

# Marianist Prayer Service on Immigration

## Opening Hymn

Suggested hymns:

**In Christ There Is No East or West** by Kevin Keil

**Pan de Vida** by Bob Hurd

**Service** by Buddy Caeser (NARL)

**E Na Lima Hana** by David Haas and Joe Camacho

**We are Many Parts** by Marty Haugen

**Weave One Heart** by Marty Haugen

**Diverse in Culture, Race and Nation** by Ruth Duck

**We Are Called** by David Haas

**Let There be Peace on Earth** by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

## Invitation to Prayer

**Leader:** I invite us to pray as Marianists in the spirit of our cherished charism of discipleship of equals. We pray in union with Mary for immigrants that they be accepted as brothers and sisters among us.

## Opening Prayer

**All:**

God of the journey, God of the traveler,

We pray for those who leave their homes in search of new beginnings and possibilities, may they know your presence with them.

We pray that those who seek to make a home in this country may find us welcoming and willing to help them find a path toward citizenship.

We pray that our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation, may find the wisdom and courage to enact new policies that do justice for our country and for those who would immigrate here.

We pray for those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination against the undocumented, may they be touched with your divine compassion.

We pray in union with you Mary who knew the life of an immigrant.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Readings

### 1. Zechariah 7: 8-11

2. A reading from “**The Chronicles of Establishing the Society of Mary in America**” from American Memoirs by Thomas Mooney, SM, written in 1869 and 1874. (This passage provides a snapshot of the life of the first who had recently arrived as immigrants in America.)

The six persons, that is, Father Meyer and five Brothers (Edel, Litz, Schultz, Stintzi, Zehler) continued to live together at Holy Trinity (in Cincinnati), and four

of the brothers were engaged in teaching in two of the schools... Their manner of living was exceedingly simple, and many were the privations they suffered.

During that winter (1849-50) the weather was unusually severe, yet their clothing was light; and at night, though often shivering with cold, no one even thought of setting up a stove in the sleeping room.

After Christmas, Brother Zehler became seriously ill, and besides the suffering occasioned by his illness, he also had to endure the no less painful suffering occasioned by the intense cold. The quilts belonging to the six-member community were scarcely sufficient to keep half of them warm, and at night the sick brother had to return to the others the bedclothes he had borrowed from them in the morning. This fact serves at once to show the poverty of the whole and the consequent sufferings by each member of the little family, especially of him who was laid low by sickness.

## **Sharing**

One or more persons or the entire group depending on the size are invited to share stories of immigrants in their families or among friends or acquaintances.

## **Remembering the Immigrant Prayer**

**Leader:** We serve a God who directs us to care especially for those most vulnerable in society. Our Scriptures tell us of God's special concern for the "alien" or the "stranger," or as more contemporary translations say – the immigrant

**All:** For the Lord our God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. God defends the cause of the orphan and the widow, and loves the immigrant, giving the immigrant food and clothing. And we are to love those who are immigrants, for God's people were immigrants in Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)

**Leader:** We ask God to open our eyes to the struggles of immigrant workers, for we know what Scripture calls us to.

**All:** We must not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether the worker is a resident or immigrant living in our town. We must pay the worker the wages promptly because the worker is poor and counting on it. (Deuteronomy 24:14)

**Leader:** God's desire is that those who build houses may live in them,

**All:** And that those who plant may eat. (Isaiah 65:22)

**Leader:** And yet we know this is not possible for many in our midst.

**All:** We know of: farm workers who cannot feed their families; construction workers who have no homes; nursing home workers who have no health care; restaurant workers who cannot afford a meal in the restaurant.

**Leader:** We know that too many immigrant workers among us are not receiving the fruits of their labor, nor the justice required by the courts.

**All:** God charges our judges to hear disputes and judge fairly, whether the case involves citizens or immigrants. (Deuteronomy 1:16)

**Leader:** But our laws do not adequately protect immigrants. Our legal and social service programs exclude many immigrants. Many immigrant victims of Hurricane Katrina did not have access to the same government assistance as U.S.citizens.

**All:** God tells us that the community is to have the same rules for citizens and for immigrants living among us. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. Citizens and immigrants shall be the same before the Lord. (Numbers 15:15)

**Leader:** Many immigrant workers are underpaid and work long hours. Yet, Scripture tells us that when an immigrant lives in our land,

**All:** We will not mistreat him or her. We will treat an immigrant as one of our native born. We will love an immigrant as ourselves, for God's people were once immigrants in Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33-34)

**Leader:** To those who employ immigrant workers, we lift up God's command:

**All:** Do not oppress an immigrant. God's people know how it feels to be immigrants because they were immigrants in Egypt. (Exodus 23: 9)

**Leader:** To those who craft our immigration laws and policies, we lift up God's command:

**All:** Do not deprive the immigrant or the orphan of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that God's people were slaves in Egypt and the Lord our God redeemed them from there. (Deuteronomy 24:17-18)

**Leader:** To all of us who seek to do God's will, help us to:

**All:** Love one another as God has loved us. Help us to treat immigrants with the justice and compassion that God shows to each of us.

## **Closing Prayer - Salve Regina**

**All:**

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,  
Our life, our sweetness, and our hope.  
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.  
To you do we send up our sighs,  
Mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
Your eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile  
Show to us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus  
O clement. O loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary.

## **Closing Hymn**

(See list of suggested hymns from beginning of service)