

ACTION ALERT – MARCH/APRIL 2006
GOOD SHEPHERD VOICES FOR JUSTICE
The Church Speaks Out: Immigration Reform and The Death Penalty

BACKGROUND

The first sentence of the Good Shepherd Destination Justice Focus Statement says much:

*“We believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is inseparable
from a concern for and pursuit of justice.”*

In other words, social justice is inherently part of who we are as Church, and pursuit of justice is at the innermost core of our very collective being as the body of Christ. Therefore, we note with great attention what many of the U.S. Bishops are saying about two timely justice issues; Immigration Reform and The Death Penalty.

This month we ask you to revisit two of our recent alerts offering you concise and expedient options to put your faith into action.



ACTION – IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 (Committee Bill) was passed by the U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee on March 27, immigration reform debate now turned to the full U.S. Senate. We expect the Senate to debate Immigration Reform over the next couple of weeks.

Your Senators need to hear from you now. The task is to keep the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 intact. To email your Senators, please go to the following website and follow the simple instructions: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/action.html>

To call or write your Senators:

U.S. Senator Herbert Kohl District Address - Milwaukee 310 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 950 Milwaukee, WI 53203 Phone: 414-297-4451	U.S. Senator Russ Feingold District Address - Milwaukee 517 East Wisconsin Avenue, Room 408 Milwaukee, WI 53202-4504 Phone: 414-276-7282
---	--

Talking points for Immigration Reform:

“The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 was recently passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. It includes an earned legalization program, a temporary worker program, and family reunification backlogs. We support this legislation and ask that you support it on the Senate floor.” (In your own words)

ACTION – THE DEATH PENALTY

The USCCB has been consistent in its stance against the death penalty over many years. As such, we ask that you email, call or write your Wisconsin legislators advising them that you do not support the legislation being proposed that would allow the death penalty to become law in the state of Wisconsin.

If you have web access and want to email, get your state legislators contact information here: <http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm>

If you wish to call or write you state legislators and do not know who they are, start by calling Governor Doyle’s office at 414-227-4344. Give them your zip code and ask them for contact information for your state senator and representative.

Talking points for opposition to the Death Penalty:

Paraphrasing the opening statement from the recently released document from the USCCB regarding the death penalty:

“Twenty-five years ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops first called for an end to the death penalty. They have just recently renewed the call to seize a new moment and new momentum. This is a time to teach clearly, encourage reflection, and call for common action in the community to bring about an end to the use of the death penalty. As a concerned Catholic (or Christian or concerned citizen) interested in the pursuit of justice, I am calling today to ask that you oppose any legislation suggesting that the death penalty be allowed in the State of Wisconsin.”

