The Catholic Church and Immigration: Pastoral, Policy and Social Perspectives

March 21, 2011
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m
Caldwell Hall, The Catholic University of America

9:00 a.m.  Continental Breakfast and Sign-in

9:30 a.m.  Welcome and Purpose of Conference

• Stephen Schneck, Director, Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies, The Catholic University of America (CUA)

9:45 to 11:15  Immigration and the Church: Historical Impact and Future Responses

Experts on the impact of immigration on the Catholic Church in America will discuss how past migration flows have impacted the Church, the Church’s response to new immigrants, and challenges for the future.

• Tim Meagher, Associate Professor of History, CUA
• Virgil Elizondo, Professor of Pastoral and Hispanic Theology, University of Notre Dame
• Fr. Alan Deck, Executive Director, Cultural Diversity in the Church, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

11:30 to 1 p.m.  Catholic Social Teaching and Immigration Policy

The panel will discuss Catholic Social teaching on migration and how it has governed the policy positions of the church on immigration issues, including legalization and enforcement

• Todd Scribner, Education Outreach Coordinator, USCCB (moderator)
• Kevin Appleby, Director, Office of Migration Policy and Public Affairs, USCCB
• Don Kerwin, Migration Policy Institute and Woodstock Theological Union
• Maria Mazzenga, Archivist, CUA

1:00 p.m.  Lunch

Keynote: His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C. and consultant, Catholic Relief Services

“The Universal Church as a Defender of Migrant’s Rights”
The Role of the Catholic Church in the Immigration Debate

A free flowing discussion on the role the Church has and can play in the national immigration debate

- Margaret Steinfels, Co-Director, Fordham Center on Religion and Culture (moderator)
- Amy Sullivan, Senior Editor, TIME Magazine
- John Thavis, Rome Bureau Chief, Catholic News Service
- Katherine Lopez, Editor, National Review Online

Questions to discuss:

What is the proper role of faith-based groups, including the Catholic Church, in the immigration debate? Is immigration a moral issue?

What should the Church do to convince Catholics and others about the merits of immigration reform? What issues (rule of law, economics, humanitarian, etc.) should the Church address which might influence Catholics and others?

What role can the Church play to forge a human compromise on immigration reform legislation?

Closing remarks: Ambassador Johnny Young, Executive Director, Migration and Refugee Services, USCCB