

What You Can Do Faith in Action

Get involved in the New Sanctuary Movement:
newsanctuarymovement.org
newyorknewsanctuarymovement@gmail.com
Rev. Bob Coleman, bcoleman@theriversidechurchny.org
Mission & Social Justice Ministry at the Riverside Church

Visit asylum seekers detained in the New York area:
Contact sojourners@theriversidechurchny.org
Advocate for humane, fair immigration policies:
www.churchworldservice.org - click "Be an advocate!"

Inform yourself about immigration issues
www.familiesforfreedom.org www.detentionwatchnetwork.org
www.newsanctuarymovement.org www.immigrantjustice.org

See movies describing their lives, and why they came
The Visitor -- www.thevisitorfilm.com
Abandoned: The Betrayal of America's Immigrants --
www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/aban.html
Crossing Arizona

More films, books, and games about immigrants and refugees:
www.churchworldservice.org

Support **The Child Citizen Protection Act HR 1176 CCPA**
that provides discretionary authority to an immigration judge
to determine that an immigrant parent of a US citizen child
should not be ordered removed, deported, or excluded from
the US. This legislation would apply to both undocumented
and legal immigrants with convictions.

Check <http://thomas.loc.gov/> to see if your Representative is
listed as a co-sponsor to this Bill and thank him or her and
urge them to encourage Senator Schumer to introduce this bill
in the Senate. Or write him a letter and join the campaign to
make it happen.

Inspirational Thought and Prayer

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

poem of Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus", 1883, engraved
on a bronze plaque hung in the Statue of Liberty museum.

*"Give us O Lord, churches and communities that will not
remain silent when people are calling for a voice, that will
not pass by on the other side when wounded humanity is
waiting to be healed."*

Researched & prepared by Bill Apollo Brown, Pew Card Chair

The Riverside Church In the City of New York

POWER IN THE PEWS!!! A CALL TO ACTION June 2008

THE STRANGERS AMONG US A Closer Look at Immigration

*"Every day I wake up thinking what will happen to my wife and
four kids when I get deported to Haiti. How much I'm going to
miss them. Tears always come to my eyes when I think about it."
- Jean Montrevil, Brooklyn dad, business owner, and legal
permanent resident facing deportation.*

**If we listen to the press and politicians, immigration seems
a simple matter of law and order...but if we look a little bit
closer, we discover a world of human suffering and fear.**

AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES ON IMMIGRATION AND LAW

Most Americans express some concern about the growing
immigrant population in one way or another, but the nature of
those concerns varies and is expressed with varying intensity by
different segments of the population. Competition for jobs, the
erosion of traditional American values, the costs to local
government and the threats of terrorism and crime are all
sources of immigration-related concern.

On two contrasting statements, the public is divided; one says
that immigrants represent a burden to the country because they
take jobs, housing and health care; the other that immigrants
strengthen the country through their hard work and talents.

The Current Policy Debate: With the election season upon us,
the government has two basic approaches emerging for
reducing the flow of illegal immigrants. One emphasizes greater
enforcement at the border with Mexico, and the other prohibits
the employment of undocumented immigrants. Alternatives are
under consideration for dealing with undocumented immigrants
currently living in the United States.

One would offer a path to permanent legal status after paying a
fine and meeting several requirements. Another would allow
them to stay for several years as temporary workers and then
require them to return to their native countries. Another would
make them go back first and then apply for temporary worker
status. Still another would make them all criminals and
otherwise enact measures designed to induce them to leave.

*"When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not
oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you
as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for
you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God."*

Leviticus 19:33-34