PRESS RELEASE

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ARCHBISHOP GOMEZ TO CELEBRATE MASS FOR IMMIGRANTS

Archbishop also offers a personal and practical perspective on the national debate in a new book on immigration and American values

As the historic debate on immigration reform moves to the House of Representatives, Archbishop José H. Gomez has called on the faithful of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to come together in prayer at a special Mass in celebration of all immigrants and to pray that our leaders enact just and humane comprehensive immigration reform on Sunday, July 21, at 3:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, (555 W. Temple St., downtown Los Angeles).

Parish groups of different nationalities will participate in the Mass celebrating the immigrant heritage of the Catholic Church and the United States. Immigrants impacted by the broken immigration system will offer testimonials, and those in attendance will be invited to sign postcards addressed to the Speaker of the House in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

It is also during this pivotal moment in the immigration debate that Archbishop Gomez is offering a personal and practical perspective on immigration in a new book, *Immigration and the Next America: Renewing the Soul of Our Nation* (Our Sunday Visitor, 2013). In the book, Archbishop Gomez argues that immigration reform is a human rights test of our generation. He urges reform of our broken immigration system and renewal of American principles and history.

"Immigration is about more than immigration," states Archbishop Gomez. "America's story is unique and exceptional among the nations of history. Our identity is spiritual. Americans are committed to a dream, to a vision of a world where men and women live in freedom, dignity and equality."

The book is available at the Cathedral Gift Shop www.olacathedralgifts.com or through the publisher Our Sunday Visitor at www.osv.com.

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