

For immediate release  
June 20, 2007

Contact: Marisol Martínez  
[press@esperanza.us](mailto:press@esperanza.us) /215-324-0746, ext. 205

**Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr. Announces 1<sup>st</sup> National Day of Prayer  
For Comprehensive Immigration Reform  
Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

Philadelphia, PA --- The Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr. calls on clergy and faith leaders across the country to join in the first of three National Days of Prayer for comprehensive immigration reform on Sunday, June 24, 2007.

“I ask clergy members of all denominations to lead their congregations in prayer for our United States Senators, to reveal to them the justice, mercy and compassion embodied in comprehensive immigration reform,” said Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr., President of Esperanza, one of the largest faith-based Hispanic organizations in the nation.

“We will pray that our Senators see with new clarity that true amnesty is what Christ provided for us as forgiveness for our sins when he paid for our sins with his life. This is true amnesty—unconditional and without penalty. This Senate bill is not amnesty.”

The second National Day of Prayer will be scheduled during the House of Representatives deliberation on immigration, with the third National Day of Prayer during the hoped for conference discussion. “I pray that Congress hears and responds to the prayers of 70% of Americans and not the loud screams of discord and hate of a small minority of Americans stirred by TV pundits and their television ratings.”

“The comprehensive immigration reform legislation is certainly not perfect and Esperanza’s network of 10,000 protestant and evangelical congregations, faith and community based agencies is committed to work with political leaders and members of Congress of both parties to improve it. This Senate bill is a historic opportunity to bring millions of hard-working members of our communities out of the shadows and away from the fear they live with each and every day.”

Esperanza is a network of Hispanic Christians, churches and ministries committed to raising awareness and identifying resources that strengthen the Latino community. For more information go to [www.esperanza.us](http://www.esperanza.us).

###