
- Inadequacies of current public policies



U.S. Immigration



- 1990 foreign-born population = 19.8 million (8%)
 - 2000 foreign-born population = 28.4 m(11%)
 - Today, estimated at 34m (12.5%)
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- Undocumented population:
 - Doubled in past 10 years (11 million)

Immigrant Dispersion in U.S.



- Locations of fastest growth in foreign-born populations (1990-2000):
 - North Carolina (273.3% growth)
 - Georgia (233% growth)
 - Nevada (200% growth)
 - Arkansas (196.3% growth)

Legal Visa Availability



- 450,000 service industry jobs to immigrants;
10,000 visas
- Family visas: up to 20 year backlog

Labor Force Participation by Undocumented



- Undocumented workers are 5% of U.S. workforce.
- 97% work in service, construction, production, installation, and repair.
- 3% in agriculture.
- 25% of drywall installers, meat and poultry workers, ground maintenance workers, and housekeepers are undocumented.

U.S.-Mexico Border Deaths



- Ten year period beginning in 1995:
 - nearly 3,000 migrant deaths
- Currently, on average more than one death per day!

U.S. Refugee Admissions



Post-9/11 reduction of 60%

Anti-terrorism laws further restricting access

Human Trafficking



- 15,000 to 20,000 per year to U.S.

Unaccompanied Minors



- 8,000 per year


Use of Detention



- Asylum seekers
- Expansion
- Use as deterrant



The Immigrant Church

- Catholic portion of U.S. population nearly tripled between mid-1800's and early-1900's.
 - Today, 300,000 Catholics arrive each year.
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U.S. and Mexican Bishops Issue Pastoral Letter on Migration



*Strangers No Longer:
Together on the Journey of Hope*

January 2003

Strangers No Longer Pastoral Letter

- Provides a Catholic framework for responding to migration phenomenon.
- Outlines pastoral challenges and responses.
- Addresses public policy challenges and responses.

Bishops' Recommendations



Pastoral Care

- Strengthen Church's capacity to accompany migrants – training and placement of pastoral agents.
- Seminarian and religious formation curricula relating to serving migrants.
- Exchange of clergy.

Bishops' Recommendations

Public Policies

- Policies that uphold human dignity – border enforcement, asylum, detention, and removal.
- Address root causes of migration--economic, political, and social conditions.
- Reform U.S. immigration system...
 - Expanded opportunities for family reunification.
 - Temporary worker program.
 - Earned legalization program for the undocumented in the country.
 - Targeted and humane enforcement.



a journey of hope

The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform

Campaign's Primary Objectives:

- To educate the public, especially the Catholic community, about Church teaching on migration and immigrants;
- To create political will for positive immigration reform;
- To enact legislative and administrative reforms;
- To organize Catholic networks to assist qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of the reforms.

How is Campaign accomplishing objectives?

- Broad coalition of Catholic organizations at diocesan and national levels.
- Leadership of bishops and other diocesan leaders.
- *Justice for Immigrants* Campaign in each diocese.
- Educational efforts targeting parishioners and others.
- Grassroots organizing and mobilizing to influence policies and pursue legislative strategies.
- Engagement of broader advocacy coalitions.
- Outreach and training to develop capacity within Catholic networks to assist immigrants.



The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform

www.justiceforimmigrants.org

www.justiciaparalosinmigrantes.org



For the Church in the United States to walk in solidarity with newcomers to our country is to live out our catholicity as Church. The Church of the twenty-first century will be, as it has always been, a Church of many cultures, languages and traditions, yet simultaneously one, as God is one – Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit – unity in diversity.

Is present-day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy? It must not! Today, as before, the United States is called to be a hospitable society, a welcoming culture.

If America were to turn in on itself, would this not be the beginning of the end of what constitutes the very essence of the “American experience”?

Pope John Paul II