

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.

