

## Where Did the Money Come From?

By Sr. Mary McCauley, BVM, former Pastoral Administrator of St. Bridget, Postville

Immediately following the Postville Raid on May 12, 2008, financial donations began to come to St. Bridget's. Many who could not come to Postville to offer service or presence, yet wanted to show their concern and support for those affected by the raid, sent financial donations. These contributions came from:

- Catholic and Protestant Churches and Organizations
- Jewish Synagogues and Organizations
- Religious Communities of Women and Men
- Social Advocacy Groups and Agencies
- Foundations and Corporations
- Concerned Individuals and Families

We heard from the rich and the poor, those on fixed incomes and those who appeared to be financially secure. How touched our hearts would be when we would receive a few crumbled bills from one of our Hispanic brothers and sisters. It was their way of expressing gratitude for all that they were receiving! Often each donation was accompanied by a sensitive caring note. Here is a sample of excerpts from a few of the notes:

- Please accept this small donation for helping our mothers and sisters in need. We saw the story in the paper. We are all immigrants. In solidarity...
- Saw yesterday's N.Y. Times article. Your work is inspiring. God bless you and we'll pray that our country will become again the humane shelter for the poor and weak and helpless....
- Although I don't agree with people coming here illegally, there has to be a line drawn between people who are abusing the system or people who are simply victims of immigration policies and paperwork...
- How sad that this great country of ours cannot find a more humane solution to this problem. I was pleased to hear that your (my) Church has extended a helping hand and I would like to thank you for speaking up on their behalf as well as for providing generous assistance...
- All I want to say really is...I keep you in my prayers and I want to stand up and be counted with all the others who are saying, "**NO...NO...NO**, this must not happen in the United States of America...treating people like this..."

As of December 28, 2008 the St. Bridget Hispanic Ministry Fund had received donations from 2783 persons amounting to nearly \$900,000.00. These donations came from 49 states, Puerto Rico, Canada and Switzerland.