

**Diocese of Jackson**  
**Proclamation on Just Immigration Reform**  
*Day of Prayer and Fasting – Feb. 25, 2011*

As **Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson**, I reiterate my previous statements in union with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, that we need a national comprehensive immigration policy change rooted in justice and the dignity of the human person.

Our fellow human beings, fellow Christians and in most cases our fellow Catholics walk in fear and are being pushed to the margins of life. This is occurring because of very specific decisions and actions on the part of some, albeit, well-intentioned people; as well as silence, on the part of many good people. State initiatives, such as SB 2179 will not remedy our broken system of immigration and may make the local situation worse. As Catholics Christians we cannot remain silent on this issue.

Our Catholic Church is rooted in Sacred Scripture, Church Teaching and more than two thousand years of Tradition. These foundations of our faith do not support actions, decisions and current proposed legislation here in Mississippi or any other state in this country.

Therefore as Bishop of Jackson, I declare Friday, February 25, 2011,  
*a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Just Immigration Reform.*

I ask all Catholics in the diocese to observe this day through communal prayer, personal reflection, fasting and acts of charity.

I invite Catholics to join me in a bilingual *Stations of the Cross* at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 25, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter the Apostle.

I urge all parishes, missions and Catholic institutions in the diocese to offer an opportunity for those who are unable to join me in the Cathedral to come together as a local Catholic community and pray the Stations of the Cross that day.

**Intentions for the Day of Prayer and Fasting**

- We pray for a prompt national comprehensive immigration reform rooted in justice and the dignity of the human person.
- We pray for suffering immigrant families.
- We pray that all will recognize the sacredness of life and treat others with dignity.
- We pray that those who make laws will be motivated by moral and ethical principles and not by politics.
- We pray that those who have the difficult and challenging job of enforcing laws will do so humanely and justly.
- We pray that we all may have the conviction of our faith to do what is right in order to build true Christian communities in our state, nation and world.

+Joseph N. Latino  
Bishop of Jackson