

Catholic Teach-In on Child Migrant/Refugee Crisis and Its Causes



St. Anthony of Padua School

August 5, 2014

Goals of CDOI

- 1) To provide Americans an opportunity to listen and learn from local Catholics from Central America of their experiences of violence and impunity in their home countries**
- 2) To learn what the Catholic Church teaches on migration and seeking refugee**
- 3) To discern how one is being called to respond to this crisis**

Opening Prayer

Fr. John Restrepo, O.P.

St. Anthony of Padua Church Parish

Prayer for Those Who Migrate

Mary knew the weariness
Of the journey;
To Bethlehem, To Egypt,
Back to Nazareth.
She knew the weariness,
The fear, the longing for home,
The need to continue moving, moving,
The longing for journey's end,
the longing for at least
a semblance of a home.

To Mary we entrust
The mothers, the fathers, the children
who today are holy families
Migrating in hope, in fear, in longing,
for peace, for some security,
For something like a home.
May they find their journey's end
as we open ourselves to their stories,
their need, their spirits;
We ask for mercy
for all migrants
and for our communities
who are challenged to welcome them,
to give them hope for a new life.

--by Jane Deren, Education for Justice

Oración por quienes migran.

María sabía el cansancio
Del viaje;
A Belén, a Egipto,
De vuelta a Nazaret.
Ella sabía el cansancio,
El miedo, el anhelo de la casa,
La necesidad de seguir moviendo, moviendo,
El anhelo de la final del viaje,
el anhelo por al menos
una apariencia de un hogar.

A María le encomendamos
Las madres, los padres, los niños
que hoy son santas familias
Migrando en la esperanza, en el miedo, en anhelo,
por la paz, por un poco de seguridad,
Por algo parecido a un hogar.
Que puedan encontrar el final de su jornada
ya que nos abrimos a sus historias, sus necesidades, sus espíritus;
Pedimos misericordia
para todos los migrantes
y para nuestras comunidades
que son retados a darles la bienvenida,
para darles esperanza para una nueva vida.

-por Jane Deren, Educación para la justicia

Video

Vox Video: 14 facts that help explain America's child-migrant crisis

<http://www.vox.com/2014/6/16/5813406/explain-child-migrant-crisis-central-america-unaccompanied-children-immigrants-daca>

Different Categories of “Arriving Aliens” Who are Apprehended at the Border

Arriving Adults

- Most are returned or removed immediately or detained for processing (or prosecution)

Arriving families

- Subject to same limitations, but usually not detained
UNTIL RECENTLY

Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Apprehended at Border/TVIRA 2008

From Mexico and Canada:

- Almost always immediately returned unless can pass screening from Border Patrol officer

From Non-Contiguous Countries:

- 1) Screened and processed by Border Patrol and placed in “removal proceedings”
- 2) Within 72 hours placed in a shelter overseen by HHS/Office of Refugee Resettlement
- 3) Most children (85-90%) are placed with family sponsors within 30 days.



Church's Principles on Migration

- 1) Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland.
- 2) Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families.
- 3) Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders, but wealthier nations have a stronger obligation to accommodate migrant flows.
- 4) Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.
- 5) The human dignity and the human rights of undocumented immigrants should be respected.

U.S. Foreign Policy in Latin America

Monroe Doctrine (1823)

- Prevented European intervention in the Western Hemisphere

Roosevelt Corollary (1904)

- Allows US intervention to protect American interests abroad
- Banana plantations in Central America

War on Drugs (1971-today)

Northern Triangle

- **Agriculture export economies (coffee, bananas)**
- **Poverty, inequality and violence**
- **Hurricane Mitch (1998)**
- **Drug trade (2007- today)**

Personal Testimony



Juan and Jennifer Molina

Personal Testimony



Michael

Listening Sessions

- 1) Listening is an act of love and care. I will listen respectfully and constructively (i.e., no side conversations, no interruptions).
- 2) God frequently speaks through the unfamiliar and different. I will listen intently in order to fully understand a different point of view, realizing how this will help with my own evolving journey.
- 3) If asked to keep something confidential, I will honor the request. In conversations outside the group I won't attribute particular statements to particular individuals by name or identifying information without permission.
- 4) I will remember that we are in a Church setting, and that our purpose is to build understanding among members of the Body of Christ, and I will participate in a way that builds the Christian community.

GROUP PRAYER

See handout:

“I was a Stranger and You Welcomed me.”



CLOSING PRAYER

See last page of Prayer Service, bottom of page:
Closing Prayer



EVALUATIONS

- **Evaluations (on the back of listening guidelines)**
- **Please also sign advocacy letter-
your “P.S.” is the most important part**
- **Pick up info about P, B, & J at registration table**