



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

June 20, 2013

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 2011, we issued a pastoral letter on immigration, *[Traveling Together in Hope](#)*, in which we joined our fellow bishops around the nation in calling for comprehensive immigration reform. Today our Congress is finally debating such reform in S. 744, “The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.” For the first time in nearly a generation, our nation has the opportunity to fix our broken immigration system into one that promotes human rights, legal behavior, family unity, and secure borders.

As the Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop’s Committee on Migration, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles has recently written, “Our nation must 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.

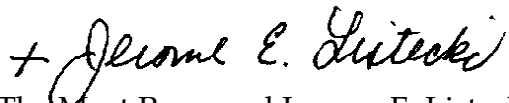
Therefore, we ask that you contact your Senators and Representatives, urging them to vote in favor of S. 744. While the bill is not perfect, we look forward to working with our elected officials to achieve the most humane legislation possible.

For additional resources, we recommend that you visit the national bishops’ campaign, *Justice for Immigrants* (www.justiceforimmigrants.org), where you can also easily send an electronic postcard to your elected officials.

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We close by repeating the final words of our 2011 pastoral: "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."

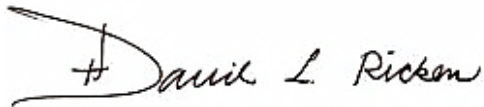
Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI
Archbishop of Milwaukee



The Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison



The Most Reverend David L. Ricken
Bishop of Green Bay



The Most Reverend William P. Callahan
Bishop of La Crosse



The Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen
Bishop of Superior