

# PRAYERS FOR MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

## 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.

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 for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

God, no one is 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 their 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

[SOURCE: Nouwen Network]

## 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 a New Year,  
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.

[SOURCE: Jane Deren, 2007]

## 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]