



## **Catholic Action with Immigrant Children August Prayer**

### **Gathering and Welcome**

Welcome! We gather today in the presence of our God of infinite love and compassion. Our God has called us here today to bear witness to the dignity of every human person and to hold our elected representatives accountable for the atrocities perpetrated on our brothers and sisters—immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers—mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles. We remember especially the children—frightened, alone, hungry, and cold. These are God’s children—our children! We must not—we will not—let this continue. We pray loudly, clearly: Stop the inhumanity—NOW! We are here today to stand with God’s precious children. They cry out and so we must speak.

### **Litany Naming the Children with Response**

**We bow our heads in prayer and we remember the children known  
to have died in U.S. custody since December 2018**

<b>Jakelin Caal Maquin: Guatemala: Age 7: December 8, 2018</b>	<b>“ We Remember You”</b>
<b>Felipe Gómez Alonzo: Guatemala: Age 8: December 24, 2018</b>	<b>“ We Remember You”</b>
<b>Juan de León Gutierrez: Guatemala: Age 16: April 30, 2019</b>	<b>“ We Remember You”</b>
<b>Mariee Juárez: Age 1: May 10, 2018</b>	<b>“ We Remember You”</b>
<b>Wilmer Josué Ramírez Vázquez: Guatemala: Age 2: May 14, 2019</b>	<b>“ We Remember You”</b>
<b>Carlos Gregorio Hernández Vásquez: Guatemala: Age 16: May 20, 2019</b>	<b>“ We Remember You”</b>
<b>Darlyn Cristabel Cordova Valle: El Salvador: Age 10: May 29, 2019</b>	<b>“ We Remember You”</b>
<b>Wilmer Josue Ramirez Vazquez: Guatemala: Age 2: May 14, 2019</b>	<b>“ We Remember You”</b>

## Readings

### **A 12-year-old from Ecuador at a border patrol facility describes mistreatment by officers:**

“The officers took everything from us except our documents. They even took our shoelaces. There was a mother in our group traveling with a very young baby. The officers took her diapers, baby formula, and nearly everything else she had and threw it away. The water here is horrible. It tastes like chlorine. The officials here are very bad to us. During the night when we’re trying to sleep, they come in and wake us up, yelling and scaring us. The guards who are yelling don’t speak much Spanish, so it’s hard to understand what they’re saying. Every night my sisters keep asking me, ‘When will our mommy come to get us?’ I don’t know what to tell them. It’s very hard for all of us to be here.”

Lord have mercy.

**Response: Lord Have Mercy**

### **Pope Francis in his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees says:**

“It is not just about migrants: it is a question of seeing that no one is excluded. Today’s world is increasingly becoming more elitist and cruel towards the excluded. Developing countries continue to be drained of their best natural and human resources for the benefit of a few privileged markets. Wars only affect some regions of the world, yet weapons of war are produced and sold in other regions which are then unwilling to take in the refugees produced by these conflicts. Those who pay the price are always the little ones, the poor, the most vulnerable, who are prevented from sitting at the table and are left with the “crumbs” of the banquet. The Church which ‘goes forth’... can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. A development that excludes makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. A real development, on the other hand, seeks to include all the world’s men and women, to promote their integral growth, and to show concern for coming generations.”

Christ have mercy.

**Response: Christ Have Mercy**

### **The Book of Deuteronomy says:**

“You shall not deprive the foreigner or the orphan of justice, nor take the clothing of a widow as pledge. For, remember, you were slaves in Egypt, and the Lord, your God, redeemed you from there; that is why I command you to do this. When you reap the harvest in your field and overlook a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; let it be for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord, your God, may bless you in all your undertakings. When you knock down the fruit of your olive trees, you shall not go over the branches a second time; let what remains be for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow. When you pick your grapes, you shall not go over the vineyard a second time; let what remains be for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow. For remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt; that is why I command you to do this.”

Lord have mercy.

**Response: Lord Have Mercy**

**Participants may wish to pray one decade of the Rosary**

**Closing Prayer**

**Invite each to share a prayer in their own words  
or use the following as a guide/suggestion:**

Merciful God, through your grace, may we imitate your love and show true compassion by welcoming the immigrant and the refugee, and Inspired by the teaching of Jesus, may we greet each stranger as neighbor, receive and care for children as your own children, and may we live in the peace that comes from your love.

