



## Catholic Action with Immigrant Children October Prayer

### Gathering and Welcome

#### **Week of September 29-October 5:**

We gather in the name of the children, created by God, and held in harm.

We gather this week to strengthen our common commitment and call to be those who refuse to be blinded by fear, discouragement or overwhelm.

We gather to strengthen our resolve as those people of faith called to wise action through compassion, courage, and confidence in grace.

We gather that we might be one universal Church in pursuit of God's Kingdom through our pledge to right action, courageous speech and unfailing prayer.

We gather to be those who will not cease in our conviction that it is our call – at this time and in this place – reminded that resurrection is God's response to those who attempt to suppress.

We gather in the name of the children at the border, created by God, and held in harm.

#### **Week of October 6-12:**

We gather in the name of the children at the border, created by God, and held in harm.

We are here to plant the seeds of right action, confident that like the mustard seed, our small actions flourish into the abundant and prophetic action of God

We gather to listen to the whispers of the Spirit for the way that we are being called at this time, and in this place where we are.

We gather to unify our purpose and ground our actions in the attitudes of the heart of Jesus, finding the courage to stretch beyond our comfort and rise beyond our fear.

We are here together, connected in one single voice to speak for those who have been silenced, to walk with those who have been confined, to act on behalf of those whose freedom has been taken.

We gather together to plant the seeds of faith, to nourish the actions of strength and to make visible the faith planted in us and nourished by those who have gone before us.  
We gather together in the name of the children at the border, created by God, and held in harm.

#### **Week of October 13-19:**

We gather together in the name of the children at the border, created by God, and held in harm.  
We give thanks for the life of each child who calls us to be here today and for one another – as we are gathered together from communities around the international family of healing action, hope and perseverance.  
We gather in gratitude for the strength we find in being together, united in the call to be those who refuse to look away from the anguish of suffering, but instead choose to be a community of faith in action.  
We give thanks for the prophetic action of those courageous women and men who staff emergency care centers and houses of hope.  
We pray for those who act to change the policies that continue the suffering and those whose legal services aid the asylum seekers who feel abandoned and afraid.  
We gather our prayer together in a single song of hope for the change that will only happen when we refuse to look away and look into the eyes of each child held in harm.  
We gather together in the name of the children at the border, created by God, and held in harm.

#### **Week of October 20-26:**

We gather together in the name of the children at the border, created by God, and held in harm.  
We gather together in the name of those harmed by injustice in the face of suffering of children, families and communities.  
We gather to hold together those we hold accountable for the decisions made that impact children and ask God's intercession in this time of violence and harm.  
We gather to profess that the inhumanity done in this time must be stopped and we claim our responsibility as a community of faith in action, called to be those who begin the chain of change.  
We gather together to remind ourselves and those around us that something can be done and must be done.  
We gather together to strengthen our resolve, our courage and our strength to stop the inhumanity.  
We gather together to be God's instruments in this time when the most vulnerable suffer and the abuse of power must be stopped.  
We gather together in the name of the children at the border, created by God, and held in harm.

#### **Week of October 27- Nov 2:**

We gather together in the name of the children at the border, created by God, and held in harm.  
We gather this day to remember the call we have received from God: to protect the innocent, to bring comfort to the weary, to welcome the stranger, and to be instruments of Mercy and Love.  
We gather to collect our strength, to draw courage from one another and to resolve that we are the ones who will stop the inhumanity and restore dignity to this land.  
We gather to proclaim liberty to those unjustly held captive and harmed in both word and deed.  
We gather as people of faith to be those who refuse to let the powerful bring harm to the vulnerable and who trust that we are called to this moment to make change visible in our midst.

We gather in confidence that we have been given what we need to be those who take seriously the call of the Gospel and the demand of our faith.

We gather together to remember, to honor, to proclaim and to believe that nothing is impossible for God.

We gather together in the name of the children at the border, created by God, and held in harm.

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 September 29-October 5**

A 12-year-old from Guatemala at a border patrol facility describes his hunger:

“The guards were mean and scary. They yelled at us. One day the guards wanted to know if anyone had snuck food in the cell. They found one kid who was about 15 or 16 years old who had a burrito, pudding, and juice. The officials handcuffed his wrists. I’m hungry all the time. I’m so hungry that I’ve woken up in the middle of the night with hunger. I’m too scared to ask the officials here for any more food, even though there is not enough food here for me. In the morning we get oatmeal, pudding, and juice. In the afternoon we get soup, a cookie, and juice. For dinner we get a burrito, pudding and juice. I saw a child ask for more food once and the guard told him ‘No, you’ve had your ration.’ Sometimes the younger kids get an extra chocolate pudding. I need more food too.”

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

Matthew 25: 31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations\* will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' 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 these least brothers 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

### Week of October 6-12:

A 5-year-old from Honduras at a border patrol facility describes being taken from his father:

"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. It is cold at night when we sleep. I have shoes but no socks."

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

The Gospel according to Mathew says:

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. 19 A scribe then approached and said, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.' 20 And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord Have Mercy

### Week of October 13-19:

A 12-year-old from Ecuador at a border patrol facility describes mistreatment by officers:

"The officers took everything from us except our documents. They even took our shoelaces. There was a mother in our group traveling with a very young baby. The officers took her diapers, baby formula, and nearly everything else she had and threw it away. The water here is horrible. It tastes like chlorine. The officials here are very bad to us. During the night when we're trying to sleep, they come in and wake us up, yelling and scaring us. The guards who are yelling don't speak much Spanish, so it's hard to understand what they're saying. Every night my sisters keep asking me, 'When will our mommy come to get us?' I don't know what to tell them. It's very hard for all of us to be here."

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

The Gospel according to John says:

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and

knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord Have Mercy

### Week of October 20-26:

A 15-year-old from El Salvador at a border patrol facility describes the conditions:

“A Border Patrol agent came in our room with a two-year-old boy and asked us, ‘Who wants to take care of this little boy?’ Another girl said she would take care of him, but she lost interest after a few hours so I started taking care of him yesterday. His bracelet says he is two years old.

I feed the 2-year-old boy, change his diaper, and play with him. He is sick. He has a cough and a runny nose and scabs on his lips. He was coughing last night so I asked to take him to see the doctor and they told me that the doctor would come to our room, but the doctor never came. The little boy that I am taking care of never speaks. He likes for me to hold him as much as possible.”

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

The Gospel according to Mathew says:

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. 19 A scribe then approached and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ 20 And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’”

Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord Have Mercy

## Week of October 27- Nov 2:

A 12-year-old from Guatemala at a border patrol facility describes his hunger:

"The guards were mean and scary. They yelled at us. One day the guards wanted to know if anyone had snuck food in the cell. They found one kid who was about 15 or 16 years old who had a burrito, pudding, and juice. The officials handcuffed his wrists. I'm hungry all the time. I'm so hungry that I've woken up in the middle of the night with hunger. I'm too scared to ask the officials here for any more food, even though there is not enough food here for me. In the morning we get oatmeal, pudding, and juice. In the afternoon we get soup, a cookie, and juice. For dinner we get a burrito, pudding and juice. I saw a child ask for more food once and the guard told him 'No, you've had your ration.' Sometimes the younger kids get an extra chocolate pudding. I need more food too."

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 also about our fears. The signs of meanness we see around us heighten our fear of 'the other', the unknown, the marginalized, the foreigner... We see this today in particular, faced with the arrival of migrants and refugees knocking on our door in search of protection, security and a better future. To some extent, the fear is legitimate, also because the preparation for this encounter is lacking. But the problem is not that we have doubts and fears. The problem is when they condition our way of thinking and acting to the point of making us intolerant, closed and perhaps even – without realizing it – racist. In this way, fear deprives us of the desire and the ability to encounter the other, the person different from myself; it deprives me of an opportunity to encounter the Lord."

Christ have mercy.

Response: Christ Have Mercy

Leviticus 19:33-34

When aliens (those who are undocumented) settle with you in your land, you shall not oppress them. They shall be treated as native born among you, and you shall love them as people like yourselves because you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

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 September 29-October 5

Blessed is the one who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free.

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

The Lord gives sight to the blind; the Lord raises up those who were bowed down.

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

The Lord loves the just; the Lord protects strangers.

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

The orphan and the widow God sustains, but the way of the wicked is thwarted.

The Lord shall reign forever,

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

### Week of October 6-12: Psalm 146: 2-10

Praise the Lord, my soul; I shall praise the Lord all my life, sing praise to my God while I live.

I put no trust in princes, in mere mortals powerless to save.

When they breathe their last, they return to the earth; that day all their planning comes to nothing

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

Happy those whose help is Jacob's God, whose hope is in the Lord, their God, the maker of heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry.

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

The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord gives sight to the blind.

The Lord rises up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

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

The Lord protects the stranger, sustains the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the way of the wicked. The Lord shall reign forever, your God, through all generations.

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

### Week of October 13-19:

"To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice" Proverbs 21:13

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

“You have been told, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you; Only to do the right and to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God” Micah 6:8

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

“Seek good and not evil, that you may live; then truly will the Lord, the God of hosts, be with you as you claim! Hate evil and love good, and let justice prevail at the gate; then it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will have pity on the remnant of Joseph.” Amos 5: 14-15

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

“Injure not the poor because they are poor, nor crush the needy at the gate; For the Lord will defend their cause, and will plunder the lives of those who plunder them.” Proverbs 22:22-23

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

### Week of October 20-26:: Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes toward the mountains; when shall help come to me?

My help is from the LORD, who made heaven and earth

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

May he not suffer your foot to slip; may he slumber not who guards you;

Indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps, the guardian of Israel

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

The Lord is your guardian; the Lord is your shade; he is beside you at your right hand.

The sun all not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

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

The Lord will guard you from all evil; he will guard your life.

The Lord will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever.

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

### Week of October 27- Nov 2: Psalm 34

The Lord confronts the evildoers, to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.

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

When the just cry out, the Lord hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them.

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

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.

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

The Lord redeems the lives of his servants; no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.

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

## Prayers of Petition

### **Week of September 29-October 5:**

Trusting that God's mercy is revealed in love for those who hurt or are in need, let us now lift up our prayer for migrants and refugees saying "Stop the Inhumanity"

For those who have begun the journey to the border of the United States, that they are protected and given the courage they need. Be with us, O God...

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For those who are in positions of decision-making and inflict harm upon the children at the US border, and all who are complicit in the suffering of those in need. Be with us, O God...

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For those who encounter migrants at the border, especially border patrol and civil officials, may they experience conversion of heart and compassion of action. Be with us, O God...

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

Recalling that Our Lord told his disciples to "let the children come to me," that we may welcome the children of immigrants and work to provide security and dignity to the lives of their families, we cry out,

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For the teens and young children who fled their homes and traveled thousands of miles in desperation, only to be locked up and mistreated further by the U.S. government, we cry out,

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

### **Week of October 6-12:**

Trusting that God's mercy is revealed in love for those who hurt or are in need, let us now lift up our prayer for migrants and refugees saying "Stop the Inhumanity"

Recalling that Our Lord told his disciples to "let the children come to me," that we may welcome the children of immigrants and work to provide security and dignity to the lives of their families, we cry out,

Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For the teens and young children who fled their homes and traveled thousands of miles in desperation, only to be locked up and mistreated further by the U.S. government, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

That by seeing God's presence more clearly in every human life, we may repent of the ways that we have failed to honor, protect, and welcome that life, including the life of the immigrant, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For those forced to flee their countries of origin because of fear, violence, corruption, and poverty, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For the President, his staff and Cabinet, for members of Congress and all who are complicit in inflicting suffering and harm on immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees that they repent, end the torture and stop the violence, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

#### **Week of October 13-19:**

Trusting that God's mercy is revealed in love for those who hurt or are in need, let us now lift up our prayer for migrants and refugees saying "Stop the Inhumanity"

For all who denigrate and scapegoat immigrants and refugees for their own political gain, that they might see the profound harm they have done to the fabric of our nation and seek instead the common good, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For the children who have been taken from their families and incarcerated by our government and for those who love them and pray for their safe return, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For all those living in filthy, inhumane conditions in U.S. detention centers, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For all our migrant sisters and brothers who have died needlessly in our rivers and deserts and jails, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For the children taken from their loved ones and trapped in our immigrant detention centers, in need of liberation, we cry out,

**Response: Stop the Inhumanity**

For all who denigrate and scapegoat immigrants and refugees for their own political gain, that they might see the profound harm they have done to the fabric of our nation and seek instead the common good, we cry out,

**Response: Stop the Inhumanity**

**Week of October 20-26:**

Trusting that God's mercy is revealed in love for those who hurt or are in need, let us now lift up our prayer for migrants and refugees saying "Stop the Inhumanity"

For those forced to flee their countries of origin because of fear, violence, corruption, and poverty, we cry out,

**Response: Stop the Inhumanity**

For those good-hearted people watching the suffering of immigrants and feeling powerless to act, that they might embrace their power and cry out,

**Response: Stop the Inhumanity**

For the children who have been taken from their families and incarcerated by our government and for those who love them and pray for their safe return, we cry out,

**Response: Stop the Inhumanity**

For the President, his staff and Cabinet, for members of Congress and all who are complicit in inflicting suffering and harm on immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees that they repent, end the torture and stop the violence, we cry out,

**Response: Stop the Inhumanity**

For all who denigrate and scapegoat immigrants and refugees for their own political gain, that they might see the profound harm they have done to the fabric of our nation and seek instead the common good, we cry out,

**Response: Stop the Inhumanity**

**Week of October 27- Nov 2:**

Trusting that God's mercy is revealed in love for those who hurt or are in need, let us now lift up our prayer for migrants and refugees saying "Stop the Inhumanity"

Recalling that Our Lord told his disciples to "let the children come to me," that we may welcome the children of immigrants and work to provide security and dignity to the lives of their families, we cry out,

**Response: Stop the Inhumanity**

For the teens and young children who fled their homes and traveled thousands of miles in desperation, only to be locked up and mistreated further by the U.S. government, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

That by seeing God's presence more clearly in every human life, we may repent of the ways that we have failed to honor, protect, and welcome that life, including the life of the immigrant, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For those forced to flee their countries of origin because of fear, violence, corruption, and poverty, we cry out,  
Response: Stop the Inhumanity

For the president, his staff and Cabinet, for members of Congress and all who are complicit in inflicting suffering and harm on immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees that they repent, end the torture and stop the violence, we cry out,  
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 September 29-October 5: Catholic Relief Services**

God of our Wandering Ancestors,

Long have we known  
That your heart is with the refugee:  
That you were born into time  
In a family of refugees  
Fleeing violence in their homeland,  
Who then gathered up their hungry child  
And fled into alien country.

Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:  
"Will you let me in?"

Give us hearts that break open  
When our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry.  
Then surely all these things will follow:  
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.  
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.  
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.  
And hands will reach out—  
Working for peace in their homeland, working for justice in the lands where they seek  
Safe haven.

Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.  
May they find a friend in me  
And make me worthy  
Of the refuge I have found in you.

**Week of October 13-19: Ignatian Solidarity Network/ Source: Nouwen Network**

God, no one is a stranger to you  
And no one is ever far from your loving care.  
In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,  
Those separated from your loved ones,  
Those who are lost  
And those who have been exiled from their homes.  
Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,  
And help us always to show your kindness to strangers  
And those in need.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
Who too was a refugee and migrant  
Who travelled to another land  
Searching for a home.  
Amen

**Week of October 20-26:: Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum**

Wise and compassionate God, help us to bear the burdens refugees and asylum-seekers carry and not simply seek to shift the burden onto others.

Call our leaders to justice, generosity and compassion. Help them create and implement strategies that are fair and just and treat refugees and asylum-seekers with dignity and care.

O God, our comforter, we ask you to comfort the broken-hearted and protect the vulnerable. We pray for those who live in fear of detention and removal, for those who are in detention at this time and for those who face removal to an uncertain future. We ask you to assure them of your great love, surround them with your presence and fill them with your peace.

God bless our eyes so that we will recognize injustices. God bless our ears so that we will hear the cry of the stranger. God bless our mouths so that we will speak words of welcome to newcomers. God bless our shoulders so we will be able to bear the weight of struggling for justice. God bless our hands so that we can work together with all people to establish peace.

Source: <http://ulen.wordpress.com/2009/02/27/a-lent-prayer-for-asylum-seekers-and-refugees/>

**Week of October 27- Nov 2: America Magazine**

Loving God,

I come before you to pray for my brothers and sisters,  
your children and members of Christ's body,  
at the southern border of the United States today.

What we read of their suffering  
seems nothing less than a Passion for thousands.  
Little children crowded into cells  
where they scarcely have room to stand.  
Without decent sanitation or food,  
separated from their families,  
the older ones taking care of the younger.

God of mercy,  
I believe that you live within whatever and whoever I am,  
the ground of my existence, its gracious cause and hope,  
its true future, its blessed promise of eternal life.  
I could not always have said so much.  
But now through your grace I do believe it.

But God of all,  
I am shaken in that faith  
when I read of what is happening on the threshold of my country.  
Are not the women and men and children there also vessels of your eternal presence?  
Many of them, most perhaps, from what we call the Northern Triangle,  
have indeed been baptized.  
But your incarnate Word is addressed to all of them.  
Your Spirit of freedom hovers over all of them.

Source: <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2019/07/09/prayer-migrants-us-mexico-border>

**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!

