

Nations shall walk by your light. Isaiah 60:3



The Catholic Bishops of Minnesota designated January 3, 2010, *the Feast of Our Lord's Epiphany*, Minnesota Statewide Immigration Sunday. On this day, we are reminded that all human beings – regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, race, creed or status – are “coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.” We are called to treat all people as daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers in Christ, and temples of the Holy Spirit. As members of Christ’s Body, we are also called to advocate for immigration policies that are humane, just and build the common good.

MINNESOTA IMMIGRATION

- 1.1 million people immigrated to the United States during 2008; and 16,000 people immigrated to Minnesota.
- In 1890, 40 percent of Minnesota’s population was foreign born. Today, 6.6 percent of our State’s population is foreign born.
- Today’s immigrants leave their homes for the same reasons as Minnesota’s early immigrants – persecution, oppression, family separation, poverty, drought and globalization.
- Minnesota students and families speak more than 103 languages and dialects.
- In 1896, Minnesota’s election instructions were printed in 9 languages – Czech, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Polish and Swedish. Today, Minnesota’s election instructions are printed in 6 languages – English, Hmong, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese.

In their 2008 Statement on Immigration, *Welcoming Our Immigrant Sisters and Brothers*, the Minnesota Catholic Bishops called for immigration policy, based on the principles of Catholic social teaching, which would:

- recognize the inherent dignity of every human being;
- seek to reunite, stabilize and strengthen families;
- ease the path to citizenship for our undocumented sisters and brothers who are living in the United States;
- provide access to basic necessities;
- embody due process protections; and
- reflect an awareness of the social, political and economic causes of migration.

Believing that “the Church is the sacrament of the unity of the human race,” let us work together to achieve justice for our immigrant sisters and brothers. For more information on immigration, please visit: www.mncc.org.



MINNESOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE