

December 20, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially for all those who on this day are unjustly detained. Be their strength and give us the courage to continue to demand an end to the immoral detention of your people.

Reading

You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God. -
Leviticus 19:34

Prayer

Who will listen to the cries of the poor –
To the hopes and needs of those seeking a better life?
Who will listen if we don't?

Who will speak so their voices will be heard –
So the wisdom and aspirations of migrant peoples will be heeded?
Who will speak if we don't?

Who will see Christ in our brothers and sisters – in those who reveal new and unique aspects of God's love as they seek to make a home with us?
Who will see Christ if we don't?

Who will be the hands and feet of Christ – the hands that heal and nurture, and the feet that “bring good news?”
Who will be Love if we aren't?

Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect on the image below. Click the link to listen.



Suggested Action

Today, send a Christmas card to an immigrant detained in the U.S. You could say, “FELIZ NAVIDAD! Que el Señor les bendiga grandemente con Su protección, Su amor y Su luz.” (Merry Christmas! May the Lord greatly bless you with His protection, His love, and His light.)

Below are some addresses to use:

- Annunciation House, 815 Myrtle Avenue, El Paso, Texas 79901
- Humanitarian Respite Center
c/o Catholic Charities, San Juan Office, 700 North Virgen de San Juan Blvd., San Juan, TX 78589

Closing Prayer

God of the journey, God of the traveler, draw near to us. Fill us with the Spirit’s desire to shape a future full of hope for our brothers and sisters who are strangers in this land. Give us the courage to open the doors of our hearts and our country to our neighbors, and give us the grace to build a society of justice and compassion.

We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation – may they find the wisdom and courage to enact policies that do justice for our country and for those who would migrate here.

Move us to new frontiers as we remember how you crossed every border between Divinity and humanity to make your home with us. Remind us of Blessed Theresa and all those who gave all they had so that the immigrants in America might have better lives. Move us to new frontiers, for we are all migrants journeying with you and one another toward your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.