

IMMIGRATION

► From PAGE 1

their families in dignity," he said. "Migration should be driven by choice, not necessity."

Sister Rita Mary Harwood, a Sister of Notre Dame who heads the Office of Parish Life and Development in the Diocese of Cleveland, said she hopes reminding the public of the parallels between the migrants of past generations and those of today will open hearts so that people will back immigration reform.

Sister Mary Beth Hamm, justice coordinator of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Philadelphia, said the public needs to hear the stories of individual

immigrants. "You can't hate the person whose story you know," she said.

Four current or former students at Miami-Dade Community College planned to walk to Washington to draw attention to the problem of students who are in the U.S. illegally through no fault of their own, brought into the country by their parents when they were young.

Without legal status they are barred in many states from obtaining lower in-state tuition rates. Legislation that would open a path to legalization and U.S. citizenship for thousands of such students has had broad public and congressional support but efforts to pass the bill have been shelved.

N.O. EFFORTS

► From PAGE 1

of illegals while highlighting contributions immigrants have made in our community's recovery since Hurricane Katrina. For example, more Hispanic-owned businesses have opened since the storm and remained opened.

"It has added to the Latino flavor of the city to see all these Latino restaurants and grocery stores everywhere you go," he said.

To meet the needs of new Latino residents here since Katrina, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans has opened a larger office in Metairie in addition to its long-existing Hispanic Apostolate pastoral office in Kenner and offices at the archdiocesan building on Howard Avenue. Services include Immigration and Refugee Services, Hispanic Apostolate Community Services (social emergency assistance, job services, immigration services, tax preparation, the Latino Health Access Network, Workers' rights initiative, public safety, English as a second language and citizenship classes, housing counseling, Hispanic

counseling and tutoring, and a community liaison hosting a weekly radio show) and services at the Rebuild Center at St. Joseph Church in New Orleans.

While Catholic Charities' offices locally have seen more refugees in the community since Katrina, Gutierrez said the Latino population has stabilized and continues to be largely Honduran. But the problems of remaining refugees have changed.

"It's been more difficult for construction workers to find jobs over the last year since construction has slowed down," he said.

Gutierrez said he has been keeping close tabs on the bishops' positions on comprehensive immigration reform by being involved in national teleconferences on the subject and working with other Louisiana dioceses' efforts on behalf of refugees, asylees, immigrants and now victims of human trafficking.

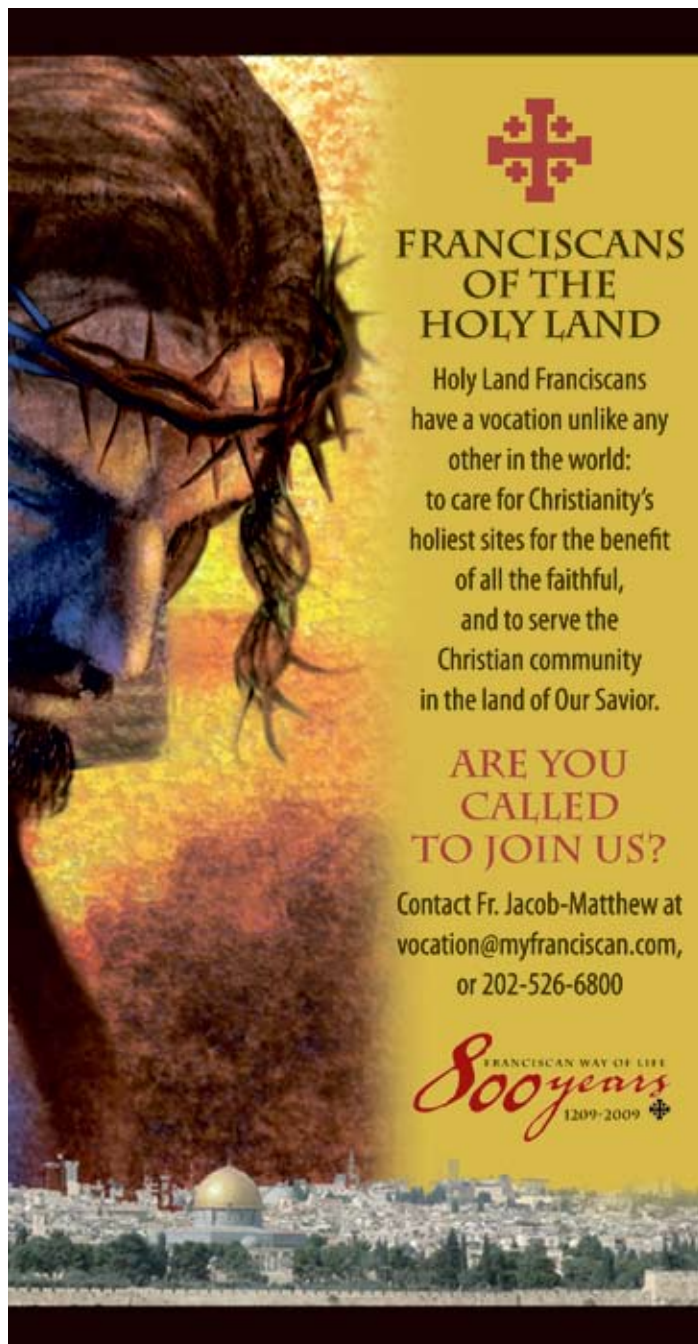
He said he would support whatever the U.S. bishops advocate, including a post-card campaign to Congress, though the Archdiocese of New Orleans might begin it a little later after a new im-


migration education program has been put in place.

Just recently, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans has created the Archdiocese of New Orleans' Justice for Immigrants Campaign Committee, Gutierrez said. The goal of this local committee is to further educate New Orleanians about comprehensive immigration reform – as supported by the bishops – through advocacy, education and an awareness campaign, he said.

Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali recently summed up the Catholic response to immigration reform while speaking during a regional gathering entitled "Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope," the U.S. bishops' campaign for comprehensive immigration reform. In a Catholic News Service story, he was quoted as saying that the Church's welcoming of a stranger and those in need is our response to the voice of Jesus. "Jesus calls us to love those who suffer," he said, and "abides with those who are suffering."

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FINNEY

► From PAGE 2

going to get off your duff and do something?"

Sean got an e-mail the other day from David Sylvester, the first black player to play for Skeets at Newman who went on to be an attorney and now

is a partner in a charitable foundation that gives grants to nonprofits.

"Skeets Tuohy was an awesome figure in my life," Sylvester said. "He was an incredible mentor to me. One of his great expressions was, 'Do as I say, not as I do!' As he would drive me someplace, he would give me advice along the way. He

was just a wise man."

Sylvester wrote to Sean that his race "never seemed to make any difference to anybody at Newman" because Skeets said it didn't make any difference.

"Dad didn't want to solve the world's crisis," Sean said. "He just wanted to help a kid. He wasn't a grand thinker. He was a grand doer."

Sean is 50 now – a year older than his dad was when he died. Because of his father's health issues, Sean went in for a colonoscopy and the doctors removed four cancerous polyps. Even now, Skeets is teaching his son.

"I've taken everything from him," Sean said. "I don't think I've ever sat down and said I wanted to be like dad or figured out why he was so impactful. But I'm hoping I am who I am because of him. God just chose me to be a lot like my dad. But I'd like to think I was a better player than he was."

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