

Catholics say:



Stop the Inhumanity!

LEADER: We gather here today in the presence of our God of infinite love and compassion. We believe our God calls us to bear witness to the dignity of every human person and to hold our elected representatives accountable for the atrocities perpetuated on our brothers and sisters—immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers—mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles—and children, frightened, alone, hungry and cold. The faith community has decried the inhumane treatment at our southern border. We must not—we will not—let this continue. Let us pray in solidarity with the Catholic organizations who are gathering on the Capitol Lawn tomorrow, Thursday, July 18 at 10:00 a.m., calling for an end to the inhumane treatment of immigrant and refugee children and families by the U.S. government. (Overcrowding of families observed by OIG June 10, 2019, at Border Patrol’s McAllen, TX.)



READING 1: Leviticus 19:33-34 and 24:22 – When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Silent Pause:

Song: REFRAIN: *The Lord hears the Cry of the Poor. Blessed be the Lord.*

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor. REF.
2. *Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas;
And to hearts broken, God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor. REF.*

READING 2: A 12-year-old from Ecuador interviewed over the past few weeks by a group of attorneys at the U.S. Border Patrol facilities in El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley talked about mistreatment by officers.

“The officers took everything from us except our documents. They even took our shoelaces. There was a mother in our group traveling with a very young baby. The officers took her diapers, baby formula, and nearly everything else she had and threw it away. The water here is horrible. It tastes like chlorine. The officials here are very bad to us. During the night when we’re trying to sleep, they come in and wake us up, yelling and scaring us. The guards who are yelling don’t speak much Spanish, so it’s hard to understand what they’re saying. Every night my sisters keep asking me, ‘When will our mommy come to get us?’ I don’t know what to tell them. It’s very hard for all of us to be here.”

Silent Pause:

Song: REFRAIN: *The Lord hears the Cry of the Poor. Blessed be the Lord.*

3. Ev’ry spirit crushed, God will save; will be ransom for their lives;
Will be safe shelter for their fears, and will hear the cry of the poor. REF
4. We proclaim your greatness, O God, your praise ever in our mouth;
Ev’ry face brightened in your light, for you hear the cry of the poor. REF

Prayers of Petition:

1. **For those who will gather on the Capitol Lawn [tomorrow] calling for an end to the inhumane treatment of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, especially children. We cry out,** ALL: Stop the inhumanity
2. **For the immigrants and asylum seekers at our southern border forced to flee their countries because of fear, violence, corruption and poverty, we cry out,** ALL: Stop the inhumanity.
3. **For the president, his staff and Cabinet, for members of Congress and all who are complicit in inflicting suffering and harm on immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees that they repent, end the torture and stop the violence, we cry out.** ALL: Stop the inhumanity.

4. **For all those living in filthy, inhumane conditions in U.S. detention centers, especially children who have been taken from their families, we cry out. ALL: Stop the inhumanity.**
5. **For those migrant sisters, brothers, children who have died in our rivers, deserts and detention centers, we cry out. ALL: Stop the Inhumanity.**

Prayer: And so we pray:

God, stir-up our hearts. Give us courage to rise up and stop this terrible suffering. Give us the strength, as individuals, groups, parishes, communities and as a society to put an end to unjust immigration policies.

Give hope to our suffering brothers and sisters, redeem us from our hesitancy to act, and help our country to repent of its violence and inhumanity.

LEADER: (Sing)

Lord, have mercy. ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. ALL: Lord, have mercy.