

# This update: Food stamps, immigration

As this 2010 Legislative session advances, Catholic Charities of Idaho and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise advocacy team has been busy following the progression of key legislation. First and foremost, we are celebrating the passage of the Food Stamp asset test waiver which means that families will no longer be ineligible for Food Stamps because of assets. This accomplishment is a victory for many of the struggling families in Idaho, especially during these hard economic times!

The advocacy team is actively supporting Rep. Branden Durst's (D-Boise) House Bill 435 that provides non-profit homeless shelters in Idaho a sales tax relief until 2012. The recession is contributing not only to a surge in homelessness and a growing demand for homeless services, but it is also contributing to a dramatic decline in shelter funding. By providing financial relief through tax exemptions, HB 435 will help alleviate some of the shelters' burdens. After Dr. William Rainford and Christine Tiddens testified in favor of the proposal during a House Revenue and Taxation Committee, the proposed bill passed unanimously in the House. The proposal will now move on to the Senate in the upcoming weeks.

Additionally, the team has been meeting with fellow advocates and legislators to discuss proposed immigration legislation, specifically, Senate Bill 1271, introduced by Sen. John McGee (R-Caldwell) and Senate Bill 1303, introduced by Sen. Mike Jorgenson (R-Hayden Lake). If passed, SB 1303 would make it a felony to knowingly harbor and traffic undocumented immigrants, require that employers use E-Verify to check the legal status of every new employee, punish employers who knowingly employ undocumented immi-

grants, mandate that driver's license tests are written only in English, deny recognition of out-of-state driver's licenses to those without legal immigration

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status, and would strip state funding from any city acting as a "sanctuary" for undocumented immigrants. Separately, if passed, SB 1271 would make it a felony, with 14 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for falsifying documents to obtain employment as well as punish employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants.

These proposals will lead to numerous negative intended and unintended consequences throughout Idaho. They will create chaos and fear in the community, instigate more im-

migration raids, lead to even more racial profiling in the state, and will cause undocumented immigrants (there are an estimated 40,000 in Idaho)

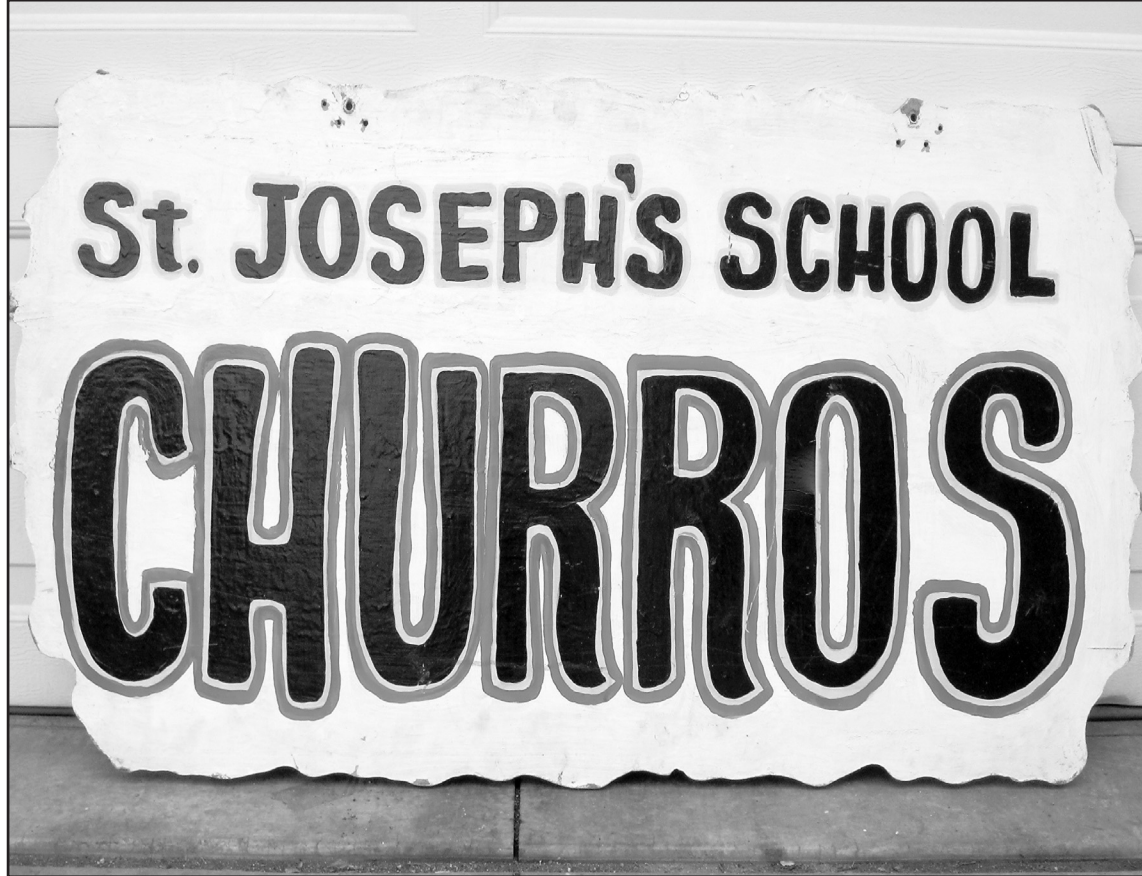
to either seek work outside of Idaho or face the risk of acting feloniously. Most importantly, the laws would tear immigrant families apart.

The proposed anti-immigration laws would also create a significant financial hardship for the state. Department of Corrections Director Brent Reinke told the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee last week that Idaho prisons are understaffed and underfunded. Last year, 44 prison staff positions were cut statewide. The cost of incarceration per day

per inmate is \$57. Therefore if SB 1271 becomes law, every individual charged with falsifying documentation to obtain employment will potentially cost the state almost \$300,000. Along with prisons in Idaho, police and sheriff departments are struggling as well. After speaking with a Canyon County Sheriff's Department official, it became apparent that not only has the county's budget been decreasing every year for the last five years, but, due to a lack of funding, there are at least twelve vacant positions, including patrolmen. The staffing levels in Canyon County cannot enforce current laws. The two immigration laws being considered would only increase the need for more local law enforcement funding while also undermining law enforcement efforts.

Idaho, whose prison population is already far larger than our shrinking budget can afford, should not be in the business of enforcing immigration law. Not only will the legislature be wasting time and money on this issue, but if passed, the state budget will suffer the extra burden. Further, the two laws would be in conflict with federal immigration law and thus be subject to expensive court challenges.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise and Catholic Charities of Idaho join our voices with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in supporting comprehensive immigration reform at the national level and justice for immigrants. For more information related to our legislative priorities or on how you can get involved, please contact: catholic.advocate@gmail.com



**CHURROS NO MORE —** This sign, which for more than 40 years announced the sales of churros by students at St. Joseph Catholic School, Boise, at the annual parish crab feed, is up for sale. Bids will be taken for this piece of memorabilia leading up to the 45th annual feed March 6. Interested parties should call Linda at 841-2339 or e-mail Julianne at russelljc@earthlink.net. Reservations to the crab feed and auction can be made at [www.stjoes.com](http://www.stjoes.com) or by phoning the school at 342-4909. (ICR photo courtesy of St. Joseph School)

## Faith HISTORY - Quiz -



Test your knowledge of faith and church history with this feature. Match the correct words on the right with their meanings on the left. Answers are at the bottom.

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. He was at the forefront of efforts to bring back the Albigensians to the faith by public debate and good example.   | A. Rebecca                |
| 2. Though the sight of leprosy was revolting to him, this son of a cloth merchant kissed and gave money to one who was said to have been Christ in disguise. | B. St. Camillus de Lellis |
| 3. This heresy was a source of discord in the church beginning during the reign of Constantine.  | C. St. Dominic            |
| 4. This martyr-saint, who wrote the book "Utopia," spent four years in the Carthusian order before deciding he did not have a religious vocation.            | D. The law                |
| 5. Necessary for an act of faith to be human.  | E. Arianism               |
| 6. Issac's wife.   | F. St. Thomas More        |
| 7. At the Transfiguration, Moses symbolized this.  | G. Skekinah               |
| 8. This one-time compulsive gambler revolutionized health care in 16th-century Italy.  | H. St. Francis of Assisi  |
| 9. Name for the Latin translation of the Bible made by St. Jerome.   | I. Vulgate                |
| 10. Name for a special indwelling of the divine presence.  | J. Freedom                |

I-C, 2-H, 3-E, 4-F, 5-J, 6-A, 7-D, 8-B, 9-I, 10-G

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 21, 2010  
Luke 4:1-13

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: Jesus in the desert with no food and Satan. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SPIRIT	RETURNED	THE JORDAN
WAS LED	FORTY DAYS	TEMPTED
THE DEVIL	ATE NOTHING	HUNGRY
STONE	BREAD	TOOK HIM UP
WORLD	GLORY	WORSHIP ME
THROW	ANGELS	GUARD YOU
HANDS	FOOT	AGAINST

### RULERS OF JUDAH

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J T S N I A G A L W K T
J O D E N R U T E R F H
W O A B R E A D Y O O E
O K N T D H R E R T O J
R H G H E A D T O H T O
S I E R L N Y D L E D R
H M L O S D O E G D F D
I U S W A S U T V E S A
P P N Y W E L P H V T N
M D S G H A L M N I O A
E S P I R I T E A L N D
W O R L D Y C T N A E G
    
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