

## **A Prayer of Protection for Children Crossing the U.S./Mexico Border**

by Reverends Sarah Henkel and Jeniffer Rodriguez.

We pray...

For children from Central America who, seeking safety, make the dangerous journey to the U.S./Mexico border.

For parents who travel beside their children, for parents who must remain at home and for parents who have gone ahead.

For children being held in temporary Immigration and Customs Enforcement shelters across this country.

For Border Patrol and Immigration Officials that they would respond with compassion to the children in their care.

For the churches and humanitarian organizations, especially those in the border region of this country, that will respond with open doors.

For children who are reunited with family in the United States.

For children who now face deportation.

For children who return to the fear they tried to escape.

For the countries of Central America experiencing the crises of poverty and violence.

For the United States as we see the result of U.S. foreign policies that have destabilized Central America.

For the PC(USA) as we follow Jesus Christ who loved and honored children and who came to give abundant life to all.

Amen.

“Although unaccompanied children have been crossing the Southwest border for years, a surge in the last year has overloaded Border Patrol stations and detention facilities along the border, particularly in south Texas. Most of the children are from Central America, including Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. About 120 unaccompanied children are arriving each day, officials said. The number has tripled over the last five years and could soon reach 60,000 a year. That number could grow to 130,000 a year in 2015, according to Obama administration officials.” (Cindy Carcamo, 6/2/2014)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-ff-children-crossing-border-alone-20140602-story.html>