

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **EL PASO/CD. JUAREZ FINAL STOP ON U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS' U.S.-MEXICO BORDER TRIP**

**October 20, 2006, Washington DC**– In an effort to fully examine the plight of unaccompanied migrant children and victims of human trafficking, a delegation of Catholic bishops will visit El Paso/Cd. Juarez from Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>. The visit is part of a larger week-long trip that will also include Houston, TX, Tucson, AZ and Tucson's neighboring border communities in Mexico.

Members of the delegation include Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes, Bishop of San Bernardino, California, Chairman of the USCCB Migration Committee, Most Reverend Armando Ochoa, Bishop of El Paso, Texas, member of USCCB Migration Committee and Most Reverend Jaime Soto, Auxiliary Bishop of Orange, California, representing the Board of Directors of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC).

The delegation will spend the morning of Friday, Oct. 27 at the Southwest Key child detention facility in Canutillo and in the afternoon they will embark on a 5 hour border tour where they will have the opportunity to visit with officials from the U.S. Border Patrol as well as Immigration Judge Robert Hough and Mexican Government Official, Sr. Max Otto. On Oct. 28th, the bishops will cross the U.S./Mexico border to visit and learn about the operations of the DIF Shelter, YMCA Casa Inca, and Casa del Migrante in Cd. Juarez.

**An interview session with the bishops will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 602 S. Oregon Street El Paso, TX (in the Padre Pinto Plaza off of Father Rahm Street) before they cross the border to visit the shelters in Mexico. All media is invited to join the bishops at the interview session and as they visit the shelters in Cd. Juarez. If you would like to schedule an interview please contact David Stout at 202-541-3224. A live blog that will chronicle the whole trip with interviews and photographs will be updated daily by a delegation member and can be found at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)**

#### **About the Catholic Church and Immigration Reform**

The Catholic Church has historically held a strong interest in immigration and how public policy affects immigrants seeking a new life in the United States. Based on Catholic social teaching, the Catholic Church is compelled to raise its voice on behalf of those who are marginalized and whose God-given rights are not respected.

The Catholic Bishops of the United States, Mexico and Central America have called for comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the root causes of migration, provides worker protection and a pathway to citizenship, reunites families in a timely manner and more effectively utilizes resources to address security concerns.

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