



Atlantic- Midwest Province School Sisters of Notre Dame Corporate Stance on Comprehensive Immigration Reform for the United States

We, the members of the Atlantic Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, compelled by the Directional Statement of our 23rd General Chapter, which commits us *“to intensify our efforts to witness to unity in a divided world while addressing these divisions with audacity and hope,”* support a comprehensive immigration reform for the United States. It includes

- Pathways to citizenship for undocumented persons in the United States
- Family reunification as a priority in immigration policy
- Opportunities and protections for low-skilled immigrants to come and work in the United States
- Due process protections within our immigration enforcement policies
- Addressing the root causes of migration such as global, economic, environmental and social injustices
- Effective and humane border security that recognizes the human rights of all people

Rationale:

The history of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in the United States and Canada is inextricably connected to the immigrant experience. Sister Caroline Friess, SSND, an immigrant from Bavaria, and the sisters who subsequently joined in her mission, contributed to the development of the United States by building and staffing schools. From Louisiana to Upstate New York and Massachusetts, to Ontario, and in tireless travel up and down the Mississippi River, Caroline opened over 200 schools for settlers and pioneers, boys and girls mainly of immigrant families. Three thousand sisters had joined her mission by the time she died in 1892. Like these sisters, we believe that immigrants are vital contributors to U.S. and Canadian society and are entitled to the opportunity to develop their lives and contribute to their nation as they are able.

Drawing from our SSND tradition as well as from the wellsprings of our Judeo- Christian Faith Tradition, and Catholic Social Teaching we are committed

- “To care for the strangers residing among us and to do them no wrong; loving them as we love ourselves.” (Lev. 19: 33-34, Mt. 25: 37-39)
- To promote the solidarity and unity of the one human family, God’s created design, in which “There is no longer difference, but oneness in Christ.” (Gal. 3: 26-29)
- To uphold the dignity of all human persons as well as the right to realize human dignity in community with others. (Principles of Catholic Social Teaching)
- To advocate for persons who are poor and vulnerable by providing services that address their immediate needs while advocating for public policy decisions that shape a more just society. (Principles of Catholic Social Teaching)

Action:

We are committed to continue our efforts to support comprehensive immigration reform in the U.S. by

- Educating ourselves and others on the issues that pertain to U.S. immigration reform
- Addressing the root causes of migration such as global, economic, environmental and social injustices
- Continuing our ministerial commitment to Immigrants
- Using our individual and collective efforts, as well as collaborations with other groups, to advocate to the U.S. President and Congress for comprehensive immigration reform
- Continuing to pray for a more just and peaceful world