

*In response to God's transforming grace
and the signs of the times,
we dare to...*



Remember the Immigrant

“You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for them as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.” (Lev. 19:33-34)

AN ALIEN'S PRAYER

I wear the mark of your disapproval
and your often unspoken words
pierce straight to my soul,

“Why didn't you stay where you belong?”
I feel the icy stare that says,
“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.”

I'm an immigrant, a wetback, an alien,
an outsider operating a sweatshop sewing machine;
cheap labor, unwanted or dirty jobs
are mine for the taking;

I'm one of the countless invisible ones
who puts fresh vegetables on your plate
or stitches the fashion dresses and shirts
that you buy in your stylish stores.

As Moses of old once said,
“Remember, you were once aliens
in the land of Egypt,” remember that your grandfathers
and grandmothers were immigrant unwanted,

were exploited cheap labor,
second-class citizens,
uneducated and poor,
used and abused,
ignored or looked down upon
for their foreign religion, speech, and food.



The White House
first house of this great land, says it well:
White is this land of promise
no room for other colors or creeds—
Someday we'll paint the first house
in rainbow colors—
someday, not long from now.
- Ed Hayes



“For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Hymn Suggestions: Pan de Vida, We Are Many Parts, Language of the Heart or any appropriate song

We Dare to Remember the Immigrant

† For an end to the violence and poverty that displaces so many people from their homes and homelands, we pray to the Lord. **Response: Lord, open our hearts**

† For our leaders, that they may implement policies that allow for safe migration, just migrant working conditions, and an end to the detention of asylum seekers, while protecting our national safety, we pray to the Lord. **Response: Lord, open our hearts**

† For migrant workers, that they may labor in safe and justice conditions, and that we who benefit from their labor may be truly grateful for what they provide, we pray to the Lord. **Response: Lord, open our hearts**

† For unaccompanied migrant children, that they may be protected from all harm and reunited with loving families, we pray to the Lord. **Response: Lord, open our hearts**

† For our legislators to work for just and comprehensive immigration laws, we pray to the Lord. **Response: Lord, open our hearts**

† For all Sisters of Saint Joseph and Associates that we may come to a greater understanding and acceptance of our differences and dare to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need, we pray to the Lord. **Response: Lord, open our hearts**

CLOSING PRAYER:

Our God, you have given us in your word
the stories of persons who needed to leave
their homelands—Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Moses.

You have chosen that the life of Jesus be filled with events of unplanned travel and flight from enemies. You have shown us through the modeling of Jesus how we are called to relate to persons from different nations and cultures. You have called us to be teachers of your word. We ask you, our God, to open our minds and hearts to the challenge and invitation to model your perfect example of love. Amen.