

# Immigration through the Lens of Faith



## Collected Prayers for Immigrants

### Dear Jesus,

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.

### Blessed are You, Lord Jesus Christ.

You crossed every border  
between Divinity and humanity  
to make your home with us.

Help us to welcome you in newcomers,  
migrants and refugees.

Blessed are You, God of all nations.

You bless our land richly  
with goods of creation  
and with people made in your image.

Help us to be good stewards and peacemakers,  
who live as your children.

Blessed are You, Holy Spirit.

You work in the hearts of all  
to bring about harmony and goodwill.

Strengthen us to welcome those  
from other lands, cultures, religions,  
that we may live in human solidarity  
and in hope.

God of all people, grant us vision  
to see your presence in our midst,  
especially in our immigrant sisters and brothers.

Give us courage to open the door to our  
neighbors

and grace to build a society of justice.

*Source: Pax Christi*

### 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.

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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 be touched with your divine compassion. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*The Archdiocese of Chicago*

## **Prayer for Migrant Women**

O God, Creator of the heavens and of earth,  
Help us to see one another through eyes enlightened by understanding and compassion.  
Help us to listen to the voices of all of our sisters throughout the world with respect and attention.  
Open our ears to the cries of women who have been denied their rights and their dignity.  
Empower us to be instruments of justice for all, for in the wholeness of Christ, all mothers are our own mothers, and we are one. Amen.

**Gracious God**, you who guided Naomi and her family to look for bread in Moab, a foreign land, protect the women everywhere who have to leave behind their home or homelands so that they and their families can survive.

May those who are escaping the ravages of war find shelter and sustenance. May the land in which they seek refuge welcome them and treat them with hospitality.

May those who are seeking to stop the threats of violence against them find a peaceful and healing place. Help them hold on to their hope for a new beginning. And may those who are fleeing from the famines that starve them and their children find relief from their painful and debilitating hunger. May they find food both for their journey and for their bodies.

You who guided Ruth to go to the Promised Land, grant that, like her, women may be lifted from the fields where they harvest to be part of royal lineage. And grant that we who are the spiritual descendants of those of old who were told that the holiest of

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trinities was made of the widow, the orphan and the migrant, be given the courage to see your face, your real presence, in the faces of women who have great need. Amen

## **Prayer to Jesus, the Immigrant**

Jesus, as an infant you fled to Egypt with your mother Mary and Joseph.  
You were a vulnerable family in a foreign land, looking for shelter and sustenance.  
Help us to welcome those like you who cross our borders today.  
Give us hearts of compassion, humane response,  
and laws that respect the dignity of all immigrants.  
Amen.

*Adapted from Education for Justice*

**You are the God who** bears the brunt of the question, “Why didn’t you stay where you belong?” You feel the red-faced embarrassment when we hear, “Keep your distance, you foreigner, with your different-colored skin and your strange-sounding speech, with your culture, food, religion, and clothing that are inferior to my own.”

You are the God who sits along side of us who work in sweatshops, with our bloodshot eyes and aching fingers squinting under the soul-less glare of a florescent light.

You are the God who rises early in the morning with us as we go to harvest fresh vegetables and fruits picked with fingers stained by the pesticides and fungicides that penetrate our skin.

You are the God who stands with us in the chill of the morning in the parking lot at Home Depot, with anxious stomachs hoping that we too would be picked to work just for that one day.

Loving God, as we stand before you today, help us to remember that when we speak of immigrants and refugees, we speak of Christ.

Hear our prayers for necessary, just, and comprehensive immigration reform. Make us strong in the work for immigrant justice and remind us that our work is no easier than the everyday work of our immigrant sisters and brothers.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(adapted from [Justiceforimmigrants.org](http://Justiceforimmigrants.org) website by Fr. Jon Pedigo)*

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**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.  
-by Jane Deren

Blessed are You, Lord God,  
King of all creation.  
Through Your goodness, we live in this land  
that You have so richly blessed.

Help us always to recognize our  
Blessings come from You  
and remind us to share them  
with others, especially those who come  
to us today from other lands.  
Help us to be generous, just, and welcoming,  
as You have been and are generous to us.

*Diocese of Syracuse*

**"And let not those who possess dignity** and ease among you swear not to give  
to the near of kind and to the needy, and to refugees for the cause of God. Let  
them forgive and show indulgence."  
—*Qur'an 24:22*

"And do good unto your parents, and near of kin, and unto orphans, and the  
needy, and the neighbour from among your own people, and the neighbor who  
is a stranger, and the friend by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom  
you rightfully possess. Verily, God does not love any of those who, full of self-  
conceit, act in a boastful manner..."  
—*An-Nisa 4:36*

"Those who believed and adopted exile and fought for the Faith, with their  
property and their persons, in the cause of Allah, as well as those who gave  
(them) asylum and aid—these are (all) friends and protectors, one of another."  
—*Al Anfal 8:72*