

March 11, 2012

On Sunday, March 11th, as we remember our day of fast and prayer, we are invited to “see with the eyes of God and with women’s hearts, the distress of millions of immigrants and displaced persons, of children and women victims of human trafficking seeking a more human life.”

(Chapter Document, 2007)

Legalization for the Undocumented

(third part)

- **Legalization would help bring U.S. immigration policy in line with U.S. economic policy.**

The United States, Mexico, and Central America are more integrated than ever. U.S. immigration policy has yet to adjust to the fact that U.S. economic policies such as NAFTA have facilitated rapid interdependence between Mexico and the United States. As economic policies are integrated, so, too, must bilateral migration policies. We live in a globalized region and world, and the movement of labor must be regularized to protect basic rights.

- **Legalization would make us more secure.**

By legalizing the 11 million undocumented and requiring that they register with the U.S. government, law enforcement will be able to focus on others who are in the United States to harm us, not those who are here to work and contribute to their communities. Despite the dire warnings of opponents of legalization for undocumented workers, evidence suggests that legalization would yield benefits at many levels by preserving family unity, securing the economic contributions of migrants, and raising the wages and working conditions of all workers. It would also ensure the participation of all undocumented workers because of the opportunity for permanent residency and eventual citizenship.