

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Catholic Church Embraces Immigration Reform

The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) joins all people of good will in applauding President Obama's plans for an immigration reform that protects nearly four and a half million undocumented workers residing in the U.S. from deportation. It is a promising initial step toward offering the radical hospitality to strangers that is a central value in both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

Several Old Testament passages recommend hospitality to immigrants in memory of the time when the ancient Hebrews were themselves strangers in a strange land relying on the hospitality of others. The prophets consistently proclaimed that offering hospitality to ill, exhausted, and famished strangers was pleasing to God.

Jesus's message of love in the New Testament likewise urges extending hospitality to persons living on the margins. ANCC Presiding Bishop George Lucey, FCM, notes that the feast of Christ the King was celebrated just days after the president's announcement. In the appointed gospel for the feast, Jesus says that whatsoever we do to the hungry, weary, and homeless, we do to him. "This provides the description of our responsibilities to each other," affirms Lucey, "and we in the ANCC support by our ministries President Obama's courageous action."

The American National Catholic Church is an inclusive Catholic community independent of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to making the world a more caring place. Guided by a presiding bishop, the ANCC celebrates the same sacraments as the Roman Church and follows the spirit of reform initiated by the Second Vatican Council. Although sharing core theological and liturgical practices with Roman Catholicism, the ANCC differs on several major points, such as married clergy, female priests, divorce and re-marriage, same-sex marriage, and lay leadership. The Church has parishes across the U.S. and a host of ministries to the alienated, under-served, and forgotten. For more information, visit www.TheANCC.org.