

**Prayer Vigil**  
**for Immigration Reform**  
**January 11, 2010**



**Welcome: Pat/Eileen**

**1<sup>st</sup> candle: Human enforcement of Laws**

“Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness ....So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female and God blessed them.”

**Immigrants – with documents or without – are created in the image of God, they should be treated with dignity and respect. Therefore we ask that enforcement of immigration laws be consistent with the infinite value you place in each of us. We pray...Oremos  
Lord, hear our prayer:**

**We** light the first candle as a prayer for all those who have been the victims of workplace raids. We name the injustice of employers who benefit from the hard work of immigrants. Let this candle be a prayer for sons and daughters who have been left behind. Let this candle be a prayer for all the children who live in fear that they will return from school one day to an empty house. Let this candle be a prayer for those who have died because a fence has forced them to cross in the most dangerous places. Let this candle be a prayer for enforcement of just laws, and an end to unjust enforcement. Let this candle be for all those who were captured in raids today in South Philadelphia.

**(candle is lit)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> candle: Family reunification**

“Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God. (Ruth 1:16-17)

**Because families are the cornerstone of a healthy society, because God uses families to communicate his covenant love, we ask for reforms in our family-based immigration system that reduce the time families must wait to be reunited. We pray... Oremos  
Lord, hear our prayer:**

**We** light this 2<sup>nd</sup> candle as a prayer for all those who have to been forced to put survival over relationship, food over nurture, necessities over togetherness. May this candle be a prayer for those who still wait for family reunion. May this candle be a prayer for those who have risked

danger because they simply couldn't wait for such a reunion. May this candle be a prayer for families of mixed immigration status, for the stress of those who fear being forced to leave, and those who fear being left behind. **There is HOPE**

**(candle is lit)**

**Rosa speaks**

**3<sup>rd</sup> candle: Earned path to citizenship**

**Bethany**

“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; I am the LORD your God.”  
Lev 19:33-34)

**Because God calls for equality between the native born and the stranger among us, we ask for a process that makes it possible for immigrant workers and their families to pursue legal residency and citizenship. We pray...Oremos**

**Lord, hear our prayer:**

**We** light this 3<sup>rd</sup> candle as a prayer for all those who, today, live in the shadows of our city, fearing each day the repercussions of our broken system. May this candle be a prayer for workers who have no recourse for withheld wages and dangerous working conditions. May this candle be a prayer for the immigrants in our midst who live anything but equally to the citizens around them. May this candle be a prayer for our elected officials that they might be faithful to the promises they made to reform the immigration system. **There is HOPE!**

**(candle is lit)**

**4<sup>th</sup> candle: Workers and families**

“You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether Israelites or aliens who reside in your land in one of your towns. You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset.”(Deut 24:14-15)

**Because immigration has too often been about exploitation of labor, we ask for an expansion of legal avenues for workers and families to enter our country and work in a safe and legal manner with their rights and due process fully protected. We pray... Oremos**  
**Lord, hear our prayer:**

**We** light this 4<sup>th</sup> candle as a prayer for all workers. May this candle be a prayer for those who endure long days, in order to put food on American tables. May this candle be a prayer for the employers who are made vulnerable by the responsibilities to report immigrants. May this candle be a prayer for immigrants who travel across borders to fill jobs we rely on. May this candle be a prayer for all those farmers who do provide safe and hospitable housing conditions for their workers. May this candle be a prayer for workers who have been treated as less-than-human because we have failed to protect them. **There is HOPE.**

**(candle is lit)**

**5<sup>th</sup> candle: Root causes of migration**

**Since the first human story, people have had to leave their homes in order to survive. Therefore we ask that our country to examine US immigration policies and to address the root causes of migration. We pray ...Oremos**

**Lord, hear our prayer:**

**We** light this 5<sup>th</sup> candle as a prayer for economic justice throughout the world. May this candle be a prayer for our policy makers to seek creative solutions, even in this economic down-turn. May this candle be a prayer for the families who, leave the only land they've known in search of a land where survival is more possible. May this candle be a prayer for a world where those who wish to stay in their land may do so. **There is HOPE.**

**(candle is lit)**

**We** ask these things from our God of justice. We ask them from our God who, as a human, was forced to flee his own country. We ask them from a savior who announced that he had come to let the oppressed be free. We ask them in the name of the one who taught us to pray. In our native language, let us pray these words that Jesus taught us.

**Our father.....Padre nuestro**