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## Keeping a 195-year promise

Benedictine Abbot Justin Brown, left, delivered the homily at the annual Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Jan. 8 at the national shrine on State Street. The Mass commemorates the prayer of the Ursuline nuns on Jan. 8, 1815, that the city of New Orleans be spared from destruction by British forces and has been celebrated for 195 years in keeping with a promise the Ursulines made. Archbishop Gregory Aymond, above, was the principal celebrant. Reflecting on the Gospel account of the wedding feast at Cana, Abbot Justin said there was a "miracle beyond the miracle" in that Jesus was "manifested as the Messiah" and Mary was



revealed as "a collaborator and mediatrix of this new covenant" when she tells the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Abbot Justin said there also was "a miracle beyond the miracle" of a small American force defeating a superior British force and saving the city. The Ursuline nuns gave medical care to the wounded British troops – "the very men who probably would have destroyed their convent and brought untold suffering on them and a city they loved and served. The victory that day was not just on the battlefield but in the hearts of these women, whose love and forgiveness triumphed over hatred and bitterness."

## U.S. bishops call for migration reform

By Pat Zapor  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – As the Catholic Church observed National Migration Week Jan. 3-9, support for legislative efforts took the forefront amid various other steps to bring attention to the concerns of migrants and refugees.

In a teleconference Jan. 6, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Migration, described several steps being undertaken by the U.S. bishops, including a new Web site, a nationwide action alert and a previously announced postcard campaign to encourage members

of Congress to support comprehensive reform. The Web site is a revamped version of www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

"The American public, including the Catholic and other faith communities, want a humane and comprehensive solution to the problems which beset our immigration system, and they want Congress to address this issue," Bishop Wester said.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the Committee on International Policy, said the bishops also want the legislation to address the root causes of migration and help enable

people to make a decent living in their own countries.

"The first principle of the U.S. bishops with regard to immigration is that migrants

have the right not to migrate – in other words, to be able to find work in their own home countries so they can support

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## Local immigration efforts support bishops' stance

By Christine Bordelon  
Clarion Herald

Local education awareness about immigration has been an important measure that the Archdiocese of New Orleans has taken to support immigration reform as proposed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said

Martin Gutierrez, executive director of Neighborhood and Community Services for Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Gutierrez said he has spoken to church, school and civic groups specifically about immigration reform and advocated for the needs

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