

**RESOLUTION:  
IMMIGRATION REFORM  
Latino Commission  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
San Francisco, California**

WHEREAS we have promised in our Baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves; to strive for justice and peace among all people; and to respect the dignity of every human being;

WHEREAS Christ calls us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, tend to the sick, and visit the imprisoned (Mt 25: 31-46);

WHEREAS our Scriptures reflect a profound empathy with the plight of the exile, teaching us that it is right to love the foreigner, and to give him food and clothing (Dt 10:17-19); that when a stranger lives with us in our land we must not mistreat him or oppress him (Ex 22:21); that the foreign born living among us must be treated as our native-born; and we must love them as we love ourselves (Lev. 19:33-34);

WHEREAS, in his death, Christ destroyed the barrier between near and far, citizen and alien, making peace and reconciling both to God through the cross, such that all are members of the house of God, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone (Eph. 2:14-20);

WHEREAS the United States is a nation founded by immigrants, benefiting from centuries of immigrant contributions to the sciences, the arts, governance, manual labor, our national defense, entertainment, and culture.

WHEREAS undocumented immigrants living in this country have become part of the fabric of our communities, schools, and churches; their departure would cause a significant vacuum in the lives of innumerable US citizens, pay taxes - income tax, social security tax, sales taxes, etc; and engage in significant economic activity including labor, investment, consumption

WHEREAS the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, sponsored by Senators John McCain and Senator Ted Kennedy, is the best solution to fix our broken immigration system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Latino Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of California urges our elected representatives to enact legislation modeled on the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, that specifically includes the following:

1. A path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States.
2. More opportunities for immigrants to come here legally and work or reunite with their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reject any legislation which would include the criminalization of either undocumented immigrants in the U.S. or those who grant them assistance.

Respectfully submitted:

The Rev. Gloria del Castillo, Chair  
The Latino Commission  
Episcopal Diocese of California

Resolution passed unanimously on March 17, 2006