

Immigration Reform: Your Lenten Promise

Justice for Immigrants Toolkit

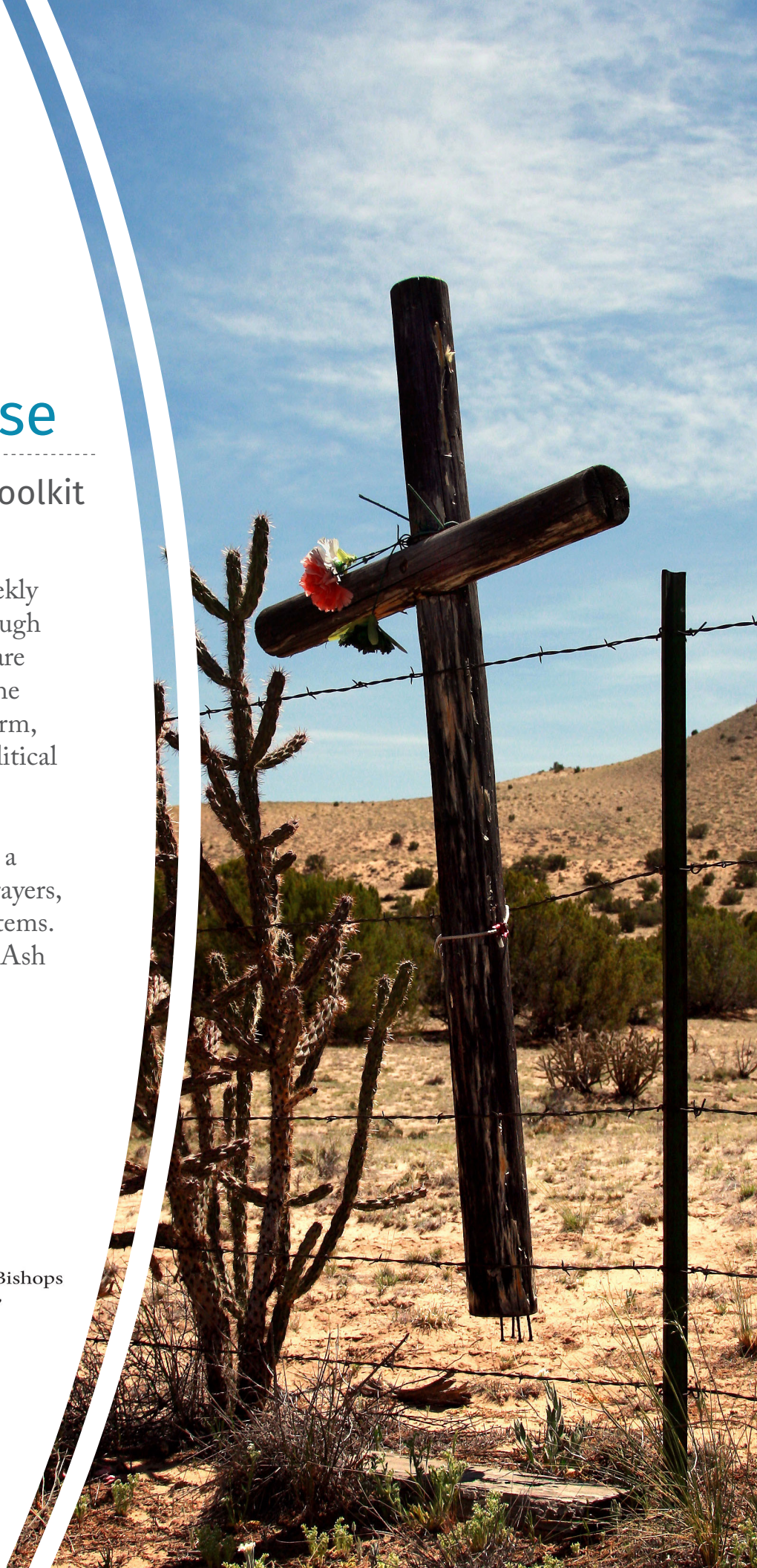
JFI's Lenten toolkit contains weekly resources to accompany you through your Lenten journey. Resources are designed to help you reflect on the biblical call for immigration reform, and act to impact our current political reality.

Each unit of the toolkit includes a Bible reading, study resources, prayers, reflection questions, and action items. The course provides material for Ash Wednesday through Easter.

Download the toolkit at
www.justiceforimmigrants/lent.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
"We are one family under God"



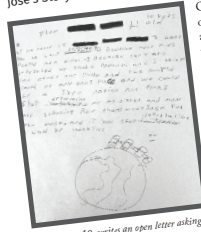
Readers connect to the topic through personal stories.

Week 1: February 22-28 Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Executive Action

Deuteronomy 10:19

You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Jose's Story



George, age 10, writes an open letter asking for his family to stay.

On August 29, 2013, Jose was arrested at his home in front of his wife Rachel and their two US citizen children, George and Maria. Since coming to the United States in 2001, Jose worked hard to provide for his family and had no interactions with law enforcement. Unfortunately, Jose's story is not unique. According to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE), 72,410 parents of US-citizen children were deported in 2013. Many of them had committed no crimes or were charged with low-level, immigration-related offenses.

Devastated by Jose's arrest, that night his family sought counsel by attending a community panel on immigration reform. Jose's 10-year old son George, worked up the courage to approach the microphone to humbly ask the panel of experts, "What can we do to stop deportation?" While this child should have been concerned about sports or cartoons like other kids his age, he sought consultation of what he could do to keep his dad in the United States. Meanwhile, the audience could see tears streaming down Rachel's cheeks, proud of her son's fortitude but in complete despair over the loss of her spouse. The panel, unable to give George the answer he needed to save his father, reminded the audience the importance of advocacy.

George then inspired the crowd to join him as he wrote a letter to Congress and President Obama. In his letter, George shared, "kids are suffering because they are separated by their parents...if you stop deportation, I would be thankful." Sadly, despite George's valiant efforts, in October 2014, a month prior to President Obama's executive action on immigration, Jose was deported.

As the primary breadwinner, Jose's family depended on his salary. Without his income, after the cost of food and rent, Rachel can no longer afford the medication she needs for a chronic illness. Statistically, the deportation of the primary wage earner drops a family's median income from \$36,000 to \$15,400 a year, well below the federal poverty line.

For additional resources, visit justiceforimmigrants.org

Promotional Resources

Bulletin Announcement

- This Lent, the Justice for Immigrants Campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) invites you to pray, fast, learn, give, and advocate for just and humane immigration reform in solidarity with immigrants and refugees. Visit justiceforimmigrants.org/lent to download the 2015 Lenten toolkit and related resources.

Social Media Text

Share your Lenten promise on social media. Below is sample language:

- This Lent pray, fast, learn, give, and advocate for just and humane immigration reform. Learn more at [#Lentenpromise](http://justiceforimmigrants.org/lent)

Graphics for Social Media

Visit justiceforimmigrants.org/lent to download graphics that can be used on Facebook, Twitter and Google+.

Other ways to promote your Lenten promise:

- Post a news story about need for immigration reform.
- Invite friends to join you in making a Lenten promise or in taking action on immigration issues.
- Share pictures of how you are taking steps to fulfill your Lenten promise using [#Lentenpromise](https://twitter.com/justiceforimmigrants).



Example Facebook Timeline Image

For ideas on how to use social media resources and to stay up to date on immigration news, connect with JFI online.

[fb.com/JusticeForImmigrants](https://www.facebook.com/JusticeForImmigrants) @uscchfi

For additional resources, visit justiceforimmigrants.org/lent.

Easter: April 5 An Easter Reflection

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Closing

He is risen! And because of what Jesus has done for us, we have become a resurrection people—called to live into God's reign on earth as it is in heaven. Over the course of Lent, you have reflected on God's vision of shared abundance, hospitality, and love of neighbor. Now, invite your members of Congress to share that vision, and offer witness to them that you have faith our broken immigration system can be redeemed.

Take Action

Take action by sending the US Conference of Catholic Bishops Justice for Immigrants Postcard to your member of Congress (Postcards can be prepared at www.justiceforimmigrants.org). Tell your representative that you support immigration reform that:

- Provides a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country.

Family unity as a corner-stone of our national immigration system.

Paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States.

Process protections to our immigration enforcement policies.

Root causes (push factors) of migration, such as persecution and economic disparity.

US Conference of Catholic Bishops Justice for Immigrants Campaign website for more involved: www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

justiceforimmigrants.org/lent.

Each "Take Action" section lets users put what they've learned into practice.

The kit comes with promotional tools to make advertising easy for parishes.