



Lent.

a season of spiritual preparation



Scriptural reflections, linked as devotions with the suffering steps of refugees & immigrants.

Scripture: Joel 2:12-18. “Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly. . .”

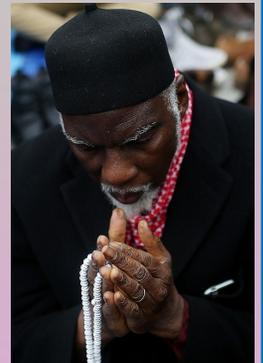


Call to Lenten Reflection: The familiar Lenten call to prayer and fasting has special urgency this Lent as we reel from the unprecedented U.S. context of “shock and awe” executive orders threatening, among others, immigrants, refugees, and Muslims. If in past Lents we have heard the call to repentance primarily on a personal level, we are reminded that the prophet Joel called together the people, with the nation plagued by an invasion of locusts. He called the assembly together to cry, “Spare, O Lord, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them!”

As we stand in solidarity with sisters and brothers under threat from our government, fasting involves more than fasting FROM food to cleanse ourselves spiritually, but fasting FOR our immigrant, refugee, and Muslim brothers and sisters. This fasting can take different forms according to each one’s capability: advocate regularly with legislators; attend rallies and marches; raise awareness of others and encourage them to act; form circles of rapid response to raids; offer sanctuary; engage in civil disobedience.

Whatever form of fasting we choose, it must be rooted in and sustained by personal and communal prayer, so we do not yield to hopelessness. For the people in Joel’s time, fasting and prayer resulted in a response from God: “Then the Lord was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.” May it be so for us.

For each Sunday in Lent, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition offers a resource that includes **scripture, reflection, a story, actions & resources, and prayer.** Together, as people of faith, let us rise to this year’s Lenten challenge!



Action/Resources: Resolve to take action each week in Lent to be in solidarity with sisters and brothers threatened by Executive Orders against immigrants, refugees, or Muslims. Suggestions for actions will be provided on each week’s resource.

Prayer: God, as we begin the season of Lent, we ask you to accept our repentance for our complicity in allowing neglect of civil and human rights. We pray that the minds and hearts of our elected leaders may turn from hostility toward immigrants, refugees, and Muslims, and toward compassion and justice. May we resist messages of fear and proclaim the reign of love. May our Lenten fasting and prayer strengthen our resolve to continue to work for justice and human rights despite the obstacles we encounter.



Devotion by Sister Marie Lucey, Franciscan Action Network

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