

LENTEN RESOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE

REFLECTION, RENEWAL, AND RESOLUTION FOR JUST AND HUMANE IMMIGRATION REFORM

You may be feeling discouraged that federal legislation enacting humane immigration reform did not move last year, despite the hard work you and others like you did to engage your community, lobby your members of Congress, and support your immigrant neighbors, and despite the clear need for it. But you should know that you are a part of a deep, broad movement of Catholics for justice, and we are in the struggle together for the long haul!

The 2011 Lenten Resolution Project is a way for you to inspire and be inspired through reflection, renew your commitment to building more welcoming communities and advocating for humane immigration policies, and resolve to share that commitment with others.

REFLECTION: Have you heard or read first-hand accounts of injustice and suffering of immigrant families? Do you have a neighbor who worries about their family being split up? Reflect on the story of the Holy Family, the archetype of migrant families, who, not able to stay in their homeland and rejected by others along their journey, found someone willing to give them a hand. How can you help those most in need of effective immigration reform and lend a helping hand as the innkeeper did?

RENEWAL: With the ups and downs of 2010 behind us, we must renew our commitment to advocating for fair and just immigration reform. We will share with one another personal stories of the struggles of immigrants and the commitment of the faith community. We will move forward feeling refreshed and empowered to tackle the challenges that are ahead with creative initiatives and a new sense of hope.

RESOLUTION: We will commit to strengthening our education, advocacy and organizing work to push legislative change in even more compelling and strategic ways during Lent. We will share our individual and collective Lenten Resolutions through YouTube videos, pledge cards and petitions, and conversations with our friends and neighbors. We will hold one another accountable to standing with immigrants, and we will make sure our lawmakers pass laws with the well-being of migrants in mind.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

STEP 1: PICK A LENTEN RESOLUTION

Get together with a partner or small group, and decide how you will take action in solidarity with immigrants during Lent. State your commitment on a pledge card or petition, and send your pledges or petitions to Justice for Immigrants (see contact information below) so we can make sure Congress knows that Catholics are continuing the fight for immigration reform. Make sure to keep a copy of your resolution for yourself:

Ideas for Lenten Resolutions include (creativity is encouraged!)

Education - “I will have five conversations a month with friends or community members (especially those with reservations about immigration issues) to deepen their understanding of the need for immigration reform and the values and principles of the Justice for Immigrants Campaign”

Friendship and Community - “I will help organize a diversity celebration or story circle event in my parish where immigrants and non-immigrants from all backgrounds can share their family stories and histories in a celebratory and non-threatening environment so that differences can be celebrated and bridges can be built between people from different backgrounds and cultures.”

Public Witness - “I will go to www.justiceforimmigrants.org once a week, to send an electronic postcard to my members of Congress asking them to support just and humane immigration; and I will continue to encourage others to do the same as well.”

STEP 2: SHARE THE RESOLUTION

Create a video of your Lenten Resolution or take a picture of yourself holding a card with your resolution written down. You can even email JFI with your resolution at jbraga@uscgb.org. Videos can be shared through YouSendIt and will then be loaded onto YouTube by JFI. Full instructions on how to do this are included in this packet on a separate sheet.

STEP 3: ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Make it a party! Host a “**Lenten Resolution**” **gathering** either before or during Lent to discuss how community members can work through a collective resolution and support one another in their individual resolutions to help enact immigration reform. Use the occasion to make a video to share with others. Plan how you will make an impact through your committed action during the Lenten season.

RESOURCES

To support participants in the Lenten Resolution Campaign, JFI will provide:

Bulletin Inserts with theological reflection, immigrants’ and advocates’ stories, and suggested ways to get involved and involve others. Throughout the year we will seek original letters, reflections, and theological pieces from you to highlight in bulletin inserts and on the JFI website.

Pledge Sheet with ideas for resolutions.

TIMELINE

March:

- Lenten Resolution resources will be available on the JFI website.
- Post your video and check out other videos on our website and the USCCB YouTube channel.
- Host a gathering or send invites to your event in March.
- Design your pledge and encourage others to join you.

April:

- Congress is in session and starts getting weekly calls from us!
- Our renewed, committed action for immigration reform begins.**

For more information, contact

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Justice for Immigrants Campaign

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