



## Dehonian Prayer of Solidarity with Venezuelans United Nations World Refugee Day



*"We left everything in Venezuela.  
We don't have a place to live or sleep and have nothing to eat."  
(Nayebis Carolina Figuera, a 34-year-old from Venezuela who fled to neighboring Brazil)*

### BACKGROUND

*"Migration today is not a phenomenon limited to some areas of the planet. It affects all continents and is growing into a tragic situation of global proportions. We are acutely and painfully aware of the economic woes forcing thousands of Venezuelans to flee their crisis-gripped country. They are arriving in neighboring countries and are families with children, pregnant women, elderly people and people with disabilities. Often obliged to take irregular routes to reach safety, they fall prey to smugglers, traffickers and irregular armed groups. As more and more families arrive with fewer and fewer resources, they are in immediate need of protection, shelter, food and medicine. Impoverished, vulnerable families are targeted by traffickers who promise to provide education and opportunity only to exploit them through forced labor, sexual exploitation, enslavement, or organ theft.*

*The time is NOW to show that we are members of the global public that stands with refugees."*

---

### GATHERING PRAYER

Holy and merciful God, You have created us all in your image,  
We exist because of the radical welcome that You granted each one of us at birth,  
You have created us as refugees, asylum seekers and migrants,  
You have called us to be your hands and feet in the world,  
to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked and set the captives free,  
God, hear our prayer for peace, for justice, for community,  
hear our prayer for your will on earth to be as it is in heaven.  
Be with us now, God, empower us, guide us, sustain us and glorify us in your name.  
*Amen.*

## We Are Many Parts / Muchos Miembros Hay

Refrain / Estribillo

<p>We are man - y parts, <i>Mu-chos miem-bros hay</i></p> <p>and the gifts we have <i>nues-tros do - nes son</i></p> <p>May the Spir-it of love <i>Que el Es - pí - ri - tu de Dios</i></p> <p>one, the love that we share, <i>com - par - tien - do el do - lor,</i></p> <p>spair, <i>mor,</i></p>	<p>we are all one bod - y, <i>en un so - lo cuer - po;</i></p> <p>we are giv - en to share. <i>pa - ra dar y ser - vir.</i></p> <p>make us one in - deed; <i>nos u - na en su a - mor;</i></p> <p>one, our hope in de - <i>com - ba - tien - do el te -</i></p> <p>one, the cross that we bear. <i>com - pla - cien - do al Se - ñor.</i></p>
---	---

Verses / Estrofas

<p>1. God of all, we look to you, 2. So my pain is pain for you, 3. All you seek - ers, great and small,</p> <p>1. <i>Oh Se - ñor, que - re - mos ser</i> 2. <i>Mi do - lor te due - le a ti;</i> 3. <i>Qui - nes bus - can de ver - dad</i></p>	<p>We would be your In your joy is Seek the great - est Ser - vi - do - res Si te go - zas, Su ma - yor fe -</p> <p style="text-align: right;">D.C.</p> <p>ser - vants true, my joy, too; gift of all; <i>por do - quier;</i> <i>soy fe - liz;</i> <i>li - ci - dad:</i></p> <p>Let us be your love to all the world. All is brought to - geth - er in the Lord. If you love, then you will know the Lord. <i>Ya la hu - ma - ni - dad lle - var tu a - mor.</i> <i>To - do se u - ne en tor - no al Se - ñor.</i> <i>A - men y co - no - ce - rán a Dios.</i></p>
--	--

Text: 1 Corinthians 12, 13; Marty Haugen, b.1950; tr. by Santiago Fernández, b.1971  
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950

### PRAYER OF REPARATION

Lord Jesus,  
through your Incarnation  
you united yourself with us.  
Send us your Spirit  
that we may live for others as you did.

May we go wherever people long  
to hear your word of love:  
in the marketplace,  
on the streets of the world,  
and wherever  
they no longer hope for justice.

In this way,  
may we follow our Founder's lead:  
proclaiming the boundless riches of your love,  
building a world fit for human dwelling and bringing  
Your hope to all we meet.

Amen *(Reparation: Week III: Wednesday  
"THIS DAY OF GOD")*



## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:35-45

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, **whatever you did for one of these least of mine, you did for me.**’

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’



*“Rumichaca, border of Colombia with Ecuador. Laila , three years old sitting on the shoulders of her father Jose. Jose is a fisherman from Venezuela, now travelling with his wife and two daughters to Quito”. © UNICEF/Santiago Arcos*

## Review “Venezuelan Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan”



### PERSONAL/COMMUNAL REFLECTION:

*(Let us pause for a few moments and ask ourselves...)*

- \* Share an experience of welcoming a newcomer or of you being one who has been welcomed into a different cultural reality.
- \* How can you/we be in solidarity with what is happening in Venezuela?
- \* What is the request that God is asking of you/us at this moment?

**PRAYER OF PETITION:** Response: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For an end to the violence and poverty that displaces so many people from their homes and homelands, we pray. **R**

For migrant workers that they may labour and live in safe and just conditions, we pray. **R**

For an end to human trafficking, that the dignity of all God's children will be acknowledged and protected, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For the families and children of migrant workers that they be reunited, we pray. **R**

For our law-makers that they establish and enforce laws that protect the rights and dignity of everyone, especially those most vulnerable in our country, we pray. **R**

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

For our community and pastoral ministries especially our parishes that we continue to serve those without homes and resources and speak out for just immigration reform, we pray. **R**

## OUR FATHER

### CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious loving God,

We pray for your children, all over the world, displaced by human disaster.

We hear the cries of the suffering; we see the violence in our midst.

You sent your Son to be the refuge of people on the move.

We ask you to grant all refugees peace, protection, comfort and hope.

Help us to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants and refugees.

Bring us together as one family at the banquet table of your love. *Amen.*

### SOLIDARITY OF ACTION

- \* Pray for one refugee whom you have encountered
- \* Learn about refugee services in your community
- \* Read article from *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: "Men were forced to work on Wisconsin farms as part of human-trafficking scheme" [Click Here](#)
- \* Take part in the #stepwithrefugees Global Challenge. [Click to pledge your support](#)

