Prayer Service in Solidarity
with
Our Sisters and Brothers at the Border
By: Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

Opening Song: "Whatsoever You Do"

Refrain: Whatsoever you do to the least of my people,
That you do unto me.

When I was hungry you gave me to eat;
When I was thirsty you gave me to drink;
Now enter into the home of my Father. (Refrain)

When I was homeless you opened your door;
When I was naked you gave me your cloak;
Now enter into the home of my Father. (Refrain)

When in a prison you came to my cell;
When on a sickbed you cared for my needs;
Now enter into the home of my Father. (Refrain)

Opening Prayer

Reading: Leviticus 19: 33-34 and Deuteronomy 24: 19-22.

Quiet reflection

Reading:Civic Values – The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution of the United States Preamble

Visual presentation accompanied by Kathy Sherman's "Faces of the Children"

Response: "Prayer for Children in Immigration Detention"

We pray for the immigrant children
who have died in U.S.
detention camps:
May their souls rest in peace.
May their families find solace.
May their memory move us
Not to peace but to outrage,
Then to advocacy and action.

We pray for the children
Still in detention camps, confused,
Afraid, longing for family to console them.
May we recognize them as
Our children, needing our love,
Our care and protection.

May we be present to their suffering,
And may it move us to active concern
So we can work toward the day
No children are detained but rather
Welcomed into our communities,
Welcomed as family to our tables.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen. (Jane Deren, Ph.D, Education for Justice)

Short video: "Lights for Liberty"

Quiet reflection on the question: "What does the reality of this horror impel us to do in response?"

Prayers of Petition: Response to each petition: "Let us see your Spirit" (Rev. Enock DeAssis)

In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence . . .
In the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables, . . .
In the asylum-seeker, seeking justice for himself and his family, . . .
In the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world, . . .
(Invite congregation to add their own petitions.)

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.

"Mission Song" – Rory Cooney, Gary Daigle, Theresa Donohoo (CD "Vision")

Closing Song: "One Is" - Rory Cooney, Gary Daigle, Theresa Donohoo (CD "Vision")

One is the body, one is the bread,
One are the living, the unborn, the dead.
One is the cup, one blood in us flows.
One is the breath of the star and the rose.
One are the Spirit, Creator, and Son.
Just as the source and the river are one.
One are the stranger, my foe, and my friend.
To this I will say: "Amen."

Gather, disciples, your Master to meet;
Lean to forgive from the bread that you eat.
Treasure the earth in the wine that is poured:
Taste and see the goodness, the love of the Lord.

Now split the timber, now turn the stone
Look where you will: you are never alone.
High in the heavens, deep in the flood.
All things are charged with the presence of God.

I am the hungry, you are the poor,
God is the stranger who waits at the door.
Where any suffers, no one is free;
Whatever you do, then, you do it to me.

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Civic/Political Values as Expressed in Our Nation's Documents

The Declaration of Independence

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them……

***We** hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all {men} are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness _ That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted {among men}, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed…….*

The Constitution of the United States of America -Preamble

***We the People** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

Pope Francis' statement on Political Responsibility

An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better that we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and weaknesses. The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters. If indeed "the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics", the Church "cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice".[150] All Christians, their pastors included, are called to show concern for the building of a better world. Pope Francis (11/24/2013)