



Immaculate Conception Parish

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Statement of Support to our Brothers and Sisters at St. Bridget Parish, Postville, IA

May 13, 2008

Dear CR Deanery members,

I hope the Solemnity of Pentecost was a real celebration of all the gifts that God has given to his Church as instituted by Christ. St. Paul reminds us that all of us have been blessed with different gifts and talents. Like the body, we all contribute to good of the whole in different ways. One part cannot say I want to be the head because we cannot all be heads, eyes, arms, or legs, etc. If one part suffers, the whole body then suffers. It is with sadness that we have all heard of the news of what happened in Postville, IA. The community has been under stress and so has the St. Bridget Parish where our Hispanic brothers and sisters are members by the virtue of their baptism.

Sr. Mary McCauley, BVM and Paul Rael have been assisting the aftermath effect of this raid. What can we do? Prayer is the most effective way of showing support and becoming more informed about the situation. **The Body of Christ is suffering at this moment.** Families are going to be separated by the effects of this raid. We cannot comprehend the scope of what happened there until we hear Sr. Mary or Paul or other people saying we need support so that we can endure this difficult time.

We thank Archbishop Jerome Hanus for his statement in regard to the actions taken by ICE yesterday in Postville, IA. How our brothers and sisters from Cedar Rapids are going to be affected by this? My initial reaction is that we need to wait and see. But this may bring other situations that may affect the Hispanic presence in CR. Please pray for them and for those of us who minister to our Hispanic brothers and sisters throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

In Christ,

Fr. Nils Hernandez
Immaculate Conception & St. Wenceslaus Parishes, Associate Pastor

Naida Garza
Hispanic Pastoral Associate
Immaculate Conception Parish

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