

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

June 13, 2003

Ms. Katherine Bissell
Executive Director
Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues
1020 W. Bryn Mawr, 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60660-4627

Dear Ms. Bissell:

The Archdiocese of Chicago through the Office for Peace and Justice and Catholic Charities continues to be a leader in the Midwest in building solidarity with the immigrant and refugee communities. We understand the call to be compassionate to all newcomers, especially to those in great need. Scripture depicts the Israelites fleeing Egypt and the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt. One of the tenets of the Catholic faith derived from the Gospel is to care for the alien and welcome the stranger.

With this rich heritage of pastoral care to immigrants and refugees, I wish much success and blessing on the Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride. Through the Office for Peace and Justice, the Archdiocese of Chicago has been providing support for the Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride. The emphasis on reuniting families and preserving the dignity of work of all laborers is important in our society that often puts profit ahead of people. I will pray the ride goes safely while at the same time building solidarity with those who are suffering, vulnerable, and in need.

The Archdiocese will keep on with our mission through Catholic Charities in helping the immigrant community. We will continue to reach out to parishes through the Office for Peace and Justice on immigrant issues such as legalization, drivers' licenses, Social Security no-match letters, and the recently passed in-state tuition for the undocumented. I hope that, together we can move our community beyond the anti-immigrant stance that has taken hold in so many areas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago