



For Immediate Release

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www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org

Local prayer service to be held May 12 to commemorate anniversary of immigration raid in Postville, IA

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Des Moines' Social Justice Consortium invites the public to attend a local, inter-faith prayer service on the first anniversary of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid on Postville, Iowa on Tuesday, May 12 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.

The local prayer service is part of a nationwide day of remembrance led by St. Bridget's Church in Postville and a unified call for comprehensive immigration reform, just labor practices, family unity and an end to raids. The day has been declared to promote awareness of the devastating effects of raids and to stand in solidarity with the 389 people and their families who were detained, some of whom are still waiting legal decisions and action today.

On the nationwide day of remembrance and solidarity, communities are encouraged to participate in the following ways:

- Attend a local prayer service organized by Catholic Charities Social Justice Consortium on May 12 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines. Go to www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org for more information.
- Attend the prayer vigil and walk Tuesday, May 12 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Bridget's Church, 141 W Williams St., Postville, Iowa followed by a prayer vigil and remembrance at 4:00 p.m. and a Solidarity Walk to Agriprocessors at 5:00 p.m.
- Faith communities of all denominations sound a call for justice, e.g., ringing of church bells or blowing of the shofar at 10:00 a.m., the time the raid began.
- Utilize the text of the prayer vigil and remembrance which will be available for adaptation for local use after April 15 at www.postvillestbridget.org.
- Individuals and towns are encouraged to don red ribbons as in Postville on the day of the raid.
- Learn more about comprehensive immigration reform and the raids in Postville during Bishop Pates' live radio show on KWKY 1140 AM on Friday May 8 from 9-10a.m.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Des Moines is an active participant in the campaign for comprehensive immigration reform. "Justice for Newcomers," is one of the initiatives of Catholic Charities Social Justice Consortium, a coordinated effort to share information and ideas in promoting the social justice mission of the Catholic Church. For more information about the Justice for Newcomers Campaign or the Hispanic Community Outreach Program in the Diocese of Des Moines contact Sol Varisco at 515-237-5068 or go to www.CatholicCharitiesdm.org.

"Guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, we serve all people in need with compassion and competence, advocate for justice, and encourage all people of good will to share in these efforts."