



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 20, 2013**

### **CATHOLIC BISHOPS URGE ACTION ON FEDERAL IMMIGRATION BILL**

The Roman Catholic Bishops of Wisconsin are asking Catholics in the state to contact members of Congress in support of pending legislation to reform the nation's immigration system. The Senate is currently considering S.744, "The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act," which is expected to pass with amendments. The House is drafting its own legislation, to be introduced sometime this summer.

In their [letter](#), the bishops quoted Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, who recently wrote that the immigration debate invites our nation to answer several questions:

Do we want a country with a permanent underclass, without the same rights as the majority?

Do we want to continue to separate children from parents, creating a generation of young U.S. citizens who are suspicious and fearful of their government?

Do we want a nation that accepts the toil and taxes of undocumented workers without offering them the protection of the law?

The answer to these questions, of course, is a resounding no.

"Therefore," the Wisconsin bishops wrote, "we ask that you contact your Senators and Representatives, urging them to vote in favor of S.744. While the bill is not perfect, we look forward to working with our elected officials to achieve the most humane legislation possible."

The bishops concluded by citing their immigration pastoral letter of 2011, [Traveling Together in Hope \(Spanish\)](#), "Our Catholic faith can and must transcend political and cultural turmoil. Let us remember that in the end we are all migrants on this earth, traveling together in hope towards our loving God. May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, protect us on our journey."

A copy of the bishops' letter is attached. Copies of the letter, as well as the 2011 pastoral letter, can also be found on the WCC website at [wisconsinatholic.org](http://wisconsinatholic.org).

-30-

For more information, contact John Huebscher or Barbara Sella at 608-257-0004.