



Catholic Action With Immigrant Children Parish Prayer Week #2

Gathering and Welcome

Welcome! We gather here today in the presence of our loving God to reflect on the lives of our brothers and sisters who have been detained by the U.S. government in their search for a better life, and especially to reflect on the children in detention, frightened, alone, hungry and cold. We come also to ask for the strength and courage of our God to act through us as we call for justice for these children and their families, for an end to child detention, and for a moral and humane response to all who come to our country seeking refuge. Finally we come here to ask for our merciful God to bestow wisdom on our lawmakers so that they do not shy away from their moral duty and show compassion to all, especially the most vulnerable, the children, in their work to create a just, fair and humane immigration policy. Through the power of our faith and in the compassion of Jesus Christ we ask that all human life be respected and that children seeking refuge be no longer detained, left alone and afraid, but rather that they feel the love, warmth and welcome of our great nation.

Litany Naming the Children with Response

**We bow our heads in prayer and we remember the children known
to have died in U.S. custody since December 2018**

Jakelin Caal Maquin: Guatemala: Age 7: December 8, 2018

“ We Remember You”

Felipe Gomez Alonzo: Guatemala: Age 8: December 24, 2018

“ We Remember You”

Juan De Leon Gutierrez: Guatemala: Age 16: April 30, 2019

“ We Remember You”

Marlee Juarez: Guatemala: Age 1: May 10, 2018

“ We Remember You”

Wilmer Josue Ramirez Vazquez: Guatemala: Age 2: May 14, 2019

“ We Remember You”

Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez: Guatemala: Age 16: May 20, 2019

“ We Remember You”

Darlyn Cristabel Cordova Valle: El Salvador: Age 10: May 29, 2019

“ We Remember You”

Readings

A 5-year-old from Honduras at a border patrol facility describes being taken from his father:

“The immigration agents separated me from my father right away. I was very frightened and scared. I cried. I have not seen my father again. I have been at this facility for several days. I have not been told how long I have to stay here. I am frightened, scared, and sad. It is cold at night when we sleep. I have shoes but no socks.”

Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord Have Mercy

Pope Francis in his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees says:

“It is not just about migrants: it is about our humanity. Compassion motivated the Good Samaritan – for the Jews, a foreigner – not to pass by. Compassion is a feeling that cannot be explained on a purely rational level. Compassion strikes the most sensitive chords of our humanity, releasing a vibrant urge to ‘be a neighbor’ to all those whom we see in difficulty. As Jesus himself teaches us, being compassionate means recognizing the suffering of the other and taking immediate action to soothe, heal and save. To be compassionate means to make room for that tenderness which today’s society so often asks us to repress. Opening ourselves to others does not lead to impoverishment, but rather enrichment, because it enables us to be more human: to recognize ourselves as participants in a greater collectivity and to understand our life as a gift for others; to see as the goal, not our own interests, but rather the good of humanity.”

Christ have mercy.

Response: Christ Have Mercy

The Gospel according to Mark says:

“They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, ‘If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.’ Taking a child he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around the child he said to them, ‘Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.’”

Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord Have Mercy

Participants may wish to pray one decade of the Rosary

Closing Prayer

**Invite each to share a prayer in their own words
or use the following as a guide/suggestion:**

Merciful God, through your grace, may we imitate your love and show true compassion by welcoming the immigrant and the refugee, and inspired by the teaching of Jesus, may we greet each stranger as neighbor, receive and care for children as your own children, and may we live in the peace that comes from your love.

Closing Song: Suggested:

[We Are Called](#), David Haas

1. Come! live in the light!

**Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!**

**Refrain: We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.**

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart!

**Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!**

3. Sing! Sing a new song!

**Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters
and brothers united in love!**

**FOR I WAS A
STRANGER AND YOU
WELCOMED ME.**

MATTHEW 25:35