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Press release 1

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April 24, 2013 – **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - Reminder Notification

POSTVILLE IMMIGRATION RAID: 5 YEARS LATER

Public invited to remember tragic event

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – A gathering commemorating the Fifth Anniversary of the Postville, Iowa, Immigration Raid will be held on Friday, May 10, 2013, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The purpose is to remember the 389 persons arrested on May 12, 2008, at AgriProcessors, the kosher meat packing plant, to reconcile with those who contributed to the injustices, and to advocate for the reform of immigration policies.

The commemoration will begin at noon with a remembrance ritual in front of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, 111 7th Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids.

A “Walk for Justice” will follow, beginning around 12:20 p.m. to Immaculate Conception Church, 857 3rd Ave. SE. Here an interfaith prayer for reconciliation and a call for national reform of our immigration policies will begin around 1:15 p.m. Planning for the assembly incorporates a wide coalition of those involved in the response to the raid as well as those affected. The coalition includes immigrants who were part of the 2008 raid, church representatives who ministered to the immigrants and their families, lawyers who saw the injustice of the system, as well as others working for reform of immigration policies.

The remembrance ritual opens in front of the federal courthouse both because of the court’s role in the criminal prosecution following the raid, as well as its significance to the on-going national conversation about immigration and pending federal immigration legislation. The raid in Postville was one of the largest in American history and ripped apart families and devastated an entire community. Advocates will urge Congress to move forward with immigration reform that assures an earned path to citizenship, places a priority on family unity, calls for due process, and safeguards the rights of workers.

Event details, resources for congregations, and more information are available at www.lirs.org/postville-anniversary. This site will list related events being held across the country and an opportunity to submit details for any other local commemorations.

For more information, please contact Rockne Cole at rocknecole@gmail.com or (319) 358-1900 or Sister Mary McCauley, BVM, at mmccauley@bvmcong.org or (563) 583-8989.

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