



*DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA*  
*Office of the Bishop*

July 7, 2006

Thomas A. Macklin, Mayor  
City of Avon Park  
110 E Main Street  
Avon Park, Florida 33825

Dear Mayor Macklin,

I am writing this letter in reaction to the pending Ordinance of the City of Avon Park establishing an illegal Immigrant Relief Act. The attempt to criminalize the immigrants, and those responsible for meeting their health and social needs, is totally incomprehensible. Regardless of their status, the immigrants work hard and make every effort to feed, clothe and shelter their families.

As a Pastor and the Bishop, I feel obliged to plead for them. Therefore, I implore you to use your position of leadership to assure that the human dignity of our Hispanic and Latino brothers and sisters is protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Nevins".

John J. Nevins, D.D.  
Bishop of Venice in Florida

JJN/jm