

**April 11, 2012**

On Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 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)

### **Employment-Based Immigration**

(one of three parts)

In this regard, the U.S. and Mexican bishops have proposed a new model for a worker program which includes several elements, better labeled a new worker program. Each of these elements, properly implemented, would, in our view, help protect the rights of foreign and U.S. workers and ensure that legal avenues are provided for future migrants so that they can enter the country in a safe, legal, and humane manner.

#### **Wage and Benefit Levels**

Any worker program must feature wage levels and benefits given domestic workers in an industry. Overtime pay should be available. Benefits such as worker’s compensation, social security, housing, and health-care should be made available.

#### **Worker Protections and Job Portability**

Workers should enjoy the same protections of U.S. labor law as U.S. workers, regardless of industry, including a right to redress grievances in federal court and a transparent arbitration system; safe and sanitary working conditions; and expressed terms of employment. Workers should be able to move to other employment within an industry and not be tied to one employer. Work accrued toward permanent residency should not be affected by changing jobs or employers.