

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DREAM SABBATH PRAYER SERVICE

What is the **DREAM Act**? It is a bill initiated by Senator Richard Durbin to protect students living in fear of deportation. The bill, **Development, Relief & Education for Alien Minors (DREAM)** gives undocumented students a chance to earn legal status if they came here as children, are long-term U.S. residents, have good moral character, and complete two years of college or military service in good standing. The DREAM Act was just five votes short of passage in the U.S. Senate in December 2010.

We invite you to participate in **DREAM Sabbath 2011**. This prayer service is prepared by the Gospel Justice Committee as a way to cooperate with the **Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC)** in our partnership committed to enacting fair and human immigration reform. With diverse faith communities across the country, we will lift up prayers, readings, reflection as a way to increase our understanding of the circumstances DREAM students face in order to build support for the DREAM Act.

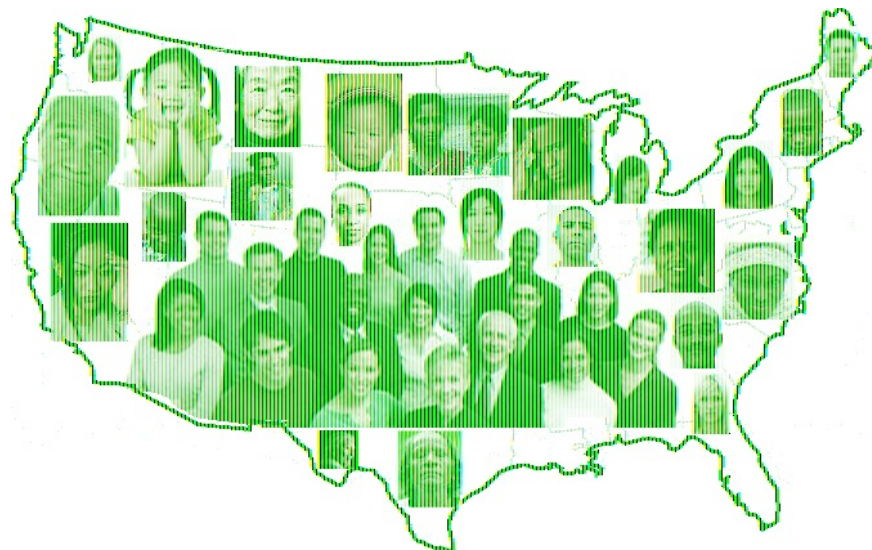
The U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops supports the DREAM Act. Cardinal Theodore McCormick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, said it would be to the United States' detriment to forsake DREAM Act students. He asked, "Why would we not want to embrace their dedication, energy, talents and courage, characteristics that have made our nation great?"

The following is some background to explain the need to support the DREAM Act. Each year approximately 65,000 high school graduates are prevented from attending college or from working legally due to their undocumented immigration status. Our immigration law currently has no mechanism to consider their special circumstances, and even if they leave the U.S. in an effort to enter legally, they are barred from re-entry for up to 10 years since they have been here in an undocumented status.

The DREAM Act would correct this inequity by allowing upstanding high school graduates who were brought to the United States as children years ago to obtain a temporary visa so they could attend school, travel, and work legally. After 10 years they could apply for a green card (lawful permanent residency), and eventually apply for citizenship. To qualify for the temporary visa, students would have to prove they are under 30 years old; were brought to the United States before they were 16; have been here for at least five years; have graduated from High School; and have a criminal-free record and good moral conduct. Then, they would have to complete two years of college, trade school, or military service to then adjust their status to lawful permanent residency and pursue a pathway to citizenship.

Across the country people of many denominations will be attending services, having ceremonies, listening to the witness of DREAM students and praying for the reform necessary. **This activity has been designated DREAM Sabbath 2011 , September 16<sup>th</sup> - October 9<sup>th</sup>**. The Gospel Justice Committee invites all members to offer the enclosed prayer service on a day and time that fits their schedule. We encourage everyone to help make others aware of the immigration reform needed, for students as well as for all immigrants searching for a better life.

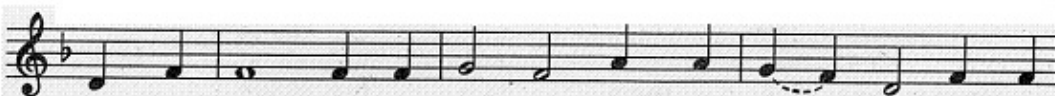
# DREAM SABBATH PRAYER SERVICE, OCTOBER, 2011



## GOD OF THE HUNGRY



1. God of all the hun - gry mil - ions, God who suf - ers
2. God who trav - els with the strang - er, greet - ed by our
3. Show us Christ in one an - oth - er. make us ser - vants



1. with the poor, still our greed keeps us from shar - ing with the
2. ap - a - thy, teach us to em - brace all peo - ple; all can
3. strong and true; Give us all your love of jus - tice, so we



1. hun - gry at our door. All who thirst will thirst no long - er
2. live with dig - ni - ty. You have bade us clothe the na - ked
3. do what you would do. Let us call all peo - ple ho - ly



1. when we do as you would do. May we care for all your
2. bring - ing hope in all we do. May we wel - come all your
3. let us pledge our lives a - new; Make us one with all the



1. peo - ple; help us know that they are you.
2. peo - ple; help us know that they are you.
3. low - ly, let us all be one in you.

*Reflect on the short scripture passage for a minute, and then continue with the psalm/canticle.*

[1] Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body. *Hebrews 13:1-2*

*Ps 68, Exodus 22 (compiled)*

Sing to God, praise his name; exalt the rider of the clouds.

— Rejoice before him whose name is the LORD. Father of the fatherless, defender of widows.

For the Lord God says, “Do not oppress or afflict a resident alien, for you were once aliens residing in the land of Egypt.

— Do not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely listen to their cry.”

God in his holy abode, God gives a home to the forsaken, sets prisoners free and gives them joy.

— Praise the Lord; praise God our savior! For each day he carries us in his arms. Our God is a God who saves!

Glory to the Father....

[2] “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” *Luke 6:36-38*

*Ps 72 (adapted)*

O God, may you govern your people with justice, your oppressed with right judgment,

— defending the oppressed among the people and saving the children of the poor.

May you rule from sea to sea, from the river to the ends of the earth.

— For you rescue the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help.

You show pity to the needy and the poor and save the lives of the poor.

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—From extortion and violence you redeem them, for precious is their blood in your sight.

May your name be praised forever; blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful deeds.

—Blessed be your glorious name forever; Let the whole earth be filled with your glory. Amen, amen!

Glory to the Father...

[3] What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. *James 2:14-17*

#### *Canticle 1 John 4:16-21*

We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

—In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.

—If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother or sister, that person is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

This is the commandment we have from God: whoever loves God must also love his brother and sister.

—Glory to the Father...

#### *Reading*

Phil. 2: 1-13 If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,

each looking out not for his own interests, but also everyone for those of others. p4

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

*Ponder or, if the group praying wishes, take a few moments to discuss the reading:*

*“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”*

*Christ shared our human condition to the point of suffering and death.*

*In what ways do we share the condition of migrants and exiles? In what way can we look to their interests? How can we show we share the mind of Christ?*

*Magnificat antiphon:* Whatsoever you do to the least of My people, you do to Me.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

— For God has looked upon this handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God’s name.

— God’s mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

The Lord has shown a mighty arm, dispersing the arrogant of mind and heart.

— God has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry have been filled with good things; the rich have gone away empty.

— God has helped servant Israel, remembering mercy,

according to the promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

— Glory to the Father...

*Antiphon:* Whatsoever you do to the least of My people, you do to Me

## Petitions:

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God of the human family, fill us Your children with hearts of love and compassion, we pray: LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Open our eyes, Lord to see You in the stranger, the immigrant, those persecuted and left defenseless, we pray: LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Pour out the light of Wisdom on those in public offices to recognize the Truth that all people are one in God's family, we pray: LORD OUR PRAYER.

Move us, Lord, to support and defend all who suffer persecution in our country because they have migrated here, we pray: LORD OUR PRAYER.

With hospitality, help us to welcome You, Lord, in the strangers in our midst, we pray: LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.

*Spontaneous petitions, if desired...*

Our Father.....

### *Prayer for Immigrants*

God of the journey, God of the traveler, We pray for those who leave their homes in search of new beginnings and possibilities, may they know your presence with them.

We pray that those who seek to make a home in this country may find us welcoming and willing to help them find a path toward citizenship.

We pray that our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation may find the wisdom and courage to enact new policies that do justice for our country and for those who would immigrate here.

We pray for those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination against the undocumented, that they may be touched with your divine compassion.

We pray in Jesus' name Amen. *(From the Archdiocese of Chicago)*

