

School Sisters of Notre Dame

Las Posadas Navideñas

Las Posadas Navideñas (the Christmas Inn) is a Mexican religious tradition that commemorates Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their struggle to find refuge there. For nine nights, from December 16-24, neighbors recreate the events described in the Gospels, as Mary and Joseph were denied shelter by many, until one innkeeper at last allowed them to sleep in his barn – and there, Jesus was born. A concluding celebration echoes the rejoicing of the shepherds and angels.

The AMSSND Immigration Committee invites you to participate in this experience by praying a novena to open our hearts to welcoming Christ. While we might be far removed from the Bethlehem of 2000 years ago, Jesus tells us in Matthew 25 that when we encounter strangers, we encounter him – “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Thus, we are graced with the presence of Christ in a very real way by the immigrants who come to us seeking refuge and a better life. In accord with the “inextricable connection” of the SSNDs to the immigrant experience, as affirmed by the AMSSND Corporate Stance on Immigration, join us in praying for immigrants and refugees, and for our hearts to be opened to receiving the grace offered to us by their presence.



The prayers are original or adapted from *Pax Christi* or *Archdiocese of Chicago*

December 16, 2018

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 our brothers and sisters forced to flee their homelands because of violence, corruption, and poverty. May they find safety, security, and welcome in our land.

Reading

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was ... a stranger and you welcomed me. Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you a stranger and welcome you? And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers [and sisters] of mine, you did for me.’” – *Matthew 25:31-46* (abridged)

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?

Story (Optional)

Ahmed from Syrian Arab Republic

I left Syria when I was still in high school. I haven’t been able to complete my studies yet, but I want to. I’m really interested in IT and computer engineering. I’m from a village around the city of Idlib. It’s mainly agricultural, tourists didn’t go there much. We lived a calm life, but we had everything we needed. Everything was so simple. I used to play football with my



friends, always thinking of my favorite teams, Barcelona and Manchester United! It never crossed my mind to move before the war. I had a happy life in Idlib. Everything is gone now. There wasn't even a choice of living there anymore, and there was also no chance of building a life in Lebanon. There are eight people in my family and we are all moving to Canada, but my case came up first so I am going alone. I know that Canada respects human rights and cares about people. That's why they are running this program, and I hope they continue it. My biggest hope now is that I can go back to school. Arabs have a lot of potential, but no opportunities to develop their skills and capabilities in their home countries. I hope to have that chance in Canada." (Source: <http://iamamigrant.org/stories/canada/ahmed>)

Time for Reflection/Sharing

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

I saw a stranger yestereen.
I put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place.

And in the sacred name of the Triune,
He blessed myself and my house,
my cattle and my dear ones,
And the lark said in her song,

"Often, often, often goes the Christ in stranger's guise.
Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

Suggested Action

Today, resolve to make this novena every day and pray intentionally for immigrants and refugees the entire 9 days.

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.



December 17, 2018

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 forced to move because of climate-related events, such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, and tsunamis. May they find security, opportunity, and welcome in their new homes.

Reading

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited. ... There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world. Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded. – *Laudato Si'*, 25

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?

Story (Optional)

James from South Sudan

I left my home country, Sudan (now South Sudan) when I was about 15 years old. I left mainly because I was searching for a safer environment for me to study without the daily fear of getting bombed or weighed down by responsibilities a child shouldn't bear. When I left, I had no idea that the place I was headed to would be a refugee camp and that I'd be referred to as a refugee instead of my name or my nationality. ... I eventually got to leave Kakuma refugee camp for Canada through a university scholarship program I hard-earned. As much as most Canadians are well informed and welcoming people, a few still have insufficient knowledge about refugees. When I came here, I learnt how some people perceive refugees as vulnerable people that only get by through mercies not merits. ... I believe the story of everyone who is or was once a refugee entails resilience and I bring this to every country I go to, including here in Canada. My life inspires so many people that I encounter. More so, I bring different insights and experiences that are invaluable to the community I'm in. Currently, I am working on a solar-powered drip Irrigation System Project that is intended to help reduce food insecurity especially during the dry season by enabling communities to irrigate their farms. Once this pilot project takes off in Tonj, we will replicate it in other villages to help reduce hunger and malnutrition, alleviate poverty and resolve protracted inter-communal conflicts over limited resources and provide jobs to many jobless young people. I believe this will be my first step to give back to the positive transformation of South Sudan's society which will ultimately contribute to a safer world.

(Source: <http://iamamigrant.org/stories/canada/james>)



Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

Suggested Action

Today, [learn more about climate change](#) and resolve to live more sustainably ([click here for ideas about changes you can make](#)).

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.



December 18, 2018

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 immigrants looking for the opportunity to work and participate in our communities. May we be open to receiving the gifts they hope to share.

Reading

Human beings have the right to migrate to a “political community where [they hope they] can more fittingly provide a future for [themselves] and [their] dependents. Wherefore, as far as the common good permits, it is the duty of that state to accept such immigrants and to help to integrate them into itself as new members” (*Pacem in Terris*, 106). “We must remember that, of its very nature, civil authority exists, not to confine its people within the boundaries of their nation, but rather to protect, above all else, the common good of the entire human family” (*Pacem in Terris*, 98). Thus, “The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and means of livelihood which [he or she] cannot find in [his or her] country of origin” (*Catechism* ¶2241).

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?

Story (Optional)

Obay from Syria

Thirteen-year-old Obay Saidee sits on his living room couch in Brooklyn, taking part in an American pastime: daydreaming about what he's going to be when he grows up. A basketball player? A musician? A superhero? Nope. A dentist. With his own practice. It's not the flashiest of career choices. But Obay, who moved from Damascus, Syria to Brooklyn with his family in 2012 because of the war, wants to be his own boss. He said it's a Syrian



tradition. "People in Syria have a certain pride that they don't like working for others," he said. Obay would be one of many Syrian entrepreneurs in the United States. Eleven percent of Syrian immigrants to the U.S. own businesses, according to a new report from the Fiscal Policy Institute and the Center for American Progress. That compares to four percent of immigrants overall and three percent of people born in the United States. Obay's father, Mohamad, owned a manufacturing facility back in Syria and is now a mechanical engineer at a factory in Brooklyn.

(Source: <http://iamamigrant.org/stories/united-states/obay>)

Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

Suggested Action

Today, raise your voice in support of those who hope to find a home where they can share their unique gifts (and remember to participate in the Voter Voice action alerts in Get WITH It):

- Urge the U.S. government to [process the claims of asylum seekers](#) in a way consistent with international and U.S. law and the dictates of justice.
- Urge the U.S. government to [welcome more refugees](#).
- For those in Canada, visit <http://ccrweb.ca/en/action> for actions you can take!

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.



School Sisters of Notre Dame

December 19, 2018

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 for all those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination; for those who cannot see the gift that immigrants are to our communities. May they be touched with Your divine wisdom, compassion, and justice.

Reading

Nevertheless various forms of discrimination continually reappear – ethnic cultural, religious, political and so on. In fact, human rights are still too often disregarded, if not scoffed at, or else they receive only formal recognition. In many cases legislation does not keep up with real situations. Legislation is necessary, but it is not sufficient for setting up true relationships of justice and equity. In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special situation they have in society: the more fortunate should renounce some of their rights so as to place their goods more generously at the service of others. If, beyond legal rules, there is really no deeper feeling of respect for and service to others, then even equality before the law can serve as an alibi for flagrant discrimination, continued exploitation and actual contempt. Without a renewed education in solidarity, an overemphasis of equality can give rise to an individualism in which each one claims [his or her] own rights without wishing to be answerable for the common good. In this field, everyone sees the highly important contribution of the Christian spirit, which moreover answers [a person’s] yearning to be loved. “Love for [human beings], the prime value of the earthly order” ensures the conditions for peace, both social peace and international peace, by affirming our universal brotherhood. – *Octogesima Adveniens*, 23

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?

Story (Optional)

Shania from Afghanistan

I was only three years old when my parents were put in a refugee detention center in the United States. Rather than moving to a family facility in Texas, my parents left me with family that had already made it safely to



America. I was too young to remember the process, but I have been told that it took a lot of time and it was hard because we didn't know what was happening. I know there were a lot of background checks, which were difficult and time consuming but necessary as a prevention mechanism. I'm glad government reports show the attention to detail involved because I think that's the point: to make sure everyone feels safe. I do remember feeling confused for a long time- not knowing when we would finally be safe. The first few months were challenging for my parents. They weren't able to be with me and they had to answer a lot of questions in front of a lot of people over and over. I don't think people understood that they needed help: a place to live, a way to support themselves and their young child, or that they were scared. They needed hope. They went from one chaotic and scary experience to another. This has affected me my entire life - I chose to devote my professional life to helping others. I volunteered and worked at shelters and crisis centers in high school and college, worked for child welfare systems and foster care providers, and with the federal government to help people get settled. It's hard being a refugee and an immigrant because there are mixed emotions - you feel lucky for being safe and having all of these opportunities, but you also experience rejection and discrimination. It has forced me to reevaluate my culture and identity.

(Source: <http://iamamigrant.org/stories/united-states/shania>)

Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

Suggested Action

Today, resolve to counter any discriminatory, derogatory, or misinformed remarks concerning immigrant people with the truth of their dignity and circumstances.

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.



School Sisters of Notre Dame

December 20, 2018

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?

Story (Optional)

Claudia, Colorado Resident

Claudia had been fighting with her husband. The fight had turned physical, and she feared for the safety of herself and her three young children. So, she ran to her neighbor's house with her kids in tow and asked her neighbor to call the police for help. Arapahoe County law enforcement arrived and ended up arresting Claudia on a misdemeanor domestic violence charge, which was dismissed soon afterwards.

Claudia had never been arrested before. She had also never been away from her children for more than 24 hours. But, because she called the police for help, Claudia spent three nights in jail. Claudia saw a judge on the domestic violence



charge the next morning. Her husband admitted in open court that he was the aggressor, and the judge ordered Claudia released on a personal recognizance bond. But the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office refused to release Claudia. Instead, it held her for three additional days because Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), a division of the Department of Homeland Security, had requested that the sheriff hold Claudia in jail while it investigated her immigration status. The sheriff's office, like most others in Colorado at the time, chose to comply with the federal government's request, and it imprisoned Claudia for three additional days without a warrant and without probable cause. Those three days in jail were deeply painful for Claudia. She had been living in Denver since 1999, where her three children had been born. During that time, she had never had a run-in with the law, other than for minor traffic offenses. She never dreamed she would be imprisoned, especially for calling the police for help. (Source: <https://aclu-co.org/profile-claudia-valdez/>)

Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

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.



School Sisters of Notre Dame

December 21, 2018

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 children who live in fear of the loss of their parents, and mothers and fathers who bear the pain of separation from their families. Be their hope as we work to repair the brokenness of our unjust system.

Reading

This is what the LORD Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. – *Zechariah 7:9-10*

As the United States bishops have said, greater attention must be given to “the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests.” We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference. – *Laudato Si’*, 52

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?

Story (Optional)

Rosa from Mexico

In 2010, Rosa (not her name) left her home to take her usual morning walk around her neighborhood. As she was leaving, a few cars surrounded her outside her house. In 2010, Rosa (not her name) left her home to take her usual morning walk around her neighborhood. As she was leaving, a few cars surrounded her outside her house. surrounded her outside her house. Armed men got out, telling Rosa

that she had to return to Mexico because she was undocumented. The men allowed Rosa to say goodbye to her three US citizen children — ages six, eight, and 12 — who were in the house, getting ready for their last day of school. Rosa entered the United States in 1997 on a tourist visa. Her brother, a US citizen, filed a family based visa petition for her in 2001, which was approved, but placed her in a multiyear visa backlog. After her arrest, Rosa was detained for 23 days. Ultimately, immigration officials released her, but detained and deported her husband to Mexico instead. Six months after being released, the government told Rosa she would have to leave the country. Yet in 2011, Rosa’s parish and other organizations launched a campaign to stop her deportation. The campaign led immigration officials to grant her a temporary reprieve from deportation. She was then able to renew her work permit and stay of removal every year between 2011 and 2017. During this period, she worked from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. and family members helped to pick up and drop off her children from school [because her husband had been deported]. In her 2017 check-in, Rosa was told that, due to new instructions issued by the Trump administration, she would have to leave the country. At the time, Rosa was supporting her oldest daughter who was in college. She was also planning her second daughter’s quinceañera. She decided to take her two youngest children with her to Mexico, although they wanted to remain in the United States. Her oldest daughter stayed in the United States to attend college. Rosa reports that her children have had many difficulties at school in Mexico due to the language barrier and culture shock. Rosa’s oldest daughter says that “not only did (my mom) get deported but both of my siblings also went away. In a way, I lost my family.” Her mother’s deportation was scheduled during the week of her final exams. Afterwards, the daughter found someone to rent the family’s house, threw away most of their furniture, put some other belongings in storage, and returned their car to the dealer. She now lives with her uncle and waits tables, often taking extra shifts to help support her family in Mexico. She hopes to petition for a visa for her parents when she turns age 21. (Source: <http://cmsny.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/FINAL-Communities-in-Crisis-Report-ver-5.pdf>, 15.)



Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

Suggested Action

Today, read [this fact sheet](#) on immigration (U.S.) or “[Five Myths about Immigrants](#)” (Canada), so you can counter the misinformation offered as justification for the unjust treatment of immigrants.

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.

December 22, 2018

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 DACA recipients who are worried and uncertain about their future. May they continue to be welcomed in the land they call home.

Reading

You ask: “Why is not the son charged with the guilt of his father?” Because the son has done what is just and right and has been careful to observe all my statutes. The son shall not be charged with the guilt of his father, nor shall the father be charged with the guilt of his son. Justice belongs to the just, and wickedness to the wicked. But if the wicked man turns away from all the sins he has committed, if he keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live. He shall not die! None of the crimes he has committed shall be remembered against him; he shall live because of the justice he has shown. – *Ezekiel 18:19-22*

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?

Story (Optional)

Elena from Mexico

Elena's family moved to the United States from a small town outside of Mexico City when she was 7. They had few possessions, just a couple changes of clothes and a few hundred dollars. Knowing what

her parents sacrificed to provide her and her siblings with a better life, Elena applied for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, as soon as she could. She knew it was her best chance to help her family. Even though DACA allowed her to study psychology and Spanish at the University of



Kentucky, Elena was not satisfied, knowing that others did not have the same opportunities. She decided to pursue a career that allows her to help her neighbors also find their footing in the U.S. Elena became a volunteer at Maxwell Street Legal Clinic in Lexington, Kentucky. The staff describes her as an “all-star” with an enviable range of talents. Her dedication led her to become a part-time legal assistant with Maxwell Street and a law student at the University of Louisville, Kentucky. Elena didn’t arrive in Lexington under the most favorable circumstances, but those experiences haven’t stopped her from achieving her dreams while helping the rest of her community do the same. (Source: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/posadas-EN.pdf>)

Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

Suggested Action

Today, smile and greet everyone you meet to practice being a welcoming presence to your neighbors.

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.



December 23, 2018

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 our brothers and sisters from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras, who are uncertain about the duration of their Temporary Protected Status. May our government be merciful, just, and truthful in evaluating their need, and may our efforts to help the recovery and development efforts of the people of these nations be fruitful.

Reading

“Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance; and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked [John the Baptist], “What then should we do?” He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” – *Luke 3:8-11*

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?

Story (Optional)

Isabel from El Salvador

Isabel and her two young children came to the U.S. in 2001, reuniting with relatives that had previously settled in Massachusetts. After an earthquake ravaged her native El Salvador, Isabel was unable to return home and TPS allowed the family to put down roots in the U.S. Isabel built and administered a family-run bakery before moving to work in local city government. Her children, now grown, have enrolled in local universities and have built their own families: Isabel now has three grandchildren, all U.S. citizens. The possibility of



TPS being terminated for El Salvador would divide her family, a reality that has hit Isabel's eight-year-old granddaughter especially hard. She recently wrote a letter to President Trump asking him not to deport her grandmother and father. Isabel, age 50, has worked continuously since arriving in the U.S. but now worries about being able to find a job in El Salvador. Hiring practices there favor young applicants, and the age cutoff for new hires is age often age 35. (Source: <https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/The-Human-Cost-of-Terminating-Temporary-Protected-status.pdf>)

Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

Suggested Action

Today, converse with someone from a country or culture that is different from yours.

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.



December 24, 2018

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 that you will open every heart to receiving the gift of your love – in all its dimensions, as reflected to us in the faces and deeds of our brothers and sisters. Help each of us, too, to make Christ visible in the flesh, as at Jesus’s birth 2000 years ago in Bethlehem.

Reading

An encounter with Christ in his mysteries ... cannot fail to draw attention to the face of Christ in others, especially in the most afflicted. How could one possibly contemplate the mystery of the Child of Bethlehem, in the joyful mysteries, without experiencing the desire to welcome, defend and promote life, and to shoulder the burdens of suffering children all over the world? How could one possibly follow in the footsteps of Christ the Revealer, in the mysteries of light, without resolving to bear witness to his “Beatitudes” in daily life? And how could one contemplate Christ carrying the Cross and Christ Crucified, without feeling the need to act as a “Simon of Cyrene” for our brothers and sisters weighed down by grief or crushed by despair? Finally, how could one possibly gaze upon the glory of the Risen Christ or of Mary Queen of Heaven, without yearning to make this world more beautiful, more just, more closely conformed to God’s plan? – *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 40

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?

Story (Optional)

Carmela from Peru

I survived 8 years of physical and sexual abuse at the hands of my biological father when I moved to New York. ... This had a life-changing impact on everyone. His visa was revoked and I also left the

country to avoid testifying against him. ... I had lost some of my native language and upon my return people kept asking me where I came from and why I was back in Peru, which was too painful and complicated to explain fully. ... I continued to feel lost and alienated and felt like I had no choice but to return to the US one year later, undocumented. Upon my return ... I worked two jobs to take me through Bronx Community College and even got married while at City College. I am currently completing my Masters in Social work at Columbia University – this is a lifelong dream being realized and something that I feel very passionate about. I now work with immigrant families and survivors of domestic abuse and often share my story with them. I feel open and empowered enough to share my story with the world and I can see that it makes a difference, that my life and experiences matter. I feel as though I can bring something unique to the table - I can identify with what many of them are going through, particularly undocumented migrants. That feeling of being undocumented can be overwhelming, it is easy to lose motivation, to lose hope. In the end, my life is testimony that a lot of things can happen along the way, bad things, but you have to keep going.



(Source: <http://iamamigrant.org/stories/united-states/carmela>)

Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect. Click the link to listen. (See Day 1 for lyrics.)

Suggested Action

Today, consider making a donation to [Annunciation House](#) or [Catholic Charities' Humanitarian Respite Center](#) – both of which provide basic services and accompaniment to migrants and refugees. Donate by clicking the links above, or mailing donations to the following addresses:

- *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.



School Sisters of Notre Dame