

**To What Are We Called? Isaiah 61: 1-2**

**Witness Statement of Most Rev. Jerome Hanus, OSB  
Archbishop of Dubuque**

The message from the prophet Isaiah is clear. The message is strong.

The Spirit of God has been given to us. We have been anointed. We have been selected for a special work.

We are told to bring good news to the poor...to bind up hearts that are broken and to proclaim a year of favor from our God.

This, my friends, is our time. It is our moment. It is our year of favor. Let us proclaim the year 2009 as the year for comprehensive immigration reform.

We must work so that there would no longer be any immigration raids—no more immigration raids to traumatize a people, to separate families, to destroy businesses, to shatter towns and to scar hearts forever.

I call on every person present with us this afternoon to work tirelessly for immigration reform. The same call for justice goes to all people throughout our country who are praying with us.

I call on all elected leaders and all public officials to make a commitment to bring about comprehensive immigration reform.

I call on people of all religious traditions to support legislation that will bind up hearts that are broken.

As proclaimers of God's word, it is our duty to sound a call for justice. It is our privilege to welcome the stranger. It is our challenge to bring good news to the poor.

This, my friends, is our time! This is our moment! This is our year of favor!