

**President Barack Obama announced a few weeks ago that he is taking executive action to defer deportations for more undocumented immigrants living within the United States. Two years ago he successfully implemented the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which has helped some young people right here in our own parish. Now he is expanding the program to include the parents of children who are American citizens or permanent residents. It will help 4 or 5 million people. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops welcomed the news that deportations would be deferred. Catholic Charities has called it “an important step towards protecting immigrants and strengthening families.” Many people are still concerned that the action provides only temporary relief and that it still does not offer thorough immigration reform.**

**Many of the people living in this country from other nations moved here legally with proper papers but have been unable to complete the expensive and time consuming process of gaining extensions or changing status. The White House argues that “Those who want to pay taxes and play by the same rules as everyone else have no way to live right by the law.”**

**Immigrants must be on the alert for fraud. Telephone scammers will call, request personal information, identify false problems with a person’s record and ask payment to correct it. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will never ask for payment over the phone. And that’s the name of the department; its initials are USCIS. The INS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service closed more than 10 years ago. Anyone claiming to represent the INS is a fraud. There is also notary fraud. In Latin America notaries are usually lawyers who can help with immigration questions; that is not true in the US. If a notary public here promises a visa or a green card, you are not hearing the truth. If anyone charges an immigrant for the forms to fill out, beware. The forms are free on line. There is a lottery for certain visas and green cards, but application is through the official government process, not through fraudulent emails telling you “You’ve won.” Here at St. Anthony’s in the parish office we keep a list of immigration lawyers we believe are trustworthy. You can check our web site [309benton.com](http://309benton.com) for additional details especially from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. People should know that there is good news about immigration, but they should get the right good news.**

**Near the end of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the prophet announces his mission. He has been filled with the spirit of the Lord. He has been anointed and sent. His message is to bring good news to the poor, the brokenhearted, captives and prisoners. God has clothed him not with garments and regal robes but with salvation and justice. Isaiah became a prophet because of the times in which he lived. We too can become prophets in the world of those who need to flee from violence and economic hardship; we can promote justice for immigrants and their families. Pope Francis said, “We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected, and loved.” We can protect those who are in danger from violence and fraud by building a society that values justice and proclaims salvation.**