

ARCHDIOCESE  OF MILWAUKEE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 1, 2005
Year of the Eucharist

Dear Friends, Family and Supporters of Regina Bakala,

I am writing to support your efforts to prevent the deportation of Mrs. Bakala. As members of St. Mary Parish here in Hales Corners, it is uplifting to see the support you have provided for Regina and her family. God bless all of you for your efforts.

Please know that, although I cannot be with you because of the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Bruno Parish, I certainly support every effort to keep this family intact and safe in the United States.

Unfortunately, we are all aware of the tragic situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I can only imagine the horrors that Mrs. Bakala will have to face if she is deported. People escaping from these conditions are exactly the people of whom Pope John Paul II referred to when he wrote:

In many regions of the world today people live in tragic situations of instability and uncertainty. It does not come as a surprise that in such contexts the poor and the destitute make plans to escape, to seek a new land that can offer them bread, dignity and peace. This is the migration of the desperate.... Unfortunately, the reality they find in host nations is frequently a source of further disappointment (Message on World Migration Day 2000, no. 4).

Thank you for your efforts to ensure this is not the case for Mrs. Bakala. May the Holy Spirit provide wisdom and guidance for those able to make decisions in this situation.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee