

**UN Celebration
Day of the Immigrant
December 18, 2007**

Liturgical Considerations

Suggestions for Eucharistic Celebration

1. PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord Jesus, you lived in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable: for the times when we have been indifferent to the struggles of our immigrant sisters and brothers: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you lifted your voice to challenge the oppressive authorities of your day: for the times when we have been silent in the face of unjust legislation and structures: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you joined at table with those who were seen as outcasts: for the times when we have not welcomed the stranger and foreigner in our midst: Lord, have mercy.

2. LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-31

The first account of creation

First Reading: Leviticus 19: 33-34

When aliens 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.

Second Reading: Acts 2:42-47

They shared all things in common so that no one should be in need.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-22

All human beings are called upon to be sons and daughters of God.

Second Reading: Galatians 3:28

"...There are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Gospel: Matthew 25: 34-40

For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me... The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12
The Beatitudes

Non-scriptural Readings:

1) *United Nations' The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

"Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality."

3. PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

FORM A:

For an end to the violence and poverty that displaces so many people from their homes and homelands, we pray to the Lord.

For migrant workers, that they may labor and live in safe and just conditions, we pray to the Lord.

For the families and children of migrant workers, that they be reunited, we pray to the Lord.

For an end to human trafficking, that the dignity of all God's children will be acknowledged and protected, we pray to the Lord.

For our law-makers, that they establish and enforce laws that protect the rights and dignity of everyone, especially those most vulnerable in our country, we pray to the Lord.

For employers and corporations, that they choose the dignity and worth of each human person over profit and power, we pray to the Lord.

For our Augustinian community, that we may continue to serve those without homes and resources, and that we speak out for just immigration reform, we pray to the Lord.

FORM B:

Response: Lord, you are the gift and you are the giver.

We welcome you into our hearts and our homes dear Jesus. **Response...**

We welcome you in the person of the migrant farm worker, whose labor brings the fruits of the field and the vine to our tables. **Response...**

We welcome you in the persons of the seafarer and truck driver, whose long journeys bring goods and fuel to our homes. **Response...**

We welcome you in the person of the refugee child alone in the world, whose hope and courage brings us inspiration. **Response...**

We welcome you in the person of the asylum seeker, detained in our prisons without cause, who teaches us to thirst for justice. **Response...**

We welcome you in the persons of the immigrant teacher, scientist, artist, athlete, and doctor, all of whom bring their gifts to enrich our land and our lives. **Response...**

Let Us Pray (together):

Lord Jesus, help us to recognize you in the face of the stranger and welcome your presence among us. You have graced us with the gifts of many cultures and nations. Free us from the fear of those from other lands.

Teach us to share our gifts with newcomers in return, so that you may say "I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Come now into my Kingdom." We ask this in your name, from the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

4. SONG SUGGESTIONS

From Gather, 2nd edition, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. (Chicago)

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| #21 Psalm 15: They Who Do Justice | #430 Be Not Afraid |
| #46 Psalm 34: The Cry of the Poor | #443 Where Charity and Love Prevail |
| #63 Psalm 68: You Have made a Home
for the Poor | #444 No Greater Love |
| #67 Psalm 72: Every Nation on Earth | #450 Eye Has Not Seen |
| #115 Psalm 136: Your Love is Never Ending | #468 Bring Forth the Kingdom |
| #123 Psalm 146: Happy the Poor in Spirit | #469 Blest Are They |
| #127 Magnificat: Proclaim the Greatness of
God | #473 We Will Serve the Lord |
| #258 Each Winter as the Year Grows Older | #477 Whatsoever You Do |
| #261 Night of Silence | #485 City of God |
| #283 Return to God | #488 God Has Chosen Me |
| #284 Jerusalem, My Destiny | #492 Here I Am, Lord |
| #285 Change Our Hearts | #494 Anthem |
| #324 Envía Tu Espíritu | #510 The Summons |
| #325 Spirit Blowing Through Creation | #513 The Harvest of Justice |
| #327 Send Down the Fire | #524 On Holy Ground |
| #329 Send Us Your Spirit | #516 Let Justice Roll Like a River |
| #339 God, Beyond All Names | #518 We Are Called |
| #347 I Will Lift Up My Eyes | #519 Voices that Challenge |
| #349 Come to the Water | #523 World Peace Prayer |
| #350 Come to the Feast | #530 We Are Many Parts |
| #353 We Are the Light of the World | #533 They'll Know We Are Christians |
| #354 Be Light for Our Eyes | #545 Bless the Feast |
| #360 Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior | #549 All Evening |
| #376 Canticle of the Turning | #551 God of Day and God of Darkness |
| #408 O Healing River | #575 For the Life of the World |
| #409 Song Over the Waters | #596 Bread for the World |
| #421 I say "Yes" / Digo "Sí", Señor | #612 One is the Body |
| | #642 Healer of Our Every Ill |

From Worship III (G.I.A. Publications, Chicago)

- #643 For the Healing of the Nations
- #659 In Christ There is No East or West
- #641 Lift Every Voice and Sing
- #624 What Does the Lord Require
- #626 The Church of Christ, In Every Age
- #656 Help Us Accept Each Other
- #618 O Christ the Great Foundation

From Music Issue, Oregon Catholic Press, (Portland)

All Are Welcome
God Beyond All Names
God of the Hungry
In the Breaking of the Bread
Pan de Vida
Blest Are They
I Will Not Die
What Shall I Give
Psalm 23
Take Christ to the World

They'll Know We Are Christians
Bread for the World
Envía Tu Espíritu
Whatsoever You Do
We Shall Not Be Silent
Send Us as Your Blessing, Lord
We Are the Servants
God Has Chosen Me
We Are the Light of the World

Prayers for Morning or Evening Prayer

The Justice Prayer

Come, O Holy Spirit!
Come, open us to the wonder, beauty, and dignity of the diversity found in each culture,
in each face, and in each experience we have of the other among us.
Come, fill us with generosity
as we are challenged to let go and allow others to share with us
the goods and beauty of earth.
Come, heal the divisions
that keep us from seeing the face of Christ in all men, women, and children.
Come, free us to stand with and for those
who must leave their own lands in order to find work, security, and welcome in a new land, one
that has enough to share.
Come, bring us understanding, inspiration, wisdom, and
the courage needed to embrace change and stay on the journey.
Come, O Holy Spirit,
show us the way.

Prayer for Immigrant Justice

O God, Who welcomes all his children,
And embraces even the prodigal ones,
Help us open our hearts
And welcome all who come, searching as our ancestors did,
For the promise of a new land, a new life.
Root out fear from our souls;
Help us form the words "Sister" and "Brother"
As we greet the newcomers.
Let us remember that, with your grace,
there are enough loaves and fishes to go around
if we come together as your family.
Give us the courage and the compassion
to respect the rights of all in our countries of abundance.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Prayer to Jesus the Migrant

O Jesus, who in the very first days of your earthly life was compelled, together with Mary, your loving Mother, and Saint Joseph, to leave your native land and to endure in Egypt the misery and discomforts of poor emigrants, turn your eyes upon our sisters and brothers, who, far away from their dear country and from all that is dear to them, must daily struggle with the difficulties of a new life, and who are likewise often exposed to grave dangers and trials.

Lord, be their guide in their uncertain journey, their help in trouble, their comfort in sorrow; keep them safe in their faith, holy in their lives, and faithful to their children, their spouses, and their parents; grant, O Lord, that we may be able to embrace them lovingly as brothers and sisters to us, and when our journeys are complete, may you welcome us in heaven as we have welcomed each other here on earth. Amen.

Prayer of Compassion and Justice

Eternal God of Wisdom and Mercy,
you have planted your light in every human soul.
Through your prophets and teachers in every generation,
you remind us that, as your children we are sisters and brothers of one another;
and that your love for us gives us the power to make societies rooted in love,
rooted in justice and wise care for all your children.

You have planted in us the longing to do justice and to be merciful,
the capacity to feel and understand the lives of others.
You have given us the power to remember
what our ancestors have told us of their hardships.
Your scriptures remind us You know the heart of a stranger,
seeing that you were also a stranger.
You have given us the gift of moral imagination
and the capacity to feel for the conditions of others and to act for their good.

God of justice and mercy, we pray today for the courage
to witness for justice for the stranger,
justice for the poor and disenfranchised,
justice for those who come to this country
willing to do our hardest jobs, our least-rewarded jobs,
to feed their families and give their children hope for the future.

We pray for their children, who need safety, security,
the benefits of good education, the promise of a good life.
We commit ourselves to work for laws that protect the strangers,
that will give them equity in this society,
laws that will make it possible not to be strangers any more.
Guide our actions and give us the words to speak to the hearts of our leaders in government, to
reach the light in their consciences, so they will shape just laws.
Help us to be instruments of your justice.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Suggested Prayers for Advent Penance Service

Prayer of Blessing

Almighty God, We praise and bless you because you are a God of freedom and human dignity. You created us among all other creatures and gave us this earthly paradise to care for, to share and to rejoice in.

Even though we often chose the ways of sin rather than your ways of grace, you never abandoned us. Again and again you offered us freedom and dignity through your love.

We bless you, God, for you remembered your promise to Abraham and Sarah. You commanded Moses to lead Israel out of the slavery of Egypt. You led your people through the Red Sea and Sinai desert to a new land of freedom and dignity, a land flowing with milk and honey.

We praise you, God, for your prophets who, countless times, called us to be faithful to you, the God who is always near to us and mindful of our needs.

In our need of liberation you sent your Son to be the way the truth and the life. He freed us from our divisions by inviting us to love our neighbour; He liberated us from our selfishness by encouraging us to give freely of what we have freely received; He challenged us to see you in the face of every man, woman and child, and especially in the faces of those who are alone and in need, those who are vulnerable and wander far from home.

When we receive them, we receive you.
When we welcome them, we welcome the Holy One in our midst.
When we tend to their needs and open our hearts to their cries, we fulfill what you have commanded from all time: that all may be one.

Creator God, forgive us for the times when we have failed to welcome, to embrace and to love you in our sisters and brothers.
Forgive us for our indifference, our hatred and our fears.
Bless us now with open minds and loving hearts.
As you welcome all peoples into your kingdom
so may we see the dignity of your reflection in everyone we meet.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POETRY

Give Me Your Hands (GB, 2000)

Migrant, give me your hand.
They say you cannot stay here,
This is not your land.
But to me you belong
Because you work on it with your hands.

Overseas worker, give me your hand.
It is half empty, you earn half of what I do.
But I know it is not right
Because your fatigue is the same.
I feel it in your hands.

Domestic worker, give me your hand.
It keeps my house running
And my family comfortable.
Why do I look down on you,
You who hold my children's hands?

Illegal migrant, give me your hand.
You arrived uninvited
And kept quiet to save your chance.
Now they send you home
But one day across borders
We will stretch our hands.

All of you on the move, give me your hands.
You are so different and talk strange
Because I never moved
and do not know your direction.
Thanks for teaching me
That God's skin
Has the color of our hands.