



Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform



ACTIVITIES FOR DETENTION AND DEPORTATION

WHAT: Rosary at Broadview, IL Immigrant Detention Center

WHEN: Every Friday at 7:15 a.m.

DESCRIPTION: For over a year, the faithful have been gathering early on Friday mornings in front of the immigrant detention center in Broadview, IL to pray the rosary. It's a powerful expression of solidarity and prayerful support for our immigrant brother and sisters in Christ as they are being loaded onto buses for deportation from the U.S. The gathering, led by women religious of the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants organization, is orderly and peaceful; all participants stay outside physical boundaries established by the Broadview facility. The public rosary lasts about a half hour and draws attention to a U.S. immigrant detention system that deprives detained immigrants, who have not violated criminal law, protection of basic liberties afforded inmates in the criminal system. The unjust system of detention, which can become indefinite without recourse to remedy, falls under the radar screen of most of the American public.

DIRECTIONS: To reach the Broadview facility, take the Eisenhower to 25th Avenue South; at the top of the ramp turn left to Lexington (the stop light). Turn right on Lexington to Beach (the next street). Turn left on Beach and look for the barbed wire fence on the right hand side, in front of the detention center building.

LOGISTICS: Meet at the location by 7:15am. There is no ongoing commitment – come as often as you can. If questions, contact Sr. Pat Murphy (773) 779-6011.

WHAT: Immigration “Court Watch”

WHERE: Detention Court, 101 W. Congress Parkway

WHEN: Weekdays, 9am-12pm, 1pm-4pm

DESCRIPTION: A court watch program has been established by women religious of the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants network for volunteers to help monitor what is happening at Chicago Immigration Court's Video-Teleconferencing Deportation Hearings. Since 2002, videoconferencing has increasingly become a substitute for in-person deportation hearings for immigrant detainees, who during court proceedings remain in a holding cell at a remote site – without an interpreter or even the attorney representing them at their side as their fate (and potential permanent separation from their families) is decided. Volunteers sit in the courtroom during the hearings in the role of observer to help keep the judge and litigators accountable for providing immigrants fair and humane treatment and representation.

LOGISTICS: Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants organization facilitates participation and scheduling of prospective volunteers in Court Watch, since there is a courtroom-access procedure and observer seating is limited. The program is best suited for people who are open to a regular schedule of participation. If interested, contact Sister JoAnn Persch (773) 779-6011.

Support passage of the Access to Religious Ministry Act HB 2747: 26,000 immigrants in the country are detained and deported per month. In 2007, 270,000 undocumented immigrants were deported from the country. For those immigrants detained in Illinois, it is often very difficult for religious ministers to gain access to them. There are often times when a detainee is unable to talk to a priest or deacon, have confession or participate in liturgy. This legislation will help ensure that clergy and religious workers can provide religious ministry to immigrants being detained in certain Illinois county jails. Please contact your legislator and ask him/her to support this bill. To identify your legislator visit the Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) website at www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org then, click on "Find Your Legislator" located on the right hand side of the website. CCI is supportive of this legislation. A fact sheet on HB 2747 is also available on this website.