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Bishops urge action on immigration reform

(Seattle) Washington bishops are urging the state's Catholics to participate in National Migration Week Jan. 5-11 through prayer and action.

In September, the state's Catholic bishops, including Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration Seattle Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S., released a statement, *Immigration Reform: Seeking Truth in Charity*, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) urging passage of comprehensive immigration reform.

Bishop Elizondo cited immigration reform legislation, currently pending in Congress, as an example of how the church can assist vulnerable migrants and their families.

“It is our call as the church to bring the light of Christ to these populations and help to bring them from the margins of society to its center,” said Bishop Elizondo. “During National Migration Week, we should not only pray for those who are marginalized but also advocate that protections are provided to them, for they need them most.”

“Congress must act on reforming our broken immigration system in 2014,” he said. “The passage of immigration reform would protect millions of immigrants who otherwise face deportation, detention and family separation. Catholics across the nation can play an instrumental role in achieving this important goal,” he said.

National Migration Week activities include mailing postcards to Congress on January 7, a call-in day to Congress on January 8 and a social media action day on January 9. Information on how Catholics can join Migration and Refugee Services' efforts to call on Congress to pass fair and comprehensive immigration reform can be found at www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

Goals of the bishops' efforts are to:

1. Provide a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country.
2. Preserve family unity as a cornerstone of our national immigration system.
3. Provide legal paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States.
4. Restore due process protections to immigration enforcement policies.
5. Address the root causes of migration caused by persecution and economic disparity.

National Migration Week was launched over a quarter century ago by the U.S. bishops to give Catholics an opportunity to see the wide diversity of peoples in the church and the ministries serving them.

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