

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

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Press Statement

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CONVENT STATION - The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth of Convent Station, New Jersey have voted to take a Congregation Public Stand on Comprehensive Immigration Reform. After a process of reflection, prayer and study, the Sisters expressed their commitment in the following statement:

In faithfulness to our call to incarnate Charity in our world and building on our long tradition of ministry with and for new immigrants, we, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth of Convent Station, New Jersey, join the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in calling for comprehensive immigration reform that would:

- **provide undocumented immigrants already in the United States with a path to residency and citizenship;**
- **expedite family reunification by increasing the number of family-based visas available and reducing the waiting times for separated immigrant families;**
- **provide a path to legal work for future immigrants by increasing the number of employment visas available;**
- **legislate border protection policies which prevent the entry of terrorists and dangerous criminals while respecting human rights and due process.**

Sister Rosemary Moynihan, SC, General Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth remarked that "... this Public Stand reflects the Congregation's deep commitment to advocating for new immigrants that has characterized the community since its foundation in 1859. Our founder Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan emigrated from Ireland at 17 years of age. Not restricted by a complex immigration system, she came to this country and accomplished works in education, health care and social ministries which have made life better for so many throughout New Jersey and beyond. We believe that many of today's immigrants have the same potential and deserve the same opportunities."

The 346 Sisters, along with 265 collaborators called Seton Associates, intend to use this Public Stand as an avenue of education and the basis of advocacy as Comprehensive Immigration Reform proposals move toward legislation. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are engaged in education, health care, pastoral and social service ministries in 20 dioceses within the United States, El Salvador, and Port-au-Prince, Haiti.