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PRESS RELEASE

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ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE AND MEXICAN FIESTA ANNOUNCE "PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS MASS"

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Mexican Fiesta (LULAC Councils #319 and 322) are pleased to announce our "Prayer for Immigrants Mass" during this year's festival on Sunday, August 27th. The Mass will provide an opportunity for persons of all races and religions to come together in thoughtful prayer and reflection focused on the dignity and rights of all immigrants. The Mass will begin with a Procession at 10:00 a.m. that starts at the north side of the Summerfest Grounds and a bilingual Mass will immediately follow. The Summerfest grounds are located at 200 North Harbor Drive near downtown Milwaukee.

"We are pleased once again to be partnering with the Archdiocese in holding a mass at Mexican Fiesta, in particular, a mass that addresses the issue of immigration reform," stated Darryl D. Morin, Board Member of Mexican Fiesta. "We invite persons and organizations of all races and religions to join us and participate in this historic event. We are also deeply honored that The Most Reverend Bishop Gustavo Garcia, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, an immigrant himself, will be presiding over the event," added Morin.

The Mass coincides with the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's efforts in the national Justice for Immigrants campaign which seeks the passage of comprehensive immigration reform. As Bishop Garcia has said, "(The) first principle regarding any discussion of immigration reform must be that immigrants deserve the respect due every child of God because they are human, and our brothers and sisters, (which echo's) Catholic teaching over the centuries that all human beings are sacred because they are created and loved by God."

The mass will be held in the Marcus Amphitheater which has a capacity of seating 23,000 people, potentially making this Mass the largest Mass in Archdiocese history.

Due to the reverence of the event, signs and flags will not be allowed. Those wishing to demonstrate their support for immigration rights are being asked to wear white shirts or come in traditional ethnic dress. In addition, Mexican Fiesta will be offering all participants in the Mass a discounted festival admission price of \$5. Children under the age of 10 are free when accompanied by an adult.

The *Justice for Immigrants* campaign seeks to mobilize a network of Catholic institutions, individuals, and other persons of good faith in support of comprehensive immigration reform. Both Archdioceses are hosting a series of educational forums that present Catholic teaching, testimonies of immigrants, and experts on our immigration system. The campaign seeks comprehensive immigration reform that respects the human dignity of all, provides true border security, and helps reunite families. For more information on the campaign please visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

Mexican Fiesta (LULAC Councils # 319 & 322) brings world class Mexican entertainment, food and cultural events to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for this three day festival annually. The proceeds from the festival go to local charities and scholarships. For more information on Mexican Fiesta please visit www.mexicanfiesta.org.

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