



SHARING THE JOURNEY

SUGGESTED SETTING: Table with a candle and loaf of Bread

ALL (read while lighting the candle): To combat the culture of indifference in the world today we must see through the eyes of others. "Not just to see but to look. Not just to hear but to listen. Not just to meet and pass by, but to stop. And don't just say 'what a shame, poor people,' but allow ourselves to be moved by pity." - Pope Francis

LEADER: God of movement, God of stillness.....

ALL: Calm our hearts so we may recognize your presence with us now.

LEADER: Help us to realize that as followers of Jesus and Saint Francis, we are together on a journey.

ALL: We are together on a journey.

SONG: Pan de Vida – By Bob Hurd (YouTube)

CHORUS:

Pan de Vida, cuerpo del Señor,
cup of blessing, blood of Christ the Lord.
At this table the last shall be first.
Poder es server, porque Dios es amor.

We are the dwelling of God,
fragile and wounded and weak.
We are the body of Christ,
called to be the compassion of God. **CHORUS**

You call me teacher and Lord;
I, who have washed your feet.

So you must do as I do,
so the greatest must become the least. **CHORUS**

There is no Jew or Greek;
there is no slave or free;
there is no woman or man
only heirs of the promise of God. **CHORUS**

LEADER:

Let us remember our own individual heritage (pause),let us remember the heritage of the local community in which we live (pause), let us remember the parish communities we have experienced over the years (pause),Let us remember the heritage of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate, who responded to the gospel's call to welcome the stranger by ministering to immigrants and serving the most vulnerable of God's people (pause).....and who call us to do the same.

READER 1: Leviticus 19: 33-35

When aliens settle with you in your land, you shall not oppress them. They shall be treated as native-born among you, and you shall love them as people like yourselves, because you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

"Migrants trust that they will encounter acceptance, solidarity, and help, that they will meet people who will sympathize with the distress and tragedy experienced by others, recognize the values and resources the latter have to offer, and are open to sharing humanly and materially with the needy and disadvantaged." Pope Francis

REFLECT:

What is your Christian and Franciscan response to the current immigrant issue?

How do you find ways to love, accept and honor immigrants as people like yourself?

LEADER: Let us pray –

ALL: 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 of different cultures and nations. 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.

(An Alien's Prayer – Edward Hays)

READER 2:

Catholic concern for migrants and refugees has a strong foundation in Scripture. The Old and New testament poignantly depict Moses and the Jewish people in exile and the Holy Family as refugees. The obstacle to a hearty welcome (fear of the stranger, prejudice, competition, sense of loss) also find counterparts in the parables of Jesus and in His capacity to break through the taboos and restrictions of his contemporaries, especially in regard to tax collectors, sinners, Samaritans, and Gentiles. These scriptural teachings call us to a deeper compassion for the plight of the immigrants, migrants, and refugees. The faithful of the United States – a land so blessed and whose tradition is steeped in the immigrant experience – have special responsibility to be a welcoming people. In the pastoral letter, *Stranger no Longer: A Journey of Hope*, the bishops remind us that as Catholics, we have an obligation to uphold this tradition of our faith.

REFLECT:

How do we put aside any past prejudices/negative opinions to open our hearts to the current problem of immigration?

How do we uphold the traditions of our faith?

SHARE and DISCUSS:

INTERCESSIONS:

RESPONSE: Open our heart and hear our prayer

For all who immigrate to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families, may they find in this country a place where they may live safely, in peace, and with dignity. **RESPONSE**

That United States citizens, mindful of their God-given blessings of life and freedom, may have the willingness to share the same blessings with those who have immigrated from other countries. **RESPONSE**

For immigrants throughout the world, whether by choice or as a result of violence or disaster, may they find a welcome extended by those into whose communities they come to live.

RESPONSE

For employers and corporations, that they choose the dignity and worth of each human person over profit and power and fear. **RESPONSE**

For our parish community, that we may continue to serve those without homes and resources, and that we speak out for just immigration reform. **RESPONSE**

That we put aside our differences and judgements to be a more Christian people with open and loving hearts. **RESPONSE**

LEADER – Let us pray

ALL: For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothe me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me....The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me. Matt. 25: 34-40

SONG: One Spirit, One Church – By Kevin Kell (YouTube)

CHORUS:

We are a pilgrim people,
we are the church of God.
A family of believers,
disciples of the Lord.
United in one spirit,
ignited by the fire.
Still burning through the ages,
still present in our lives.

Come Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
and in our hearts take up thy rest;
come with thy grace and heavenly aid
to fill our hearts which thou hast made. **Chorus**

O Comforter, to thee we cry,
thou gift of God sent from on high.
Thou font of life and fire of love,

the soul's anointing from above. **CHORUS**

SUGGESTION – While listening to the song, Somos el Cuerpo do Christo/We Are the Body of Christ, by Jaime Cortez on You Tube.....Have each person come forward to break off a piece of bread and give it to another participant as an act of sharing/feeding our neighbor.....or this could be done during the song, One Spirit, One Church.