



Liturgical Celebration

112TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

«Even Just One of These Children»

(cf. Mt 18,10)



Photo: Jairo Meraz Flores

LITURGICAL SETTING

Dear brothers and sisters, year after year, the World Day of Migrants and Refugees invites us to focus our attention on different aspects of the situations experienced by migrants and refugees. For this 112th observance, the theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV — “Even one of these children” — calls upon us to pay attention to minors directly affected by the experience of migration, flight, and the painful reality of deportation; a reality that sometimes forces them back into situations of vulnerability and, at other times, separates them from their families. The Church calls us to focus on the children and adolescents living through the experiences of being migrants, refugees, and deportees. The Pope invites us to recall the Lord’s promise that whoever “welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me” (Mk 9:37). Let us participate actively in our liturgical celebration.

INTRODUCTORY RITES



Greeting

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.



Penitential Act

You who help us overcome our indifference, Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

You who grant us a heart of mercy to feel compassion in the face
of suffering, Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.

You who reveal Yourself in the little ones, Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.



Glory



Collect

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Monition to the First Reading

Today, the prophet Ezekiel reminds us that the ways of the Lord are upright and just. God does not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he repent, reflect, and practice justice so that he may live.



First Reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (Ezek. 18:25-28)

Thus says the LORD: You say, "The LORD'S way is not fair!" Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair? When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

(Ps. 25: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior. R.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your love are from of old.
The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not;
in your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD. R.

Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and teaches the humble his way. R.

Monition to the Second Reading

Saint Paul invites us to have the same sentiments of humility and self-giving as Christ Jesus, who, being God, emptied Himself out of love for us. May this reading teach us to live in unity, free from selfish ambition, and in service to others.



Second Reading

(PHIL. 2:1-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: 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 for those of others. Have in you the same attitude that is also 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 the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Monition to the Gospel

In the parable of the two sons, Jesus confronts us with an uncomfortable truth: the value of actions over fine words. Sinners who repent enter the Kingdom of Heaven before those who say “yes” but do not act.



Gospel Acclamation (JN. 10:27)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;

I know them, and they follow me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



Gospel (MT. 21:28-32)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: “What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ He said in reply, ‘I will not,’ but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did his father’s will?” They answered, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Homily



Profession of Faith



Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, that our Lord may be a source of comfort for all the defenseless and unprotected—especially children and adolescents who travel alone or with their families, or who are the children of migrants or refugees.

To each petition, we respond:

R. May we recognize You present in our midst.

1. For the Church, the pilgrim people of God, that through the witness of her ministry she may show that it is possible to tear down the borders erected by nations, races, and cultures. Let us pray.

R. May we recognize You present in our midst.

2. Father of Love, at this moment in history, we perceive more than ever the urgent need for Your peace and love to reign within each of us. May Your love inspire us to dialogue and solidarity, particularly when we engage with the migrants who knock at our door. Let us pray.

R. May we recognize You present in our midst.

3. For the countries that receive migrants—including children and adolescents—that they may assist them in the process of cultural integration and value them as individuals, respecting their faith, their culture, and their dignity as children of God. Let us pray.

R. May we recognize You present in our midst.

4. For the young people who must face the harsh reality of migration at an early stage of their lives, that they may find people, communities, and families with whom they feel accompanied, protected, and integrated. Let us pray.

R. May we recognize You present in our midst.

5. For those who withdraw into selfishness, failing to recognize the migrants as persons with dignity and rights, that the Lord may grant them the grace to open themselves to recognize them as brothers and sisters. Let us pray.

R. May we recognize You present in our midst.

6. For the families who have endured the painful experience of separation due to the deportation of one of their members, that the Lord may grant them the opportunity to reunite and continue their lives with dignity.

R. May we recognize You present in our midst.

7. For all migrants who have died along the way or while crossing borders—particularly those who have perished in this region and in this city—that the Lord may welcome them into His Kingdom of peace and justice. Let us pray.

R. May we recognize You present in our midst.

Almighty and eternal God, receive our petitions and guide our steps toward the unity of Your people, that we may recognize You present in migrants—especially in children and adolescents—and build a world where borders do not exist and love and peace abound. Through Jesus Christ our Lord...

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Procession of the Gifts

1. Flags of different countries

All cultures embody richness and values. These flags are symbols of our identities and our human values. We present them together, asking Almighty God to grant us the ability to build a world free from racism, exclusion, borders, and violence. These flags represent the diversity of our community.

2. Food Basket

This food basket symbolizes our solidarity as a faith community with those who are often ignored by society. These food items are a source of life that sustains and strengthens the migrants and their family.

3. Backpack

The backpack accompanies the migrants throughout their journey as a witness to their arduous trek. It carries sorrow, suffering, and memories, yet it is also filled with dreams and hopes of finding a life of dignity and peace. The migrants must travel light, unencumbered by anything that might prevent them from reaching their destination; may we, too—following the example of our migrant brothers and sisters—journey toward You unburdened by heavy baggage.

4. **White wooden crosses**

They symbolize faith, suffering, hope, and the memory of migrants who have died. By placing them beside the altar, we ask God to touch our hearts and consciences as we remember all the migrants and refugees who have perished—especially the children and adolescents—who lost their lives along migration routes.

5. **Toys**

These toys are symbols of the innocence, creativity, joy, and fellowship shared by children and adolescents. May we, like them, also find wonder in every blessing, friendship, and encounter.

6. **Family Photograph**

For families, photographs serve as a reminder of their identity, the bonds among members, and the affection they share, even when apart. A family photo is not merely paper and ink or a digital file; it is a reflection of love and shared stories. In times of hardship, a photograph acts as an 'oasis of peace' where the memory of those we love fills our hearts with hope.

7. **Bread and wine**

They symbolize our constant dedication and effort in working for a dignified life. Through the bread and wine, Jesus becomes present among us. It is through the Eucharist — a miracle wrought out of love — that Jesus allows us to encounter Him and receive Him into our hearts. May we, too, offer our lives as a sign of unity and solidarity with our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters.



Prayer Over the Offerings

Grant us, O merciful God,
that this our offering may find acceptance with you
and that through it the wellspring of all blessing
may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.



Preface

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere
to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty
and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

He reminds us that,
when we welcome a child in His name,
we welcome Him.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,
we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...



Eucharistic Prayer

COMMUNION RITE



Lord's Prayer



Sign of Peace



Fraction of the Bread



Communion



Prayer After Communion

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord,
restore us in mind and body,
that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ,
to whose suffering we are united
whenever we proclaim his Death. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE



Blessing

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

May God, the Father of goodness,
help us to recognize His presence
in our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters
— especially in the children —
and grant us the ability to form communities
where the rights and dignity of all are respected.

R. Amen.

May almighty God bless you,
The Father, and the Son †, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.



Dismissal

In the joy of knowing ourselves to be disciples of Jesus,
called to protect the dignity of every person,
go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.



Prayer for Migrant and Refugee Children and Adolescents

Loving Father,
in your infinite compassion,
we ask for your divine protection for migrant
and refugee children and adolescents,
who are often alone and afraid on migration routes.

Bring comfort to those who have witnessed violence and abuse,
and to those who have lost their parents, families, friends, and
homes due to war, persecution, or natural disasters.
Reunite those who have been separated with their families and
loved ones.

Comfort them in their sorrow,
and grant us the grace to become witnesses of your mercy
to these young people and their families.

Open our hearts to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate
these children in need, and may we see in them your own migrant
Son. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

R. Amen.

Homiletical Notes

On this Sunday, as the Church observes the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the Word of God reminds us that conversion is an essential requirement for the Church to fulfill Jesus's desire to make the reign of God present on earth.

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel reminds us that “when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they save their lives. If they reflect and turn away from the offenses they have committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.” For his part, Saint Paul invites the Christian community of Philippi to remain united in the same love, sharing the same mindset as Christ and seeking the interests of others. In the Gospel, Saint Matthew reminds us that to share in the kingdom of God, we must believe in Jesus, change our way of acting, and follow the path of justice.

In his message for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees, titled “Even One of These Children,” Pope Leo invites us not to remain indifferent to the hardships faced by migrant minors: “Every year, millions of children and adolescents are forced to leave their homelands due to war, poverty, violence, environmental disasters, and other tragedies; and, regrettably, their numbers continue to rise.”

In his message, the Pope extends concrete invitations to individuals, ecclesial communities, various religious groups, and public and private institutions.

He invites us as individuals to open our eyes and hearts to listen deeply to the stories, fears, and dreams of migrant minors, overcoming indifference. We must recognize the dignity of these children and adolescents—prior to their status as “migrants”—and protect their fundamental rights: the right to life, to education, to family life, and to a standard of living that allows them to grow and develop fully in physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social terms.

We, as members of the Church, are invited to make hospitality a constant pastoral practice in our communities. Faith communities are called to foster encounters that prevent rejection and xenophobia. Protecting the most vulnerable must transcend all manner of denominational boundaries and ideologies.

Public and private institutions are also invited to promote coexistence and solidarity among people of different races, cultures, languages, social classes, and religions, in order to prevent the isolation and rejection that primarily affect the children of migrants, refugees, and deportees.

To be faithful to Jesus's desire, we must be willing to obey Him and change our way of thinking and acting. It is urgent that we shift our perspective and understand that we are all invited to build a better world — one that guarantees protection, welcome, and opportunities for everyone, especially children and adolescents, to live with dignity.



Some Relevant Phases from the Message of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV for the 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Even Just One of These Children

(CF. MT 18,10)



Fotografia: Vatican Media

- ☉ Minors are the most vulnerable group within the global movements of migration. They are concrete faces, who have unique stories, and call on our conscience.
- ☉ Every year, millions of children and adolescents are forced to leave their homeland because of war, poverty, violence, environmental disasters and other tragedies. Sadly, their number continues to grow.
- ☉ The suffering of migrant children does not end with their relocation. There are very young children who have lost parents, brothers, sisters and friends, and who have witnessed unspeakable acts of violence. Others, separated from their families for long periods, try to reunite with them while enduring the anguish of separation.

- ☸ To this already appalling situation are added further tragedies: deaths along migration routes, trafficking and exploitation, the recruitment of minors for use in armed conflicts, sexual violence, forced marriages, and the atrocities they have suffered or witnessed during their travels. Their dignity is trampled upon in countless ways.
 - ☸ Yet, amid so much darkness, the light of solidarity is not lacking. Individuals, families, civil institutions and ecclesial communities choose not to pass by on the other side (cf. Lk 10:29-37) ... They bear witness through their commitment that love can overcome indifference.
 - ☸ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me” (Mt 18:5). It is not a question of numbers or statistics. The Gospel invites us not to calculate: even one. Every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity. Each is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26); each is a presence of the Lord.
 - ☸ Even just one of these children calls us, in the life of the Church, to transform welcoming from an abstract concept into a stable pastoral practice.
 - ☸ Christian communities should be encouraged to promote the integration of refugees and migrants and to value them as full members of the ecclesial family, fostering new educational and spiritual paths, including personalized ones, which go beyond the mentality of mere assistance.
 - ☸ An urgent change of perspective is needed: the focus of the debate must shift from the mere management of migration to the full and immediate protection of human rights, adopting “a coordinated, supportive and effective response, capable of guaranteeing protection, welcome and genuine opportunities for integration to those who migrate”.
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Prayer to Saint John Baptist Scalabrini

Father to Migrants

O Saint John Baptist Scalabrini,
with the heart of a bishop
and the zeal of an apostle
you gave yourself
completely to all.

You listened to the cries of
migrants,
spoke in their name,
defended their rights.

You found sustenance in the
Eucharist solace
in the cross of Jesus,
comfort in Mary,
Mother of the Church.

Through your intercession
May God, who is Father,
Son and Holy Spirit
grant peace to all humanity,
protect those
who cross seas and borders
sustained by hope,
bless us and our loved ones
and grant us the grace
that we entrust
to your fatherly love.

Amen



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Photo: : Jairo Meraz Flores

- The liturgical prayers were taken from https://www.liturgies.net/Liturgies/Catholic/roman_missal/ordinarymass.htm#week26
- The liturgical readings were taken of the Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A taken from: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/092726.cfm>