

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Human Dignity & Solidarity—Immigration Ministry

Parish Toolkit

National Migration Week Mass

Many Journeys, One Family

January 7-14, 2018



Homily Aid

January 7, 2018

The Epiphany of the Lord | Lectionary: 20

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Reading 2: Ephesians 3:2-3A, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

We are all on a great migration. From the moment of our conception, we began a journey intimately linked to our mothers, then brought into the world where we were fed, nurtured, loved and guided by parents, teachers, friends, mentors, and coaches who accompanied us on the journey, some for a short while, some for our whole lives. Our 'migration' comes with hills and valleys, with challenges and opportunities, with sometimes what seem to be insurmountable problems or losses. Yet most of us have others to walk with us on that journey. We are not unlike the three Magi, the wise men, who surely took great risks—crossing strange lands, facing uncertain dangers, taking the risk of consulting with Herod himself—in pursuing their collective dream to find the Prince of Peace, the Word Made Flesh, the God of the Universe.

The Magi's journey is our journey as we seek out the Christ every day, seeking to draw wisdom from the Word, strength from His Body and Blood, and companionship and mutual support with fellow travelers, members of the Body of Christ in our own parish.

There are people in our world and in our own country who, because they seek peace, safety, hope, and prosperity for their families, will travel great distances and take great risks to find a safe and welcoming place where they can raise their families and a welcoming people who will support them in making a home for themselves.

In many ways, we as a Catholic Christian people, are the presence of the Christ Child, a sign of hope, a source of comfort and security, a place and a people who will love them and support them as they join us on our great migration to the heavenly kingdom.

The Lord calls us to welcome companions on the journey, especially to open the doors to those who have had doors of opportunity, jobs, safety, and family security closed on them by the forces of poverty, discrimination, war, famine, and natural disasters. The Lord also calls us to defend the rights of these migrants and undocumented immigrants and assist them in coming out of the darkness of fear and possible deportation into the light of opportunity and safety in walking and working alongside us as we all continue on our migrant journey. Christ is the Light that guides them and the light that casts out the darkness of hatred and prejudice against our immigrant sisters and brothers. As his disciples, we are called to reflect that light through our hospitality, our accompaniment and our advocacy on behalf of these 'little ones' who long to join us as co-journeymen, companions/migrants on the journey that leads us from the first beat of our heart in our mother's womb to one day be reborn for eternity into the very heart of God.

Homily Aid

January 14, 2018

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time | Lectionary: 65

Reading 1: 1 Samuel 3:3B-10, 19

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 6:13C-15A,17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

One might think that all the loud music of adolescence might impair hearing. But every mother recognizes the voice of her infant; they belong to the family and so mothers and fathers get up in the middle of the night to tend to the child. A salesman at an auto dealer can tell you the year, style, and characteristics of many cars. The things which belong to us give us the motivation to act and prompt us to a deeper understanding.

A listening heart is needed for believers. Samuel helps us appreciate that it may take some time to hear God' voice. Eli helped him to be alert and ready. John the Baptist helped the earliest disciples to open their hearts to the invitation: *"Come and you will see."* Once they meet Jesus, they are hooked. Simon even agrees to a change of name so that he can be a new kind of disciple.

St. Paul reminds us that discipleship is serious business. If all people have the capacity to be a *"Member of Christ... a temple of the Holy Spirit,"* all persons are welcome at the Lord's Eucharistic table.

We live in a land where many live in the shadows; their papers are more important than the sacredness of their soul. But their fears, for the most part, do not make them bitter. They raise wonderful families, pay taxes they may never benefit from, keep our economy humming, and do not lose heart or faith.

God calls us as surely as he did Samuel, Peter, and Andrew. He expects us to change the narrative and modify the landscape of immigration. We need to respond with the words of the psalm: *"Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will."*

Prayers of the Faithful

DACA Youth

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer*

For the young people who have received DACA, but now are living fear in what will happen to them, let us pray to the Lord.

For all immigrant young people in our parishes that they may feel accepted and welcomed, let us pray to the Lord.

For the 800,000 young people and their families during this time of uncertainty, let us pray to the Lord.

For the dreamers who arrived here as children and today seek a way to make their contribution to our common life, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination against the undocumented, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Dreamers who live in fear of being deported for many of them have only known America as their homeland, let us pray to the Lord.

The DREAM Act

Response: *O Lord, hear our prayer or Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer*

That the congress may pass a clean DREAM act, we pray.

That we may realize that all strangers who knock at our doors are opportunities for an encounter with Jesus Christ, we pray.

That we may grow in our hospitality and welcoming spirit in our nation, we pray.

That all the youth who were brought to this country as children, may have the opportunities that they deserve, we pray.

That God will protect the Dreamers and their status, as they wait for our government to overhaul our immigration system and rule on their final status, we pray.

That immigrant families may remain united in this society even though they are challenged in so many ways, we pray.

Families

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer, or Open our hearts to your love, O God*

For families who have been separated by deportation, Let us pray to the Lord.

For all families fleeing from violence and persecution who seek refuge, may they receive strength and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

For all dreamers who came here to find a home, let us pray to the Lord.

For all families who were forced to flee from their homes and countries due to war, violence, oppression or hunger, let us pray to the Lord.

That those in authority may turn away from prejudice, fear and scarcity while setting their hearts on acts of mercy for immigrant people, we pray.

Prayers of the Faithful *(continued)*

Refugees

Response: *We pray to the Lord or O God, in your compassion, hear our prayer.*

For those arriving at our borders may find welcome, protection, empowered to find opportunities and integration, we pray to the Lord.

That those who seek to make a home in this country, especially the refugees, may find us welcoming and willing to help them, we pray to the Lord.

That our Church may work in every way for refugees, immigrants and migrants through the processes of welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating them into our country, we pray to the Lord.

For those who escaped from war and poverty that they may find people who will welcome them with hospitality, we pray to the Lord.

Liturgy

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer or Save us in our faithful love, O God*

We pray that we may follow the star of hope and faith as the three Magi did in the journey with our young DREAMERS and families, we pray.

We pray that we may accept the gifts of immigrants with open hands and hearts showing them that we are brothers and sisters, we pray.

We pray that we may live our baptismal commitment by helping refugees and immigrants in our country, we pray.

We pray that we may listen to the Word of God and live it out fully by our hospitality to all in our parish, we pray.

We pray that we may hear and answer, "Here I am" to the Gospel values of being welcoming to one another, especially our immigrant brothers and sisters, we pray.

We pray that we may reach out to touch others as Jesus did, we pray.

We pray that we are willing to help others who are in need of basic necessities as food and also able to listen to those in need, we pray.

We pray that we may find ways of following Jesus by seeking ways to help refugees, immigrants and Dreamers and their families, we pray.

Prayers

O God of Love, You are the source of our One Family and the source of unity in diversity. You have gifted us with DACA recipients and their families. These young people are studying, working, and sharing their gifts in our nation. Help us to be grateful to them and support them in the challenges that they and their families face today. Open our hearts, open our minds, and open our thoughts to accept them, to work with them so that they will be given a chance to live a life of opportunities. May the Dream Act be enacted by Congress so that they can be in the United States in peace. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God of All Families, Cultures, and Nations you invite all of us to work together by accepting one another, appreciating one another, and valuing the gifts that each immigrant or refugee bring to us. Teach us to hold one another in love and respect. Today you invite all people—especially the young people—to bring their gifts and allow them to grow for the good of all. Help us to welcome and appreciate each other in our parish communities. We pray this in Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God of Life and Compassion, we pray for our immigrant brothers and sisters, especially the refugees who have been uprooted from their homes and made difficult journeys to safety in other lands. Help us to see you, Jesus, in the faces of strangers, in the cries of children traveling to security and a better life without conflict, war and poverty. Help us to realize that we are a people of immigrants and that many of our ancestors came to the United States to escape war, and poverty too. May the gifts of our Gospel values help us to reach out and recognize the strangers among us, value the gifts that they bring to us and know that in journeying together we are each enriched. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God of our Journey, accompany the many immigrants and refugees who are struggling for life. May we walk with one another and support them in their journey. Help us to realize that they are truly our brothers and sisters. Be with them with your love and compassion. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Generous God, make us aware of your love freely given to us. Help us to be generous to others especially young people who are DACA recipients as well as their families. You know the journey of each one. You know the fear that many live with right now. Give us your Holy Spirit to guide us in helping them to live in this country freely with the Clean DREAMER legislative bills. Holy Spirit guide our hearts so that we reach out to them as our Sisters and Brothers. Help us to live as Jesus did, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*