

et cetera

# Amnesty

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such records exist, he said.

"Many illegal aliens were paid in cash by contractors and there are no records," Pierre-Philippe said. "They often only know the contractor's nicknames, not their real names. When searching for documentation, we have to call the labor departments in places like South Carolina and hope someone there knows who 'Shorty' is."

According to Father Larry Tracy, pastoral assistant for the Diocese of Rochester's Spanish Apostolate, another potential reason for the lack of applicants may simply be that the government overestimated the number of aliens living in this country who are eligible for legalization.

"This is speculation, but perhaps there were never many people out there in the first place," Father Tracy suggested. "Or, more likely, there are more people who are illegal who don't qualify."

Many of the aliens who fail to qualify entered the country after January 1, 1982. Pierre-Philippe blamed the government's delay in passing the law for creating this large number of ineligible aliens.

According to Pierre-Philippe, when the law was first proposed, January 1, 1982, was a reasonable cut-off date. The date wasn't changed, even though the act was not signed into law until 1986. "If they changed the date to January 1, 1983, 200,000 more people would be eligible," Pierre-Philippe asserted.

The law's many provisions also cause confusion, Pierre-Philippe observed. The legislation contains several sets of requirements, each applying to a distinct group of illegal aliens. Seasonal agricultural workers, for example, must be able to prove that they worked with perishable crops at least 90 days between May 1, 1985 and May 1, 1986. Illegal aliens who ar-

rived in the United States prior to January 1, 1982, must be able to demonstrate a history of employment in this country, must not have received public assistance and must not have been convicted of a felony or three misdemeanors in the United States. A third group, Cubans and Haitians, also must be able to demonstrate that they lived in this country prior to January 1, 1982. However, the process of application is shorter and simpler for these two groups than for other aliens.

Even as the immigration network mounts a last-minute campaign to register qualified aliens, its members are already preparing to assist the many aliens who will remain undocumented after the program ends.

"Following the legalization process, we will turn to broader issues," Zuroski said. "We will begin advocating for the rights of the immigrants."

These broader concerns will include working for just and humane legislation for undocumented aliens, dealing with families in which some members qualify for amnesty while others do not, and tackling discrimination problems in the work place.

The latter issue will be particularly important in light of the provisions of the 1986 act. Employers are now required by law to ask all new employees to produce documentation proving that they reside in this country legally. If a company is found to be employing illegal aliens, it is subject to fines.

Several potential problems might arise because of this system of employer sanctions, network members said. Some employers may hesitate to hire any immigrants to avoid possible problems. Some legal aliens as well as U.S. citizens of certain ethnic backgrounds — Puerto Ricans, for example — might also be denied employment because they cannot prove that they are in the country legally.

Although the sanctions may lead to unintentional discrimination, Barrus explained, the



Michael O'Meara/NC News  
**ATTENTION TO DETAIL** — Bernice Feliss of Denver puts the finishing touches on an Easter egg she is decorating. The dyeing of Easter eggs using the wax-and-scratch method has its origins in ancient folk art.

INS must use them because other methods of dealing with undocumented aliens have not worked.

"Rounding up aliens won't work," he said. "It's expensive, it's not good publicity and the bottom line is it isn't effective. We round them up, send them across the border and they just return."

Enforcement of employer sanctions, Barrus added, will cut down on employment of undocumented aliens and will "cut off the attraction of coming to the United States."

As the amnesty program nears its end — and the final push for applicants is underway — network members acknowledge that despite flaws, the legalization efforts have produced positive results, Zuroski noted.

"Although the numbers are less than we guessed at, the numbers have been substantial enough that I feel we have helped hundreds of people in our community," Zuroski concluded. "When you see the kinds of people we have helped, the need for this program has been demonstrated."

*Happy  
Easter*

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"And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?' And

looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, 'Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here'..."

Mark 16:1-6

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