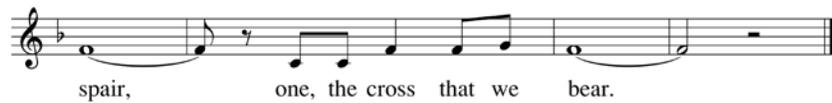
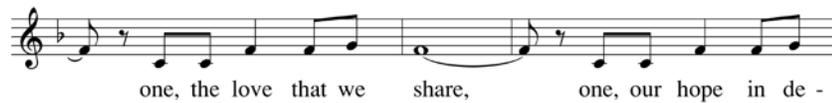


PRAYER FOR JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS

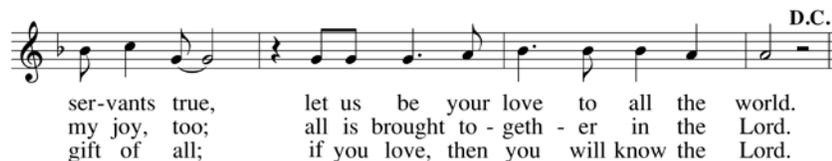


Hymn

We Are Many Parts



Verses



Text: 1 Corinthians 12, 13; Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1980, 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

Reading

Mark 12: 30-31

This is the first commandment...you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than this.

Reflection

*Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.
Chairman, Domestic Policy Committee
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

September 4, 2006

For the Catholic Church, immigration is not a political issue, but a fundamental human and moral issue. We bring to this discussion our faith, our moral principles and our long experience. Through the decades, immigrants have built our communities of faith and they are still bringing new life to our church. Immigrants are not numbers for us. They are our brothers and sisters; they are our "neighbors."

...Who is our neighbor is not dependent on where they were born or what documents they possess.

The immigration debate this Labor Day challenges us to consider again who we are as a nation, how our economy treats all workers, how we welcome the "strangers" among us. As Catholics, we should join this discussion and bring our belief in the sacredness of human life, the inherent dignity of the human person and the value of work. We cannot simply retreat behind walls at our borders or in our hearts and minds. As believers, we are called to build bridges between the native born and newcomer, between legitimate concerns about security and national traditions of welcome, from fear and frustration to hope and action for a better tomorrow.

An Alien's Prayer (from *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim* by E. Hayes)

Reader 1 I wear the mark of disapproval
 and your often unspoken words
 pierce straight to my soul,
 "Why didn't you stay where you belong?"

Reader 2 I feel the icy stare that says,
 "Keep your distance, you foreigner,
 with your different-colored skin
 and your strange-sounding speech,
 with your culture, food, religion, and clothing
 that are inferior to my won."
I'm an immigrant, a wetback, an alien,
an outsider operating a sweatshop sewing machine;
cheap labor, unwanted or dirty jobs
are mine for the taking;
I'm one of the countless invisible ones
who puts fresh vegetables on your plate
or stitches the fashion dresses and shirts
that you buy in your stylish stores.

Reader 3 As Moses of old once said,
 "Remember, you were once aliens
 in the land of Egypt,"
remember that your grandfathers and grandmothers
were immigrant unwantededs,
were exploited cheap labor,
second-class citizens,
uneducated and poor,
used and abused,
ignored or looked down upon
for their foreign religion, speech, and food.

Reader 4

The White House
first house of this great land,
says it well:
White is this land of promise;
no room for other colors or creeds.
Someday we'll paint the first house
in rainbow colors-
someday, not long from now.

All

**Dear God, help us to remember
that when we speak of immigrants and refugees,
we speak of Christ.
In the One who had no place to lay his head,
and in the least of his brothers and sisters,
you come to us again, a stranger seeking refuge.
We confess that we often turn away.**

Intercessions

Leader

For what shall we pray?

Response

Estribillo Ostinato



Ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor, ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor.
Lis - ten to your peo - ple. Ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor.

Letra y música: *Misa de las Américas*; © 1988, Bob Hurd. Obra publicada por OCP Publications. Derechos reservados.

Closing Prayer

All

Our God, you have given us in your word
the stories of persons who needed to leave
their homelands- Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Moses.

You have chosen that the life of Jesus be filled with
events of unplanned travel and flight from enemies.
You have shown us through the modeling of Jesus
how we are called to relate to persons from
different nations and cultures.

You have called us to be teachers of your word.
We ask you, our God, to open our minds and hearts
to challenge and invitation to model
your perfect example of love.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race



1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, We
2. God, let us be a bridge of care Con -
3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O
4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread With



come to - geth - er by your grace. God, let us be a
nect - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where. Help us con - front all
Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like
gifts of love and bro - ken bread, Where all find wel - come,



meet - ing ground Where hope and heal - ing love are found.
fear and hate And lust for pow'r that sep - a - rate.
steel, be strong To stand with those who suf - fer wrong.
grace at - tends, And en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

**May be sung as a two- or four-voice canon.*

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: TALLIS' CANON, LM: Thomas Tallis, c.1510-1583

All music used with permission.
Onelicense License #A-705960 *LisenSing U4457