

PLEASE POST

CalProv 10.23

May 10, 2010

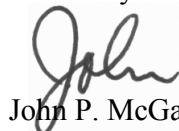
Dear Brother Jesuits and Lay Partners in Ministry,

In 2006 representatives from around the California Province of the Society of Jesus engaged in a process of communal discernment that identified *solidarity with migrants* as our top priority for province social ministries, a priority that has also been affirmed by both the 35th General Congregation and the strategic discernment of the U.S. Assistancy. As I wrote to you then, each of the ministries and apostolic works of the California Province is uniquely impacted and blessed by the presence of immigrants – as students, neighbors, staff, parishioners and extended members of the broad Ignatian family within the province’s boundaries. The [Kino Border Initiative](#), in particular, was born out of this commitment to solidarity with migrants and our province-wide desire to place our knowledge, talents and resources at the service of those who suffer, and to be evangelized by the faith and hope of those who are marginalized and crucified.

I am writing today on behalf of the California Province, and in unity with Bishop John Wester (Chair of the [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration](#)), Bishop Thomas Olmsted (Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix) and Bishop Gerald Kicanas (Bishop of the Diocese of Tucson), to declare unequivocally that we stand in solidarity with migrants and their families in opposition to the enactment and implementation of Arizona SB 1070. The enforcement of this law will unnecessarily divide otherwise peaceful communities along lines of racial difference and cultural suspicion, as U.S. citizens and legal residents with Latino backgrounds will likely be arrested. This law will needlessly and tragically lead to the separation of family members, in particular parents from their children. Moreover, this law threatens the stability and safety of our communities because individuals will refrain from contacting law enforcement out of fear of arrest and deportation. Most significantly, SB 1070 fails to address the concrete reality of our broken immigration system in the comprehensive, humane and just manner that the Church has been striving for in the [Justice for Immigrants](#) campaign. Please see the attached list of links for more information on these important issues.

Please join me in offering prayers and support to our fellow Jesuits and lay partners in Arizona – at St Francis Xavier Parish & Elementary School and Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix; at the Vatican Observatory Community in Tucson; and at the Kino Border Initiative in Ambos Nogales. May the love we show our neighbors and community members provide a credible counter-witness to the politics of separation and fear that would divide us. May we be united in this spirit and tireless in our common commitment to solidarity with the least and with all.

Gratefully in the Lord,



John P. McGarry, S.J.
Provincial



More Resources on SB 1070 and Comprehensive Immigration Reform

- AZ State Legislature SB 1070 (AZ Legislature website):
http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=sb1070
- “Bishops Challenge Arizona Law” (*America* magazine):
<http://www.americamagazine.org/content/signs.cfm?signid=407>
- “Comprehensive Reform, Not Hostile Legislation, Is Necessary to Fix Broken Immigration System,” by Fr. Sean O. Carroll, S.J., of the Kino Border Initiative (Jesuit Refugee Service/USA website): http://www.jrsusa.org/news/news_100422a.php
- “Arizona Religious Leaders Call on Governor Brewer to Veto SB 1070” (Diocese of Phoenix website): http://www.diocesephoenix.org/_localnews/2010/04April.html#immigrationbill
- Statement of Bishop John C. Wester, Chair of the USCCB Committee on Migration (USCCB website): <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2010/10-080.shtml>
- “Arizona’s Dreadful Anti-Immigrant Law” by Cardinal Roger Mahony (from his blog):
<http://cardinalrogermahonyblogs1a.blogspot.com/2010/04/arizonas-new-anti-immigrant-law.html>
- The Justice for Immigrants Campaign to Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform:
<http://justiceforimmigrants.org/>
- “Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope,” A Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States (2003, USCCB website): <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/stranger.shtml>
- “Comprehensive Immigration Reform: A Call to a Month of Prayer, Fasting, Action & Advocacy in the California Province of the Society of Jesus,” by Fr. John P. McGarry, S.J. (January 27, 2006): <http://files.me.com/markpott/b92qqk>