



Catholic Action With Immigrant Children
November Prayer
Gathering and Welcome

Week of November 3-9

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 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.

Week of November 10-16

Welcome! Jesus, our teacher, multiplied the loaves and fishes, and provided more than food for the body, he offered us the gift of himself, the gift which satisfies every hunger and quenches every thirst. The disciples were filled with fear and doubt, but Jesus poured out love and compassion on the migrant crowd, welcoming them as brothers and sisters. Today God calls us to welcome the members of God's family, especially the children, who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like the disciples, we too can feel fear and doubt and even suspicion. We come here today to pray to God to strengthen our hearts and to raise our voices to let our elected officials know that, by God's grace, we banish fear from our hearts and embrace each of God's children as our own brother and sister; we welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, and we demand an end to child detention. We cry out to our government: Stop the inhumanity, end child detention now!

Week of November 17-23

Welcome! We gather today in the presence of our God of infinite love and compassion. Our God has called us here today to bear witness to the dignity of every human person and to hold our elected representatives accountable for the atrocities perpetrated on our brothers and sisters—immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers—mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles. We remember especially the children—frightened, alone, hungry, and cold. These are God’s children—our children! We must not—we will not—let this continue. We pray loudly, clearly: Stop the inhumanity—NOW! We are here today to stand with God’s precious children. They cry out and so we must speak.

Week of November 24-30

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 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.

Opening Song: Suggested “All Are Welcome” (Marty Haugen) [All Are Welcome](#)

Let us build a house
where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where
saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground,

Where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.

Litany Naming the Children with Response

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

Jakelin Caal Maquin: Guatemala: Age 7: December 8, 2018	“ We Remember You”
Felipe Gómez Alonzo: Guatemala: Age 8: December 24, 2018	“ We Remember You”
Juan de León Gutierrez: Guatemala: Age 16: April 30, 2019	“ We Remember You”
Mariee Juárez: Age 1: May 10, 2018	“ We Remember You”
Wilmer Josué Ramírez Vázquez: Guatemala: Age 2: May 14, 2019	“ We Remember You”
Carlos Gregorio Hernández Vásquez: Guatemala: Age 16: May 20, 2019	“ We Remember You”
Darlyn Cristabel Cordova Valle: El Salvador: Age 10: May 29, 2019	“ We Remember You”
Wilmer Josue Ramirez Vazquez: Guatemala: Age 2: May 14, 2019	“ We Remember You”

Readings

Week of November 3-9:

A 16-year-old mother from El Salvador at a border patrol facility describes the in humane conditions:

“Two hours after we crossed, we met Border Patrol and they took us to a very cold house. They took away our baby’s diapers, baby formula, and all of our belongings. After that they took us to a place with a tent. Up until this point, our family was kept together, but here they took our daughter and me out of the cell and separated my fiancé from us. Our [one-year-old] baby was crying. We asked the guards why they were taking our family apart and they yelled at us. After that we stayed in a room with 45 other children. There was no mat so my baby and I slept directly on the cement. I have been in the U.S. for six days and I have never been offered a shower or been able to brush my teeth. There is no soap here and out clothes are dirty. They have never been washed. My daughter is sick and so am I.”

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 the whole person, about all people. In Jesus’ words, we encounter the very heart of his mission: to see that all receive the gift of life in its fullness, according to the will of the Father. In every political activity, in every programme, in every pastoral action we must always put the person at the centre, in his or her many aspects, including the spiritual dimension. And this applies to all people, whose fundamental equality must be recognized. Consequently, ‘development cannot be restricted to economic growth alone. To be authentic, it must be well-rounded; it must foster the development of each man and of the whole man.’”

Christ have mercy. **Response: Christ Have Mercy**

Gospel reading according to Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I shall repay it four times over.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what has been lost.”

Lord have mercy. **Response: Lord Have Mercy**

Week of November 10-16:

An 11-year-old from El Salvador at a border patrol facility describes the inhumane conditions:

“We are being held in a cold cell. We sleep on the floor on mats with blankets. I have only been permitted to take a shower twice in the almost two weeks we’ve been here. We’ve been allowed to brush our teeth once. About three days ago I got a fever. They moved me alone to a flu cell. There is no one to take care of you there. They just give you pills twice a day. I also am having an allergic reaction all over my skin. My skin is itchy and red and my nose is stuffed up. Two times they gave me a pill for it but not anymore. They let us out of our cell twice a day for a few minutes but other than that we just sit there. We cry a lot and the other kids in the cell also cry. It’s so ugly to be locked up all the time.”

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 building the city of God and man. In our time, which can also be called the era of migration, many innocent people fall victim to the ‘great deception’ of limitless technological and consumerist development. As a result, they undertake a journey towards a ‘paradise’ that inevitably betrays their expectations. Their presence, at times uncomfortable, helps to debunk the myth of a progress that benefits a few while built on the exploitation of many. ‘We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not

only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. They are an occasion that Providence gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community.”

Christ have mercy. **Response: Christ Have Mercy**

Gospel according to Luke 20:27, 34-38

Some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, came forward. Jesus said to them, “The children of this age marry and remarry; but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise. That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called out ‘Lord,’ the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”

Lord have mercy. **Response: Lord Have Mercy**

Week of November 17-23:

A 15-year-old who didn’t specify their country of origin, at a border patrol facility, described the neglect:

“I started taking care of a [little girl] in the Ice Box after they separated her from her father. I did not know either of them before that. She was very upset. The workers did nothing to try to comfort her. I tried to comfort her and she has been with me ever since. She sleeps on a mat with me on the concrete floor. We spend all day every day in that room. There are no activities, only crying. We eat in the same area. We can only go outside to go to the bathroom. We don’t have any opportunities to go outside to do activities or anything. There is nothing to do. None of the adults take care of us so we try to take care of each other.”

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 charity. Through works of charity, we demonstrate our faith. And the highest form of charity is that shown to those unable to reciprocate and perhaps even to thank us in return. ‘It is also about the face we want to give to our society and about the value of each human life... The progress of our peoples... depends above all on our openness to being touched and moved by those who knock at our door. Their faces shatter and debunk all those false idols that can take over and enslave our lives; idols that promise an illusory and momentary happiness blind to the lives and sufferings of others.’”

Christ have mercy. **Response: Christ Have Mercy**

Gospel according to Luke 21:5-19

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, “All that you see here - the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

Then they asked him, “Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all things are about to

happen?” He answered, “See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and ‘The time has come.’ Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

“Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”

Lord have mercy. **Response: Lord Have Mercy**

Week of November 24-30:

A 5-year-old from Honduras at a border patrol facility describes the fear and misery:

“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. I have had a cold and cough for several days. I have not seen a doctor and I have not been given any medicine. 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 putting the last in first place. Jesus Christ asks us not to yield to the logic of the world, which justifies injustice to others for my own gain or that of my group. ‘Me first, and then the others!’ Instead, the true motto of the Christian is, ‘The last shall be first!’ An individualistic spirit is fertile soil for the growth of that kind of indifference towards our neighbors which leads to viewing them in purely economic terms, to a lack of concern for their humanity, and ultimately to feelings of fear and cynicism. Are these not the attitudes we often adopt towards the poor, the marginalized and the ‘least’ of society? And how many of these ‘least’ do we have in our societies! Among them I think primarily of migrants, with their burden of hardship and suffering, as they seek daily, often in desperation, a place to live in peace and dignity. In the logic of the Gospel, the last come first, and we must put ourselves at their service.

Christ have mercy. **Response: Christ Have Mercy**

Gospel reading according to Matthew 25:31-46

Then the righteous will answer him and say, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?” And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.”

Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.”

Then they will answer and say, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?” He will answer them, “Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.” And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

Lord have mercy. **Response: Lord Have Mercy**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

(from Marty Haugen, “Who Will Speak If We Don't”)

Week of November 3-9: Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song,
For God has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
His holy arm.
The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

The LORD has made his salvation known:
In the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
Toward the house of Israel.
The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

All the ends of the earth have seen
The salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
Break into song; sing praise.
The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Sing to the LORD a new song,
For God has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
His holy arm.
The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Week of November 10-16: Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Day pours out the word to day,
And night to night imparts knowledge.
The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Not a word nor a discourse
Whose voice is not heard;
The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Through all the earth their voice resounds,
And to the ends of the world, their message.
The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Week of November 17-23

Blessed may you be, O LORD,
God of Israel our father,
From eternity to eternity.
We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Yours, O LORD, are grandeur and power,
Majesty, splendor, and glory.
For all in heaven and on earth is yours.

We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Yours, O LORD, is the sovereignty;

You are exalted as head over all.

Riches and honor are from you.

We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

You have dominion over all,

In your hand are power and might;

It is yours to give grandeur and strength to all.

We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Week of November 24-30

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Beside restful waters he leads me;

He refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths

For his name's sake.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

You spread the table before me

In the sight of my foes;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Response: Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?

Only goodness and kindness follow me

All the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

For years to come.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Response: **Who Will Speak If We Don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?**

Prayers of Petition

The following prayers of petition may be read each week.

For the children (continue reading from the caption below)....



Children are the first among those to pay the heavy toll of emigration, almost always caused by violence, poverty, environmental conditions, as well as the negative aspects of globalization. - Pope Francis

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For our country (continue reading from the caption below)



From its founding to the present, the United States remains a nation of immigrants grounded in the firm belief that newcomers offer new energy, hope, and cultural diversity.

For our Church (continue reading from the caption below)



CNS photo/Yannis Kolesidis, EPA

Our common faith in Jesus Christ moves us to search for ways that favor a spirit of solidarity. It is a faith that transcends borders and bids us to overcome all forms of discrimination and violence so that we may build relationships that are just and loving.

- Strangers No Longer Together On The Journey Of Hope

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For our migrant brothers and sisters (continue reading from the caption below)

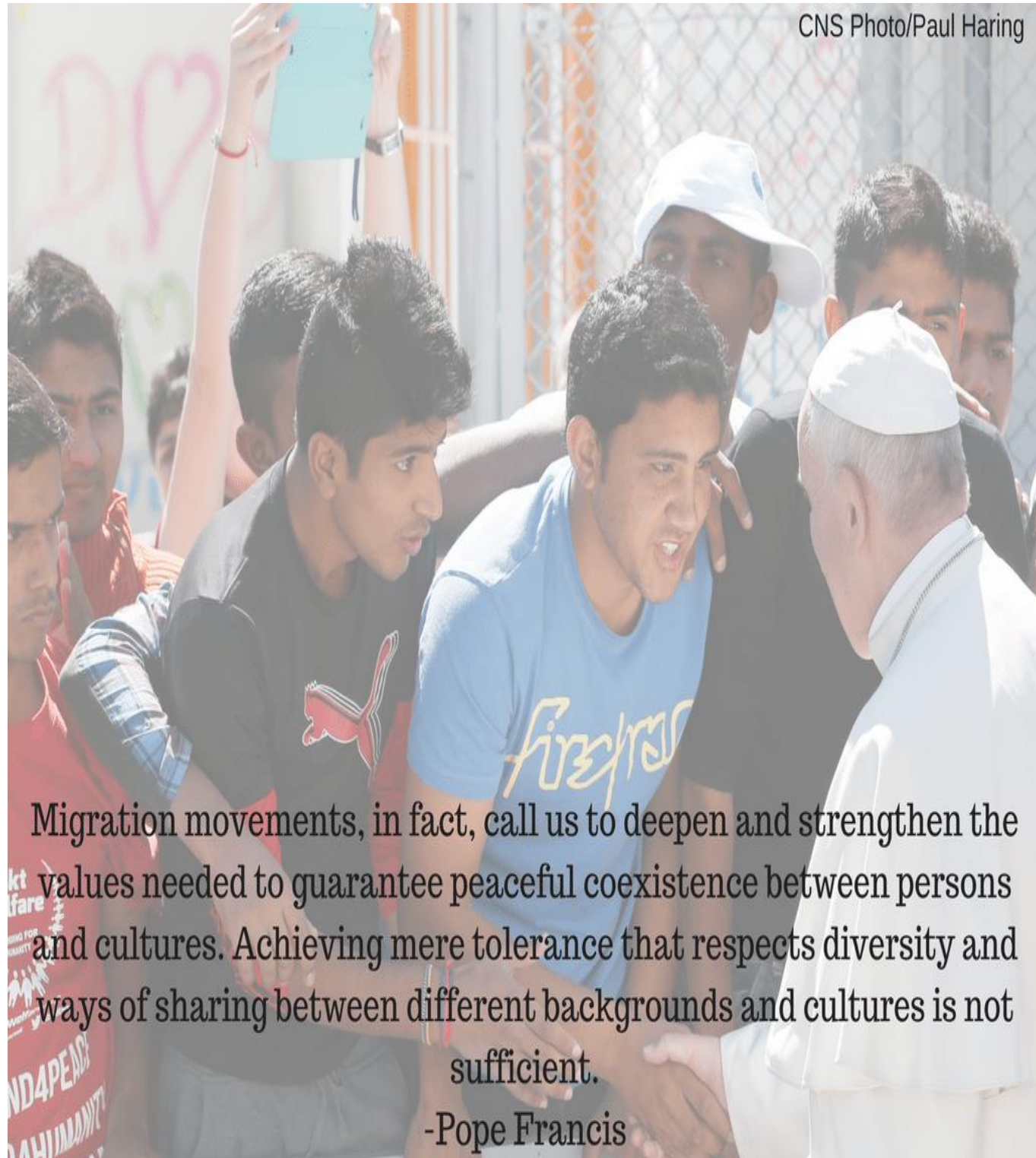


Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet's resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all.
-Pope Francis

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For solidarity with the most vulnerable members of our human family (continue reading the caption below)

CNS Photo/Paul Haring



Migration movements, in fact, call us to deepen and strengthen the values needed to guarantee peaceful coexistence between persons and cultures. Achieving mere tolerance that respects diversity and ways of sharing between different backgrounds and cultures is not sufficient.

-Pope Francis

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

Closing Prayer

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

Week of November 3-9:

Blessed are You, Lord Jesus Christ.
You crossed every border between divinity and humanity to make your home with us.
Help us to welcome you in migrants and refugees.
Blessed are You, God of all nations.
You bless our land richly with goods of creation and with people made in your image.
Help us to be good stewards and peacemakers, who live as your children.
Blessed are You, Holy Spirit.
You work in the hearts of all to bring about harmony and good will.
Strengthen us to welcome those from other lands, cultures, religions, that we may live in human solidarity and in hope.
God of all people, grant us vision to see your presence in our midst, especially in our immigrant sisters and brothers.
Give us courage to open the door to our neighbors and grace to build a society of justice.
Amen.
(Source: Pax Christi USA)

Week of November 10-16::

God of the journey, God of the traveler.
We pray for those who leave their homes in search of new beginnings and possibilities: may they know your presence with them.
We pray that those who seek to make a home in this country may find us welcoming and willing to help them find a path toward citizenship.
We pray that our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation, may find the wisdom and the courage to enact new policies that do justice for our country and for those who would immigrate here.
We pray for those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination against the undocumented: may they be touched with your divine compassion.
We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.
(Source: Archdiocese of Chicago)

Week of November 17-23:

O God, Creator of the heavens and the earth,
Help us to see one another through eyes enlightened by understanding and compassion.
Help us to listen to the voices of all of our sisters and brothers throughout the world with respect and attention.
Open our ears to the cries of women and children who have been denied their rights and their dignity.
Empower us to be instruments of justice for all, for in the wholeness of Christ, all mothers are our mothers, all children are our children, and we are one.
Amen.
(Adapted from Education for Justice)

Week of November 24-30:

Dear Jesus,

Our journey through life is long and hard. We cannot make this journey alone; we must walk together with You.

You promised to send us a helper, your Spirit. Help us to see your Spirit in those you send to journey with us.

In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence: Let us see your Spirit.

In the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables: Let us see your Spirit.

In the asylum-seeker, seeking justice for their families: Let us see your Spirit.

In the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world: Let us see your Spirit.

Teach us to recognize that as we walk with each other, You are present.

Teach us to welcome the strangers in our midst, as well as the gifts they bring: the invitation to conversion, communion, and solidarity.

This is the help you have sent: we are not alone.

We are together on the journey, and for this we give you thanks.

Amen.

(Source: Interfaith Worker Justice)

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