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**ENGLISH SPEAKING CONFERENCE OF THE ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR**

COMMISSION ON JUSTICE, PEACE & THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

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November 7, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
United States House of Representative  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

We the Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation for the Franciscan Friars (OFM) of the English Speaking Conference (ESC) have taken time from our meeting in Cincinnati, OH to deliver this personal and heartfelt message to your West Chester, OH District Office. **In the name of justice we request you use all the tools of your office to pass immigration reform on the floor of the House of Representatives by the end of 2013.** With the passage of such legislation in the House, we remain hopeful that a conference committee with the Senate can yield a just and humane solution to the U.S.'s broken immigration system.

As fellow Catholics, we recognize our shared commitment to care for the stranger in our midst. In our daily ministry we Franciscans witness the tragic separation of families and abuse of so many through the immigration system. The only solution that can yield the justice that our faith calls us to engender comes from a complete and comprehensive reform. The principles of such a reform have been shared through earlier letters from our leaders and ourselves to you and the wider Congress as well as from the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

We recognize that the action we and so many other people in the U.S. have requested of you is not an easy one in our current political environment. Be assured of our on-going prayer and hope for you to exhibit your wisdom and political courage on this weighty challenge of our day.

With Sincere Prayers and Blessings,

Thomas Washburn, OFM  
Executive Secretary  
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Jason Welle, OFM  
Assumption BVM Province  
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