

**Closing Remarks, Prayer and Rally
First Anniversary of the Raid
St. Bridget's Church, Postville, Iowa
May 12, 2009**

My dear friends,

We have just relived the heartache, the anguish and the terror of May 12, 2008. Together we have experienced a **sacred story**.

Each name brought back a memory. Each name renewed within us the love we hold in our hearts for all of our Hispanic brothers and sisters, especially those of you who have journeyed with us in Postville. Some of you stood when your name was called. You remain with us and for this we are grateful. Others served their five month jail sentence and were deported. Whatever the case might be we want to assure you of our love, support, admiration and respect.

We are aware of some of the pain, suffering and injustice that you experienced both in your home country and then again upon arriving in the United States. For any pain, suffering or injustice that we as individuals, our Postville community, our government or any of our citizens may have caused, we ask your forgiveness.

To hear the 389 names read so reverently reminded us of all the possible reasons that led you to Postville. However varied those reasons might be. I believe that the motivating force behind every possible one was your hope for a better future and your love for your family.

On May 12, 2008 your hearts may have been broken and you may have felt that your hopes were destroyed, but I know you.....you are a people with a special spirit. You are a people known for your hope and your love. I implore you to be faithful to who you are. Do continue to be a people of hope and a people of love.

We, who are here with you this afternoon, as well as those who are praying with us in some other part of the United States, are here because we love you. We have joined in prayer because we are concerned about you and because we are concerned about our country. We want our country to be known for its hospitality, its justice and its love for all people.

With this in mind.....

- I invite us to go forth from here sounding a call for justice.
- I invite us to go forth from here confident that the God who called us will be with us, giving us the wisdom and courage we need to continue to be a people of hope and a people of love.
- I invite us to go forth from here determined to bring about comprehensive immigration reform.
- I invite us to go forth from here walking hand in hand, repeating the words of our July 27th Prayer and Rally....**Give us Courage...Give us Hope...Give us Love!**

Mary McCauley, BVM
May 12, 2009