

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (WDMR)

29 SEPTEMBER 2019

# PRAYER VIGIL



IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT MIGRANTS



MIGRANTS  
REFUGEES

# Scheme for Prayer Vigil in Preparation for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees

September 28, 2019

## Suggested Venue:

A Church known for its stand on migration and refugee issues

A Park

A Refugee Camp

A Town Square

A School Auditorium

## Suggested decoration:

A backdrop tarpaulin that contains the details about the reason for the vigil or an altar or a central place that features symbolic representation of the celebration and highlight the significance of the occasion.

## Introduction:

The Old Testament themes of Exodus and Covenant are used to remind the Church that Christians are called to live out of the memory of being a community of exile. God makes a covenant with his people. He invites us into the heart of his life and that makes us both participants in a divine drama of love and forgiveness and also therefore always spiritual strangers in a foreign land.

The Church's most significant document on migration is EXSUL FAMILIA, published in 1952- and had an immediate effect on the way that the Catholic community reflected on migration. Exul Familia introduced the idea that we should be reading the biblical and thinking about doctrine as reflection on the reality of migration. The Holy Family were both the models and protection for all displaced persons, the Church had always understood that it had a role in exercising the works of mercy, towards migrants, refugees, displaced and trafficked persons.



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Year after year, the Holy Father sends a message for Holy Mother church to convey her message of special concern for the migrants and refugees. The theme this year is: *"It Is Not Just About Migrants."* As God's faithful, we are constantly reminded to be part of the caring for migrants and refugees.

Procession to the Altar and blessing of the Sanctuary accompanied with an appropriate song...

### **Opening Prayer:**

Gracious and merciful God, we gather in one heart and mind to pray for all families and individuals who have left or fled their country, their land, their homes, seeking safer and better lives. We lift up to you their hopes and dreams, their fears and anxieties, and all their needs and necessities, and that they may be protected on their journeys, their dignity and rights may be fostered, honored and upheld, and they may be welcomed with open arms into generous and compassionate communities. All these we ask, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. AMEN

### **Scripture Reading:**

#### **Leviticus 19:33-34**

When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the Lord, am your God.

#### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 63: 2-9**

***Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.***

O God, you are my God—it is you I seek; For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts, In a land parched, lifeless, and without water! ***Response***

I look to you in the sanctuary to see your power and glory. For your love is better than life; my lips shall ever praise you! ***Response***



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I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands, calling on your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with joyous lips my mouth shall praise you! **Response**

I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands, calling on your name. My soul shall be sated as with choice food, with joyous lips my mouth shall praise you! **Response**

I think of you upon my bed, I remember you through the watches of the night. You indeed are my savior, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me! **Response**

### **Gospel: Mt. 25: 31-46**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you



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hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ ‘He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ ‘Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’”

... **Moment of Silence** ...

Music: Taize or any other music deemed appropriate to keep the solemnity of the occasion

### **Short Reflections/Testimonies:**

by a Refugee

by a Sea-based Migrant

by a Land-based Migrant

by a Migrant Advocate

by an International Student

Silent prayer offerings by all participants... by using ordinary candles or lantern candles to be offered around the altar area.

After some moments of silence, all prayers are summed-up by praying together the Lord’s Prayer...

### **Closing Prayer:**

Priest/Deacon: Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly upon all of us. We may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bonds of charity. We may bear witness to the truth before others and seek together with confidence justice on earth and promote the dignity of each person and the unity of all believers in the bond of peace. As we gather in prayer for the migrants and refugees, bestow in abundance your gifts of courage, unfailing commitment and justice for the defenseless and the vulnerable. Grant this through Christ our Lord. AMEN



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**PLEASE BOW YOUR HEADS FOR THE BENEDICTION:**

May God bless you with every heavenly blessing,  
make you always holy and blameless in his sight,  
pour out in abundance upon you the riches of his glory,  
and teach you with the words of truth;  
may he instruct you in the Gospel of salvation,  
and ever endow you with a compassionate and charitable heart.

**R. Amen.**

May almighty God always keep every adversity far from you,  
Ever assured of his loving protection, and may you always understand  
what is good and right,  
and be found ever faithful  
in the path of God's commands,  
and confirm your hearts in his love.

**R. Amen.**

So that on this life's journey  
you may be effective in good works,  
rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity,  
and may come happily to eternal life.

**R. Amen.**



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