

**IN THE GREAT DEBATE  
ON THE IMMIGRATION LAWS  
IN OUR COUNTRY.**

April 7, 2006

First Penny: Immigrants are not criminals. In our country today we have “demonized” this group of people, who are probably those who suffer the most and work the most in our country. Most of these immigrants would not have dared to leave their beautiful country, if it weren’t for the great need to take care of their own family. No person leaves his/her own natural environment, if there isn’t a grave cause.

Second Penny: “Economic refugee” is not less dramatic than “political refugee”. When someone has no food to eat, then he is threatened of death, as much as when he is persecuted by a political, religious or other dictatorship. So economic refugee should be treated as any other refugee.

Third Penny: Immigrants are not “terrorists”. In order to denigrate someone today, it is easy to call him/her as a terrorist. The goal of the immigrant is to find a job in order to provide sustenance to his/her family. The terrorist is not interested in jobs or in society; he is a mad man who is interested only in destruction and death.

Fourth Penny: The “broken borders” are not broken by the immigrants but by the “multinationals” who have broken those boundaries with their economic interests. The immigrants are only following the economic trends, established by our American companies. In our “global economy” it does not make any sense of closing our “borders” to the wind of this new era. Europe has already opened its borders; we cannot fight the windmills of history, by building fences around our backyard. Instead of closing we should open our minds to this global play of free market and free coexistence.

Fifth Penny: Our society needs Immigrants. Just visit the southern states of the USA and you will realize that our economy cannot survive without them. It would be a terrible mistake and an economic disaster to eliminate the immigrants from our society, who provide the basic manpower to basic needs in our society.

P.S. – My parish is in Chinatown and I live close to thousands of “illegal” Chinese, who revived with new businesses all the lower East Side in New York City.

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