

## Rainbow Sash Movement

**Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**

### *Gay Catholics Call on Bishops to Support "Uniting American Families Act"*

*Catholic Social thought is rooted in a commitment to certain fundamental values the rights to human dignity, the need for community, and the nature of the common good and stands in complete contrast to the position of the Catholic Bishops on Gay Immigrants. One of the most vocal supporters of immigration reform has been the Catholic Church. But the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will not support an immigration bill that includes protections for gay and lesbian couples.*

*Congressman Mike Honda has introduced a bill to expand the definition of immigrant families eligible to stay in the U.S. Under Honda's bill, a widow who's not a legal U.S. resident could stay if her husband dies. The same would apply for widowers and orphans. But Honda's written in a provision so someone who's gay can sponsor a same-sex partner for legal U.S. residency. Honda, who's a Democrat from San Jose, says for him, including same-sex partners is a civil rights issue.*

*The Human Dignity concerns of the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender people should not be excluded from the "Uniting American Families Act," contrary to the position of the Catholic Bishops. They have withdrawn their support because the current legislation includes Gay families. Clearly this is throwing out the baby with water – common sense is not their best suite.*

*Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago urged President Barack Obama and Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform before the end of 2009. Cardinal George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, called for the action June 18 on behalf of all the bishops at their annual spring meeting, held this year in San Antonio. "It has been clear for years that the United States immigration system requires repair and that reform legislation should not be delayed," he said in a prepared statement. "I would ask President Barack Obama and congressional leaders of both parties to work together to fashion and enact comprehensive immigration reform legislation before the end of the year."*

*The Rainbow Sash Movement hopes the Cardinal's statement reflects a change in the Bishops opposition to the "Uniting American Families Act." We understand that Catholic Social Teaching calls us to recognize that all the peoples of the world are our brothers and sisters. It is our desire to encourage our bishops to be shepherds to all the communities that make up the Catholic identity, and remember that institutions do not have family values but individuals do.*

*Rainbow Sash Movement*