

Prayer for Unaccompanied Children

God of refuge, Holy One of blessing:

With tender care for the smallest and least of your children,

you bid disciples: let the children come, and do not forbid them.

You reminded your followers that the kingdom of God is formed and filled with “such as these,” and so we ask you to help us see them as You do:

these little ones who flee gang violence in cities
throughout Central America.

these vulnerable ones and their families, who cannot find food to
sustain or a safe place to take shelter.

these mothers and fathers, who have impoverished their own hope
in order to save their children’s future.

these, your little ones, who cry out to be covered
by Your sheltering wings, and who seek to see Your face
in the faces of those who meet them in the strange lands of
exile.

We pray for grace and courage as we seek to live up to our nation’s heritage
as a haven for the tired and poor, and huddled masses yearning to breathe
free.

We pray for generosity and creativity as we work with church and state to
find places of grace, safety, and hope for children and families who are
refugees.

We pray for all who would help: for communities of welcome, for volunteers
and visitors, for chaplains, social workers, judges and health care workers
who tend to the needs of frightened children and seek to balance urgent
necessity with strained resources.

We pray for a peaceful spirit as we work and serve among neighbors whose
fearfulness prevents generosity from flowering in human hearts.

O Child of Galilee, you who once, long ago
fled the violence of Herod,
received the generosity of strangers
found refuge with your family in a strange land
and returned home to show us the way:

once again, even now, in this hour of need:
show us the way of hospitality
fill us with your love
and bless all your children, whose home is in you,
with gratitude, true community, and grace. Amen.

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