



Prayers for Migrants and Refugees

Immigrants who come to the United States, particularly those who are undocumented, are a particularly vulnerable population who need someone to speak on behalf of their human rights and dignity. Our moral tradition calls on all people of faith and goodwill to stand up in defense of life and human dignity; it is a fundamental calling for us as Catholics.

Please utilize these prayers at weekend and weekday Masses. An announcement about a Diocesan Prayer Vigil for Migrants and Refugees on February 1, 2017, will be forthcoming.

Talking Points

Catholics are called to stand with new American immigrants as our brothers and sisters. This is who we are. This is what we do.

We belong to the same Church no matter where we're from. Our Catholic identity isn't based on where we live but on our faith in Jesus Christ. We're one family, and the Catholic Church is always our home.

In Pope Francis we have a leader from Argentina, a country of immigrants. He is the son of immigrants and a native Spanish speaker. These issues are close to his heart.

Immigration is about real people who are trying to find a better life and a new beginning. As Pope Francis stated, "Each migrant has a name, a face and a story."

Welcoming immigrants is part of the Catholic Social Teaching and reflects the Biblical tradition to welcome the stranger.

The Catholic Church has been welcoming immigrants to the United States since the nation's founding and has been integral in helping integrate into American culture.

In addition to welcoming and caring for those in need, the Church continues to uphold the centrality of family reunification as a critical component of our immigration system.

America is a better country due to the contributions of immigrants.

Forced displacement of people is at the highest level since World War Two, with more than 65 million people displaced around the world.

Refugees are the most rigorously screened population coming into America. This screening happens before they ever set foot in our country.

Prayers of the Faithful

† For our leaders, that they may implement policies that allow for safe migration, just migrant working conditions, and an end to the detention of asylum seekers, while protecting our national safety, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Por nuestros líderes, que mientras protejan nuestra seguridad nacional, también implementen políticas que permitan la inmigración segura, justas condiciones migratorias de trabajo, y el fin de la detención de buscadores de asilo, te lo pedimos Señor.

Respuesta: Óyenos Señor.

† For unaccompanied migrant children, that they may be protected from all harm and reunited with loving families, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Por los niños inmigrantes no acompañados, para que ellos estén protegidos de todo daño y reunidos con familias afectuosas, te lo pedimos Señor.

Respuesta: Óyenos Señor

† For migrants, refugees, and strangers in our midst, that they may find hope in our concern for justice and feel the warmth of our love, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Por inmigrantes, refugiados, y extranjeros entre nosotros, que ellos encuentren esperanza en nuestra preocupación por justicia y sientan el calor de nuestro amor, te lo pedimos Señor.

Respuesta: Óyenos Señor.

Prayer for Migrants and Refugees

From the USCCB

Lord Jesus, when you multiplied the loaves and fishes, you provided more than food for the body, you offered us the gift of yourself, the gift which satisfies every hunger and quenches every thirst! Your disciples were filled with fear and doubt, but you poured out your love and compassion on the migrant crowd, welcoming them as brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds.

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace,

To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister;

To welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs;

To realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice;

To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us;

To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring.

We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one Most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen