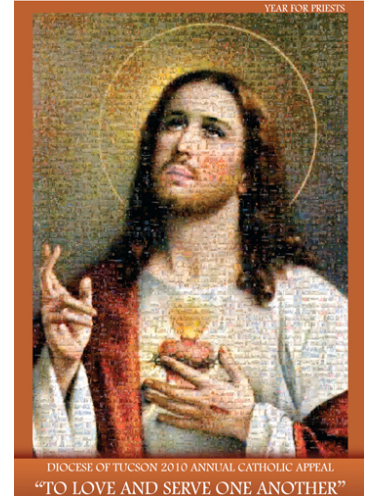




Monday Memo

FROM BISHOP GERALD F. KICANAS



[Memo Archives](#)

Vol. 8, No. 7

April 26, 2010

I will be asking the Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to study the “Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act” that was signed into law last Friday by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer.

It is my hope that the Conference would consider, when appropriate, filing a “friend of the court” brief in connection with suits that may be filed to challenge the constitutionality of the Act.

I believe the Act needs to be challenged.

Beyond the constitutionality issues that have been raised, I believe that the Act:

- does not address the critical need for border security to confront drug smuggling, weapons smuggling and human trafficking;
- sends the wrong message about how our State regards the importance of civil rights;
- distracts our local law enforcement from their primary role as protectors of public safety;
- puts unnecessary pressure on the already depleted resources of local law enforcement;
- discourages reporting of crimes by persons who lack citizenship documentation;
- creates the risk that families will be split;
- makes criminals out of migrant children and teens who had no choice but to accompany their parents here in their search for a better life;
- and creates risk of further harm to our State’s economy.

Bishop Thomas Olmsted of the Diocese of Phoenix, Bishop James Wall of the Diocese of Gallup and I [communicated](#) to Gov. Brewer and to our State legislators our opposition to the Act when it was being considered. We [communicated](#) our opposition after the legislators approved the Act, and, last Thursday, we communicated to Gov. Brewer our hope that she would have the political courage to veto the Act.

Our primary motivations in speaking out against the Act are grounded in the introduction to [Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope](#), the 2003 pastoral statement from the Bishops' Conferences of the U.S. and Mexico:

We witness the human consequences of migration in the life of society every day.

We witness the vulnerability of our people involved in all sides of the migration phenomenon, including families devastated by the loss of loved ones who have undertaken the migration journey and children left alone when parents are removed from them.

We observe the struggles of landowners and enforcement personnel who seek to preserve the common good without violating the dignity of the migrant.

We share in the concern of religious and social service providers who, without violating civil law, attempt to respond to the migrant knocking at the door.

Migrants and immigrants are in our parishes and in our communities. We see much injustice and violence against them and much suffering and despair among them because civil and Church structures are still inadequate to accommodate their basic needs.

Many persons who seek to migrate are suffering, and, in some cases, tragically dying; human rights are abused; families are kept apart; and racist and xenophobic attitudes remain.

What we have witnessed and experienced supports our continued opposition to the Act and our hope that it will never be implemented.

It is clear that the Federal Government should take up its responsibility to fix the broken system of immigration that has led to the frustration experienced by so many.

We need comprehensive immigration policy change that better addresses the realities of our day.

We need to continue to urge the President and Congress to move beyond their partisan politics to find a solution to the immigration situation.

We need to intensify our efforts along the border to prevent the ingress of drugs and the flow of arms into Mexico that contribute to the violence and suffering of people along the border.

That is where our Federal and State governments should be directing their efforts, not on making life more difficult for people who have migrated here out of desperate need and who are trying to eek out an existence for themselves and their families. Although they are in the country without documents, they are people who want to work. Through their work they contribute to their community. They desire to bring no harm to anyone.

1. Communicating Our Commitment to the Safety of Children – In my column for the May issue of The New Vision, our diocesan newspaper, I share some thoughts about the recent allegations that our Church has failed to keep children safe from abuse, has failed to respond properly when abuse of children was reported and has failed to deal effectively with priests who were known abusers.

I am asking our pastors to encourage their parishioners to read the column. I want our parishioners to know how we are living out the commitment we have made to victims of abuse by priests that we will do everything we can to prevent the abuse that happened to them from happening ever again to children in the care of our parishes and schools.

The May issue will be distributed at our parishes this weekend. Please read the column and encourage others to read it.

2. 2010 Annual Catholic Appeal – As of Friday, we had reached 81% of our pledge goal of \$3.7 million in this year's campaign. Seventeen of our parishes have met or exceeded their goals, and another seven parishes are at 90% or better.

So many have sacrificed and given generously to help us fund the 26 ministries and charities that depend on Appeal.

At this point in the campaign, as we find ourselves almost \$700,000 short of our goal in pledges, I need your help in encouraging those who have not yet given to give even the smallest amount to help us. Together, we can lessen the distance between what has been pledged and what we need.

I know these are challenging times economically for so many, which only increases my admiration and gratitude to those who give even when things are difficult. I have spoken to some who say they have lost their job or that their house is in foreclosure or their investments have been adversely affected by the economy, but they are still giving what they can.

As we approach the campaign's conclusion, I know we will all do our best to realize our goal so that these essential ministries and charities can receive full funding.

3. Diocesan Finance Council – The Council meets tomorrow at the Msgr. Don Hughes Pastoral Center at St. Ambrose Parish in Tucson.

We are carefully monitoring the progress of this year's Annual Catholic Appeal as we continue the annual budgetary process for the offices and departments of the Pastoral Center.

4. “Caritas en Veritate” Presentation – I look forward to being with the members of the Women’s Nucleo Study Group at St. Cyril of Alexandria Parish in Tucson this Wednesday morning to share some reflections on Pope Benedict XVI’s third encyclical, “Caritas en Veritate.”

5. On the Confirmation Trail – I will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation tomorrow evening at St. Ambrose Parish in Tucson for the confirmandi of St. Ambrose and Most Holy Trinity Parish, this Thursday evening at Sacred Heart Parish in Nogales, this Saturday afternoon at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Mammoth and this Sunday afternoon at St. Augustine Cathedral for the confirmandi of Cathedral Parish, Santa Cruz Parish and St. Monica Parish.

6. Pastor Leadership Development Program Graduation – We will celebrate the graduation of the first class of our diocesan Pastor Leadership Development Program this Thursday morning at the Redemptorist Renewal Center at Picture Rocks.

For nearly two years, 24 of our priests have been attending quarterly classes at the Center on a variety of administrative and pastoral subjects to help those who are pastors to better manage their parishes and to prepare those who aren’t yet pastors for the responsibilities they will face in their future role as pastors.

I will have dinner with the recently ordained (five years or less) members of the class Wednesday evening.

7. Mass at San Miguel High School – I will celebrate Mass this Friday with the students, faculty, staff and families of San Miguel High School in Tucson. The Mass will be an opportunity for me to acknowledge and thank Brother Nick Gonzalez, F.S.C., for his dedicated service as principal. Brother Nick is leaving that position at the end of this school year. A new principal will be named soon.

8. Diocesan Pastoral Council – The Council meets this Saturday at the Pastoral Center.

Our agenda includes the election of officers for the coming year and a discussion of recommendations for promoting vocations to the priesthood and to religious life. This past year, members of the Council held listening sessions with parents to hear from them their attitudes about encouraging their children to consider a vocation of service to the Church and their ideas on how our Diocese can create a culture that encourages vocations.

9. The New Vision May Issue – In addition to my column on what we are doing in our parishes and schools to keep children safe from abuse, the May issue of The New Vision includes an excerpt of a talk given by a Jewish businessman in Cleveland who tells us: “Be proud that you’re a Catholic.” This talk has been spread widely on the Web. Also in the May issue: a feature story about Msgr. Todd O’Leary, who recently announced his retirement after giving more than 50 years of dedicated service to our Diocese; a story with photos about the confirmation of five young women inmates at corrections facility in Tucson; and a story by one of our seminarians about his

mission to Ethiopia.

The May issue will be available for distribution at our parishes this weekend.

10. Sacramental Guidelines – Our new diocesan Sacramental Guidelines were distributed to pastors during last week's Convocation of Priests.

The Guidelines represent the hard work, diligence and collaborative efforts of many, including the Presbyteral Council, the staff of our parishes and the staff of our diocesan Department of Pastoral Services.

I point to the importance of our Guidelines in my introductory letter:

“As teachers and leaders in the faith we must also take responsibility in providing the necessary steps to ensure that the celebration of the Sacraments is done in a manner that is both appropriate and beautiful and that those who participate in sacraments are well formed and prepared for the sacramental activities of the faith.”

The Guidelines are available at the Web [page](#) of our Department of Pastoral Services.

11. “Best of the West Award” – Congratulations to Father Greg Adolf, pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Sierra Vista, on receiving his community's first-ever “Best of the West Award.”

As reported in the Sierra Vista Herald:

During Thursday's council meeting (April 15) the Rev. Greg Adolf of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church received the first ever Best of the West Award for the contributions he has made to Sierra Vista's West End.

“Father Greg” played a major role in converting the old church in the West End into Kino Hall, West End Commission Member Amanda Baillie said. “You're also known for your generosity in feeding the poor and helping the needy ... and just being an all around great guy. The fact that we just call him ‘Father Greg’ means that so many people know him and that's a testimony to how well he is known in the community and in the West End.”

In response to the honor “Father Greg” said, “I'd like to accept the award on behalf of all of the faith communities of the West End of Sierra Vista, which make not only the West End, but Sierra Vista, a great place to call home.”

12. New Web Resources – I encourage you to visit two new Web resources from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“For Your Vocation” (www.ForYourVocation.org) includes discernment resources, materials for promoting a vocation culture within the home and a range of tools for educators, youth leaders

and vocation directors. The site also has videos of priests and women and men religious giving witness to their vocations.

A Spanish-language site will be available this fall at www.PorTuVocacion.org.

“Transforming Our World: Our Catholic Faith in Action” (www.usccb.org/campus) is a collaborative effort of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development with 11 Catholic organizations to help college students and campus ministers promote Catholic social teaching on campus.

Resources include principles of Catholic social teaching, prayer materials, small group resources, tools for action and multimedia such as videos and podcasts. Collaborators hope the Web site will become an online clearinghouse featuring “best practices” to promote Catholic social teaching on campus.

Also, I encourage you to visit the new Web site of the Southwestern Mission Research Center at <http://southwestmissions.org>. The site has a number of excellent resources on the history and culture of the Pimería Alta and the missions established by Padre Eusebio Kino and other missionaries in the 17th and 18th centuries.