

CORPORATE STANCE ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

Approved August 1, 2011

Our mission as Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa, is to live in right relationship with all creation. Rooted in the Gospel and the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare we publically proclaim that immigrants have God-given rights to be treated with respect and dignity, to work and to access services that satisfy their basic needs. Basic human rights, the right to life and to migrate in search of the means to sustain life, are conferred not by citizenship but by personhood. We support comprehensive immigration reform that will respect these rights.

Therefore, we call on our elected legislators of all political parties to introduce and approve comprehensive immigration reform legislation that would respect the rights and basic human needs of all people.

Our Catholic faith grounds us in the realization that each person has inherent dignity because he or she is created in the image and likeness of God (Gn 5:1) and the right to basic human needs (Mt 25:35-40).

We call on our sisters, our associates, and the communities of people with whom we live and work to:

- Ask the U. S. government to respect the migration history of our country
- Urge all parties to work together to promote comprehensive immigration reform that is in the best interest of all
- Insist that the rights and dignity, and basic needs of all persons are respected regardless of their legal status
- Advocate for the development of national and international policies that respect the basic human rights of the undocumented persons
- Advocate for a process to verify legal eligibility to work in U. S.
- Advocate for an adequate guest worker program
- Advocate for the development of a legalization process for the millions of undocumented people presently in the U.S. to become citizens
- Advocate for a development of an effective, humane border security system

In proclaiming this stance for Comprehensive Immigration Reform we, as Francis, embrace the stranger, the outcast of society and we stand in solidarity with them.

**We commit in our personal, communal, and public lives to ongoing conversion as we:
stand with persons who are poor.**

This is who we are and this is what the global community can expect from us.

Chapter 2008 Commitment