



**Catholic Action with Immigrant Children
November Prayer
Gathering and Welcome**

Feast of All Saints and All Souls

Welcome! As we celebrate the Feast of All Saints and All Souls, we join with our sisters and brothers on the US – Mexico border, and with all migrants and refugees and their families seeking asylum. We want to extend our solidarity and our prayers especially to the border communities of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, who will be celebrating a border mass on November 2, where the Rio Grande separates Mexico from the United States, and where people from both sides will take part in the All Soul’s Day commemoration. We gather today with all of them, 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 cruelties 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.

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

Feast of All Saints and All Souls

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**

From the pastoral letter of the Most Rev. Mark Seitz, Bishop of El Paso, Mexico, “Night Will Be No More,” October 18, 2019

“On August 3rd, 2019, El Paso was the scene of a massacre or *matanza* that left 22 dead, injured dozens and traumatized a binational community. Hate visited our community and Latino blood was spilled in sacrifice to the false god of white supremacy ... I know God will never allow the hate that visited our community on that day to have the last word. We must recommit ourselves to the hospitality and compassion that characterized our community long before we were attacked, with all the risk and vulnerability which that entails. We must continue to show the rest of the country that love is capable of mending every wound. What can they do but *threaten us with Resurrection?* ... In the absence of immigration reform, I also renew my appeal to the President of the United States, to the Members of Congress and to the jurists of our highest Courts. I beg you to listen to the voice of conscience and halt the deportation of all those who are not a danger to our communities, to stop the separation of families, and to end once and for all the turning back of refugees and death at the border.” (#1, 68, 70)

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

Gospel reading according to Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

Lord have mercy. **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”)

Feast of All Saints and All Souls: Psalm 24

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
The world and those who dwell in it.
For God founded it upon the seas
And established it upon the rivers.
Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

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

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
Who desires not what is vain.
Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

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

They shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
A reward from God their savior.
Such is the race that seeks him,
That seeks the face of the God of Jacob.
Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

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

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
The world and those who dwell in it.
For God founded it upon the seas
And established it upon the rivers.
Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

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

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.

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

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)

CNS photo/Nikos Arvanidtis, EPA

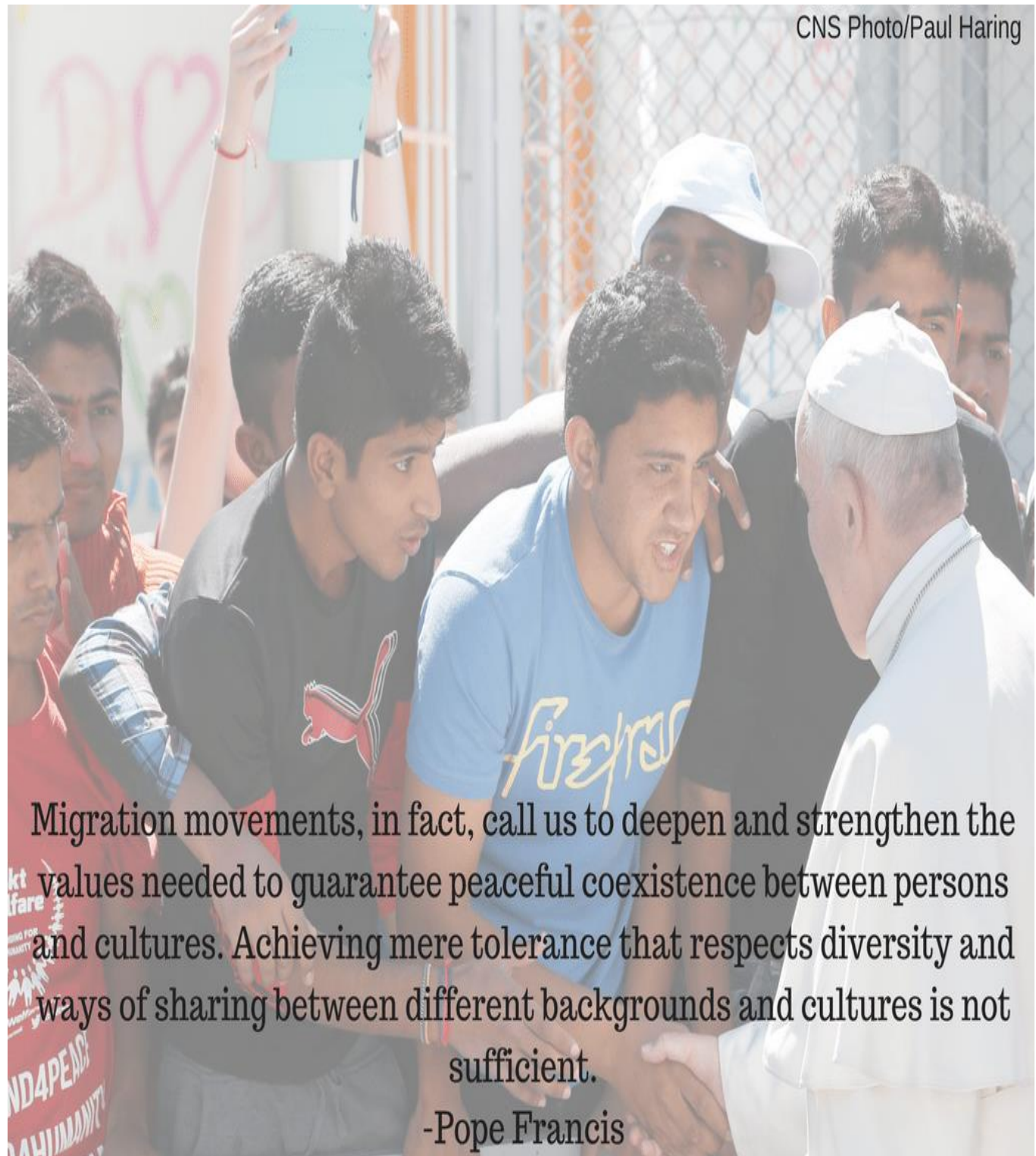


Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet's resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all.
-Pope Francis

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:**

Feast of All Saints and All Souls

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