



PENTECOST 2023
PRAYER SERVICE FOR
Migrants and Refugees



'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

Acts 1:8

Opening Song

'Bless the Lord my soul'

Leader: Let us begin with a moment of silence and invite the Holy Spirit to join us where we are, surrounded by our daily concerns, our fears, our hopes, our dreams.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

(moment of silence 3-4 seconds)

On Pentecost, Jesus Christ sends the Holy Spirit and marks the beginning of the mission of the Church in our world. As disciples, we are invited to overcome our worries and our fears in exchange for the strength of the Holy Spirit which, in turn, sends us out to be with those who suffer, the most vulnerable and marginalized, the migrants and refugees.

Opening Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, you awaken our weak, small, and wavering faith.

You teach us to live trusting in the unfathomable love of God our Father.

Holy Spirit, you free us from all that distracts us so that we may see Jesus in the lives of the most vulnerable.

Holy Spirit, you open our ears to hear your call that comes to us in the form of the questions, sufferings, conflicts and contradictions of the men and women of our day.

Holy Spirit, you teach us to look as Jesus looked on those who suffer, those who are displaced, those who are threatened, those whose lives are in danger, and the forgotten.

Holy Spirit, you purify our hearts by inviting us to walk among migrants and refugees, men, women and children, with to walk in Your truth and humility.

Holy Spirit, you open for us the way to the Kingdom of God with a compassionate heart and contagious hope.

Reading and Reflection

Leader: Please be seated. As we listen to the reading of the book of Ezekiel, let us take stock of the graves that imprison our brothers and sisters. Graves of suffering, injustice, and desperation that take the lives of so many refugees in foreign lands.

Perhaps you can recall a situation of injustice that takes life from refugees or remember the story of a specific experience of injustice that you have encountered.

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD:

O my people, I will open your graves
and have you rise from them,
and bring you back to the land of Israel.
Then you shall know that I am the LORD,
when I open your graves and have you rise from them,
O my people!
I will put my spirit in you that you may live,
and I will settle you upon your land;
thus you shall know that I am the LORD.
I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

(moment of silence 3-4 seconds)

Leader: As we reflect upon this reading, let us ask ourselves, what are the graves that need to be opened for our brothers and sisters, migrants, and refugees? In what ways are migrants and refugees mistreated in our world today? In what ways are we also in need of rising from our own graves? Let us take a moment of silence to sit with the images that come to mind.

(moment of silence 3-4 seconds)

Leader: What does the promised land look like for migrants and refugees? How can we take part in the promise that God has made to our brothers and sisters who have been forcibly displaced from their land? Let us imagine what the promised land for migrants and refugees would look like.

(moment of silence 3-4 seconds)

Leader: Now, let us turn to a message from Pope Francis from his meeting with migrants and refugees on March, 18 2023.

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You have shown a firm resolve to live in freedom from fear and insecurity. You have found friends and supporters who are now a second family for you. You have studied new languages and learned about new societies. This has been difficult, but also enriching. I say this as the son of a family of immigrants who took a similar path.

Your good example and industriousness help to dispel fear and apprehension about foreigners. Indeed, your presence can be a blessing to the countries in which you live, and whose laws and culture you have learned to respect. The hospitality you were offered has motivated you to give in return: indeed, some of you are already engaged in serving others in need.

Dear brothers and sisters, in this meeting of ours, where those who welcome and those welcomed come together and intermingle, we can savour the words of the Lord Jesus: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Mt 25:35). Those words point all of us towards the path we must take. A path that needs to be travelled together and with perseverance. Thank you for leading the way! Keep moving forward! May the Lord bless you and may the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Way, watch over you. ”

[HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS ON HIS MEETING WITH MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES \(2023\)](#)

(Extended Quiet Reflection: Instrumental music is appropriate.)

Intercessions

Leader: From the Holy Spirit we receive seven gifts that will strengthen us each day in becoming the person that God created each of us to be. God wishes to abundantly share the gifts of the Holy Spirit with each of us; He asks only for our humility and openness in receiving these freely given gifts. Let us pray that we continue to grow from these graces. The response is, “Lord share your grace”.

Lord Jesus, share your gift of **Wisdom** to see this suffering world with the eyes of God and instead of reacting in a way that leads us to ignore or judge migrants and refugees, allow us to see this man or woman as a brother or sister in Christ.

Lord Jesus, share your gift of **Understanding** so we may grow in our awareness of the root causes of migration and seek to fix them.

Lord Jesus, share your gift of **Counsel** so we can choose to follow you in our search for a faith that does justice.

Lord Jesus, share your gift of **Knowledge** to be able to recognize you in all living creatures, especially those that are marginalized.

Lord Jesus, share your gift of **Fortitude** to grant us courage and perseverance in our work advocating for migrants and refugees.

Lord Jesus, share your gift of **Piety** to accept that only through your example and your love will we be able to accompany and serve our brothers and sisters refugees.

Lord Jesus, share your gift of **Fear of the Lord** to never stop praying for those in great fear, those forced to flee their homes and those in their journeys to a safer future.

Leader: In solidarity with migrants and refugees around the world, let us hold hands and pray to the Lady of the Journey.

“Hail Mary”

Final Prayer

All: Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom, together with migrants and refugees and with all who dwell on the peripheries. Let us learn how beautiful it is to live together as brothers and sisters. Inspire in us, Lord, the desire to give all we have and possess, to give our lives in service of the poor and suffering. Lord, let us build life, spread your kingdom, put up tents in the midst of our communities and show them the gift that is your saving grace. Make us, Lord, humble in your presence. Let us look and remember that, in giving your life on the cross, you brought about new life. Life that grows like a seed in fertile soil.

Final Song

“And They’ll Know we are Christians by our Love (We are One in the Spirit)”



Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization serving refugees and other forcibly displaced people. JRS's mission is to accompany, serve, and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future. Founded as a work of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1980, JRS today works in 59 countries worldwide to meet the educational, health, and social needs of more than one million refugees.

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