

EMBARGOED UNTIL
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*Rev. Luis Cortés responds to Rep. Tancredo's Nacho Delivery
Sends Merriam-Webster Dictionary & Bible*

While in New Hampshire for the June 5th Republican presidential candidates' debate, Rep. Tancredo ran into Senator John McCain at Blake's Restaurant. Tancredo sent an order of nachos to Senator McCain, mocking Senator McCain's efforts to find a path to legal status for millions of undocumented residents once they have paid penalties, fines, learned English and passed citizenship tests --- proving they are hard-working members of our communities.

Today, while 200 Esperanza clergy discuss immigration with their Members of Congress, Rev. Luis Cortés will respond with a delivery of his own, sending a Merriam-Webster Dictionary and a bi-lingual Bible to Rep. Tancredo.

“Congressman Tancredo has based his entire presidential campaign on his distorted definition of amnesty,” said Cortés. “I can only assume that Congressman Tancredo is unfamiliar with the dictionary and Christian definitions of amnesty.

“This Merriam-Webster dictionary defines amnesty as ‘an act granting a pardon to a group of individuals.’ A pardon is defined as ‘the excusing of an offense *without penalty*.’

“As Christians we understand amnesty: 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.

Amnesty is a free pass and a place in the front of the line. This Senate compromise is not amnesty.”