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MIGRATION MINISTRIES

#Pray4Refugees Week of Prayer

PRAYER:

A Collect for Refugees

Holy One of Bethlehem,

From your earliest days you knew the threat of death, the terror of flight, and the pain of exile.

Today we know that so many – millions upon millions -

Flee for their own lives and for their children.

The numbers seem so vast, the problem so great.

It is easy to feel helpless. It is easy to forget. It is easy to ignore.

Shake us from complacency and from resignation.

Fill our hearts and minds with understanding and compassion for your children

Who are forced by persecution and fear to flee their homes.

Remind us that each number is a name, each statistic a person -

Your child, your beloved.

Strengthen our resolve; stir in us a spirit of agency and action.

For you have blessed each of us with gifts to be shared in love for all you have create,

Gifts that may be used to welcome, to comfort, to befriend.

Grant that we would listen for your call.

In Your Holy Name we pray, Amen.

PRAYER:

Prayer for Migrants & Refugees

Lord Jesus, when you multiplied the loaves and fishes, you provided more than food for the body, you offered us the gift of yourself, the gift which satisfies every hunger and quenches every thirst! Your disciples were filled with fear and doubt, but you poured out your love and compassion on the migrant crowd, welcoming them as brothers and sisters.



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Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds.

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace,

To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister;

To welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs;

To realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice;

To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us;

To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring.

We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one Most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

[Source: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops]

PRAYER:

Prayer for Migrants

For all those who see “home” and all it means disappear behind them;

For all those who cannot see a home in the days ahead of them;

For all those who dwell in daily insecurity;

For all those who are weary and without a safe place to rest their heads;

For all families in migration we pray.

May the image of the Holy Family fleeing oppression stay with us as we enter each new day,

And stay with us each night as we are blessed with returning to a home.

May we also be blessed with compassion for those

Still weary, still seeking, still with so far to go.

[Adapted from Jane Deren, 2007]



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PRAYER:

Let Us See

Dear God, our journey through life is long and hard. We cannot make this trip alone; we must walk together on the journey. 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 himself and his family, 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 not only the strangers in our midst but the gifts they bring as well: 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: Rev. Enock De Assis]

PRAYER:

God our Creator: We ask for your loving presence and for your peace to be with refugees in our local communities and around the world. Be with all who are in fear. Be with those whose lives and livelihoods are under threat, and whose religious freedoms are being compromised. Be with us as we strive to enact your will in our welcome and support of refugees. Be with those in positions of leadership, that their decisions may bend toward peace and not division, and that they might realize the power they hold to do justice. Give us all strength and courage.

Equip and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and bearers of hope, especially for those seeking refuge. In your Holy name we pray. Amen.

[Prayer from Church of the Mediator, Allentown, PA, Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem]