

# ENACTMENT STATEMENT FOR IMMIGRATION from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kan.

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**W**e, Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas, in our commitment to nonviolence, stand in solidarity with and on behalf of our undocumented sisters and brothers who come to the United States as immigrants. They come here to escape economic and political strife, drug wars, gang violence and brutality. We remember our own heritage as immigrants and the difficulties our families faced in coming to this country. But more urgently, we recall once more the words of Scripture, “If strangers live with you in your land, do not harm them. You must count them as your own and love them as yourselves — for you were once strangers yourselves in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 19:32-34). And even more pressing are the words of the New Testament: “I was a stranger and you made me welcome... I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25: 35, 40).

We believe that now is the time in the United States to address this issue. We believe that labor abuses against those who grow and harvest our food, racial profiling, and the actions sparked by prejudice will not be addressed until we as the people of God and citizens of this nation come to grips with the situation.

Therefore, we join with the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in calling for a comprehensive immigration policy that includes:

- ▶▶ A pathway to lawful permanent residency and citizenship for the undocumented persons currently living in the United States;
- ▶▶ A process to reduce the backlog of family visas in order to ensure family unity and reunification;
- ▶▶ A guest worker program that ensures labor protections and equitable wages;
- ▶▶ A border security and enforcement policy that is humane;
- ▶▶ A process whereby undocumented students living in the United States can earn a college degree and become gainfully employed.

In particular, we ask that all children, as well as adults who have no criminal background, be released from detention centers. We also protest the deportation of parents whose children are citizens of the United States.

We stand in solidarity with the Bishops of the United States who have repeatedly spoken and acted on behalf of immigrants. We join hands as well with many faith communities, religious congregations and agencies that have risen to the challenge that confronts us today on behalf of our undocumented brothers and sisters.

*Sisters of St. Joseph  
of Concordia, Kansas*

*... loving God and neighbor without distinction ...*

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