



# Office for Social Concerns Catholic Diocese of Columbus

*Lent 2010*

## Action Alerts

For current legislative Action Alerts, visit [www.socialconcerns.colsdioc.org](http://www.socialconcerns.colsdioc.org). At the February USCCB Catholic Social Ministry Gathering held in Washington, DC, Catholics urged Congress to focus on the needs of the poor and jobless in public priorities and economic recovery efforts, pass health care reform that respects life, fix the broken immigration system by adopting comprehensive reform, invest in long-term recovery and development in Haiti, and work toward towards a responsible transition in Afghanistan. To read the Message to Congress and Issue Backgrounders, visit [www.usccb.org/jphd/csmg/chnotes.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/jphd/csmg/chnotes.shtml).

## Response to the Devastating Earthquake in Haiti

Catholic Relief Services continues to respond to the need of the people of Haiti who are suffering from the massive earthquake that ravaged the island nation on January 12. Please continue to help the people of Haiti with your prayers and your support of CRS. Catholic Relief Services is the international relief agency of the U.S. Catholics.

### How to Help:

Donate via phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS | Donate online: [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

Write a check: Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-7090  
Memo portion of check: Haiti Earthquake

## Health Care Reform

Despite the new political context, health care reform remains a national priority and moral imperative. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops continues to urge Congress and the Administration to adopt legislation that 1) ensures access to quality, affordable, life giving health care for all; 2) retains longstanding requirements that federal funds not be used for elective abortions or plans that include them, and effectively protects conscience rights; 3) protects the access to health care that immigrants currently have and removes current barriers to access; and 4) restrains costs and apply them equitably across the spectrum of payers. Please encourage your parishioners to contact members of Congress through phone calls, e-mails or fax letters. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call the local offices of your U.S. Representative and Senators. Full contact information can be found at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' health care reform website includes letters from bishops to Congress, videos, facts and statistics, frequently asked questions, and links for contacting members of Congress, [www.usccb.org/healthcare](http://www.usccb.org/healthcare).

## Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Thank you to parishes for participating or planning to participate in the Justice for Immigrants Postcard Campaign. Nearly 40,000 postcards were distributed to parishes throughout the diocese. The postcard campaign urges support of immigration reform legislation that keeps immigrant families together, adopts smart and humane enforcement policies, and ensures that immigrants without legal status register with the government and begin a path toward citizenship. An electronic postcard may also be sent to Congress by visiting [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). For more information or to order postcards, contact Catholic Latino Ministry at (614) 262-7992 or the Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

## Information and Response Network

If you would like to receive legislative action alerts and upcoming events from the diocesan Office for Social Concerns via the Information and Response Network, send an email to [socmailbox@colsdioc.org](mailto:socmailbox@colsdioc.org).