



**Peace & Justice Commission
Diocese of El Camino Real**

1092 Noche Buena, Seaside, CA 93955
(831) 394-4465



RESOLUTION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

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;

WHEREAS our Scriptures reflect a profound empathy with the plight of exiles, teaching us that it is right to love foreigners, and to give them food and clothing ; that when strangers live with us in our land, we must not mistreat them or oppress them; and we must love them as we love ourselves;

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;

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

WHEREAS undocumented immigrants living in this country are part of the fabric of our communities, schools, and churches;

WHEREAS their departure would cause a devastating effect on the lives of innumerable families, businesses and institutions;

WHEREAS they pay taxes (income tax, Social Security tax, sales taxes, etc); and they engage in significant economic activity, including labor, consumer spending and investment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Peace & Justice Commission of the Diocese of El Camino Real urges our elected representatives to enact legislation modeled on the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act (sponsored by Sens. John McCain and Ted Kennedy), that specifically includes the following:

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the formation of federal, state and local immigration policy that will protect the basic human rights of immigrant workers, guard them against abuse and exploitation, and ensure that they are treated with dignity within our economic and judicial systems.

Resolution passed at a meeting of the Peace & Justice Commission in Seaside on April 18, 2006.