
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.