

# Mary, Mother of Migrants

## Prayer Service (20 Minutes)

*helping youth encounter the world*

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Copies of *Mary, a Mother of Migrants* prayer and *Litany of Prayer to Mary*
- paper and pens in a small basket
- small votive candles for all participants
- Prayer space ideas: Statue or picture of Mary, multicultural cloth, candles, bible
- Suggested music:
  - a version of the *Magnificat* that the group can sing together such as “My Soul Rejoices in My God” by Gary Ault, Mike Balhoff, Buddy Ceasar (OCP) or “My Soul Rejoices” by Jackie Francois from *Never Too Young* (OCP)
  - “I Say ‘Yes,’ My Lord/ Digo ‘Si,’ Señor” by Donna Peña from *Música para la Iglesia de Hoy* (OCP) or to listen to the song go to <http://www.ocp.org/songs/15553>

### PROCESS

*Prepare the prayer space. Have one central candle already lit. Set the votive candles on the prayer table around the statue or pictures of Mary. Assign the Scripture reader and readers for the Litany of Prayer to Mary beforehand. Split the group into an A side and a B side for this prayer.*

#### Leader:

Let us center ourselves in prayer by taking a few moments to breathe deeply and silently pray: “Jesus, we hunger for justice. Walk with us and feed us with your compassion.”

#### Opening Song:

*Consider singing a version of the Magnificat, or you can play “My Soul Rejoices” by Jackie Francois or some other appropriate song.*

#### Mary, Mother of Migrants:

*Lead participants in saying the prayer by guiding each group in saying their parts.*

#### Leader:

Let us pray...

**A:** Most holy Virgin Mary, on the roads of the world you accompany those who immigrate in search of work and sustenance.

**B:** You also knew exile. Look at us with compassion and bless those who receive us.

**A:** Protect those that need disperses and love gathers in the midst of their own sweat and the hard fatigues of life.

**B:** You, help of Christians, console the afflicted. Be the loving mother of those who by necessity live far from their land.

- A:** Be the mother of those who struggle anxiously for their needs without finding someone who understands their sufferings.
- B:** Revive their strength and lift their battered spirits with your voice of encouragement.
- All:** Comfort with mercy, aid with your mother's care, defend by your intercession.

**Amen.**

Prayer by Pope Pius XII  
From "Prayer Without Borders, Celebrating Global Wisdom,"  
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### **Holy Scripture:**

**Reading:** Matthew 2: 13-21

#### **Leader:**

The story of the holy family in exile has particular meaning for migrants and refugees throughout the world. Saint John Paul II referred to the Blessed Mother as the "mother of migrants". Shrines to Mary throughout Latin America are often filled with notes asking for her intercession in the travels of migrants. Mary is often called "Mama Maria" in Africa, where the image of a mother who intercedes for her children resonates throughout the culture. In Asia, Mary is revered for her qualities as a compassionate mother of mercy.

In solidarity with the world's displaced people, this prayer time is devoted to asking for Mary's intercession for people who are on the move, seeking a safe and sustainable future.

*Pass around the basket of note paper and pens.*

In this small shrine to the "Mother of Migrants" what would you ask Mary to pray for? Write a small note, and when you are done, lay it on our prayer table at the feet of Mary and light one of the votive candles from the lit candle.

*Invite any sharing or comments that participants would like to make at this point. What have they written upon their sandals? What are they struggling with?*

### **Litany of Prayer to Mary:**

#### **Leader:**

Please join us in the *Litany of Prayer to Mary*. Our response is "Help us bear peace to the world."

#### **Reader 1:**

Mary, mother of the poor...  
Laboring mother at the bolted door...  
Mother who fled to safety with her child...  
Mother who saw the death of holy innocents...

**All:** Help us bear peace to the world.

#### **Leader:**

Bearer of the Christ...  
Bearer of immense responsibility...  
Bearer of the light of possibility...  
Bearer of the good news...

**Response:** Help us bear peace to the world.



**Leader:**

Women who said yes to the divine...  
Woman who pondered miracles in her heart...  
Woman arrayed with confidence...  
Women clothed in undying faith...

**Response:** Help us bear peace to the world.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:**

Lord Jesus, please receive the petitions that we have laid at the feet of your mother Mary, and hear too our questions, our struggles and our stories. You were carried by loving parents away from the threat of violence and into safety in a far-away place. You were too young to know the dangers of the way, the fear of flight. You knew only love and deliverance. Help us to learn from Mary the grace of accompaniment and care in the call of solidarity. Deliver all people who are on the move, who know fear, who seek safe and hopeful rest.  
Amen.

**Closing Song:**

"I Say 'Yes,' My Lord/*Digo 'Si,' Señor*" by Donna Peña



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**A:** Protect those that need disperses and love gathers in the midst of their own sweat and the hard fatigues of life.

**A:** Be the mother of those who struggle anxiously for their needs without finding someone who understands their sufferings.

**B:** Revive their strength and lift their battered spirits with your voice of encouragement.

**All:** Comfort with mercy, aid with your mother's care, defend by your intercession. Amen.

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### Litany of Prayer to Mary:

#### Reader 1:

Mary, mother of the poor...  
Laboring mother at the bolted door...  
Mother who fled to safety with her child...  
Mother who saw the death of holy innocents...

**All:** Help us bear peace to the world.

#### Reader 2:

Bearer of the Christ...  
Bearer of immense responsibility...  
Bearer of the light of possibility...  
Bearer of the good news...

**Response:** Help us bear peace to the world.

#### Reader 3:

Women who said yes to the divine...  
Woman who pondered miracles in her heart...  
Woman arrayed with confidence...  
Women clothed in undying faith...

**Response:** Help us bear peace to the world.