

M E M O R A N D U M

Thursday, March 22, 2007

TO: Clergy, Religious, Principals and Religious Education Directors

FROM: Most Reverend Oscar A. Solis
Auxiliary Bishop, Director Office of Justice and Peace

SUBJECT: Lenten Materials and Resources

Lent is a special season of grace that calls us to closer union with God and to a life of holiness through conversion of our hearts, realized as we journey with Christ in his suffering, death and resurrection. During this Lenten Season, we encourage our faith family to continue building our parish communities rooted in the fundamental principle of Christian love. Pope Benedict XVI, in his first Encyclical “*Deus Caritas Est*” (*God Is Love*), reminds us that there is an intimate and unbreakable connection between love of God and love of neighbor. We are compelled to love one another so that in loving our neighbor, we meet the person of Christ. Let us proclaim this Good News.

I invite you to make our **2007 LENTEN JOURNEY – A JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE** in consideration of the essential issues and current events that shape our own lives, our society, our nation and our neighbors in need. Focus on the sad plight of many forced to leave their country to find better opportunities in life. As God’s people, let us practice our love for God in our neighbors through our gestures of hospitality, welcome and solidarity. We journey with them that they may also find justice and peace.

Please find the enclosed suggested materials and resources to embark on this Lenten spiritual pilgrimage with our brothers and sisters.

1. Message from the Office of Justice and Peace
2. Education Resources:
DVD: STRANGERS NO LONGER – Facts about the issue of immigration
Bulletin clip/insert on Comprehensive Immigration Reform
3. Advocacy Materials: Feel free to reproduce and distribute the attached letter to your community addressed to our politicians

Proclaim the Good News - the fulfillment of God’s promise and the attainment of Easter joy. We are a Eucharistic family, people of resurrection and a community of hope who believes in the promise of Easter. We will rise again. God’s peace and justice will prevail.