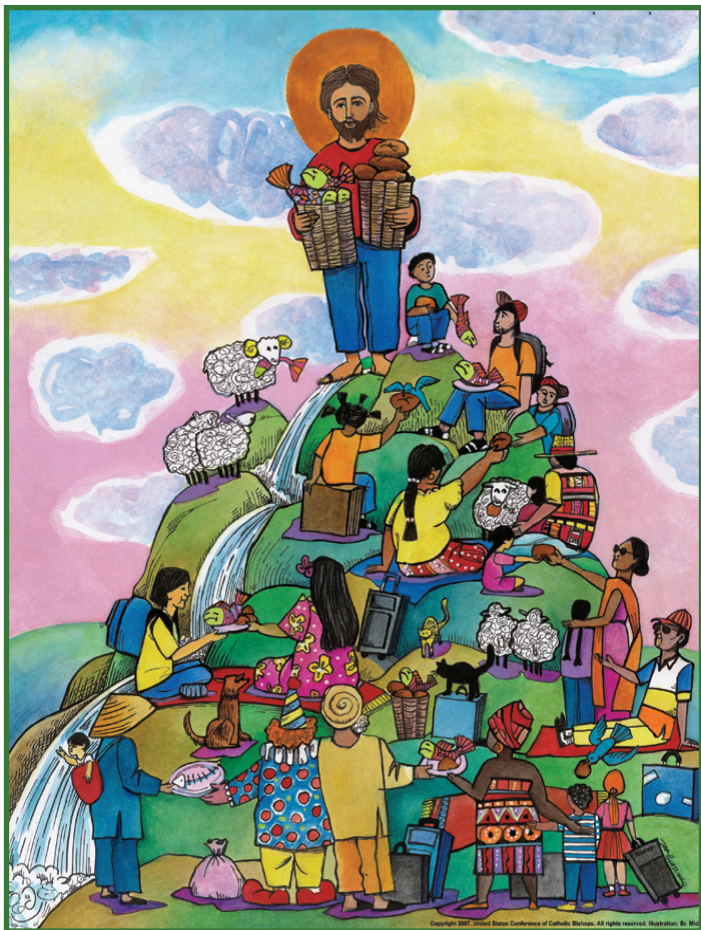




# NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK: A COLLECTED BOOK OF PRAYERS FOR MIGRANTS



# ST. JUAN DIEGO



# ST. JUAN DIEGO

## 1474-1548

### MEMORIAL: DECEMBER 9

On July 31, 2002, thousands of people joined Blessed John Paul II as he canonized Juan Diego, the first indigenous American saint, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe near Mexico City. The basilica is named for the apparition of the Blessed Mother that St. Juan Diego witnessed on the hill of Tepeyac in the sixteenth century.

After seeing apparitions of the Virgin of Guadalupe in 1531, the widower Juan Diego told local Bishop Juan de Zumarraga of Mary's visitations and her desire to have a church built where she appeared to him. In response to the bishop's request that he ask Our Lady for a sign, Juan Diego went back to Tepeyac on a December day and implored the Virgin Mary to provide something to convince the bishop of her wishes. The Virgin instructed him to gather flowers from the hillside, and even though roses in December are rare, he was able to fill his cloak with them. When St. Juan Diego returned to the bishop and opened his cloak, the fresh roses fell to the ground and miraculously revealed an imprint of Our Lady's image. A church was built on the site, and Juan Diego lived out his days nearby, helping others, praying, and doing penance.

At his canonization, Blessed John Paul II called the new saint "a simple, humble Indian" who accepted Christianity without giving up his identity as an Indian (St. Juan Diego's Canonization Mass, July 31, 2002).



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Migration And Refugee Services

# A PRAYER TO ST. JUAN DIEGO

St. Juan Diego, our first saint from the Americas, pray for us.  
We ask God the Father  
to pour forth the protecting love of his Spirit upon all migrants,  
taking special heed of those in need of support,  
who are isolated or separated from their native lands,  
whether by choice or necessity.

St. Juan Diego,  
intercede for those torn away from their families in pursuit of work  
that they may be reunited: husbands with wives and parents with children.

As the Virgin of Guadalupe promised you  
her compassionate prayers for the poor of Mexico,  
so now raise your merciful pleading  
for migrant women and children  
who are particularly vulnerable to the dangers of human trafficking.  
Seek for them protection from all evil.

May we, O Blessed Juan Diego, receive through your prayers,  
the grace to welcome with love to our country  
all migrants who seek a home in our parishes and communities.

And we ask that you join your prayers to those of Our Lady,  
who appeared to you as your Mother and as Mother of all in our land.  
May she wrap her mantle of protection around all migrant people.

We beg for her love, compassion, help, and protection on all immigrants  
who today experience great sufferings, sorrows, necessities, and misfortunes.

In the shared power of Christ  
and the union of the Holy Spirit,  
we say: Amen.



# ORACIÓN A SAN JUAN DIEGO

San Juan Diego, nuestro primer santo de las Américas, ruega por nosotros. Le pedimos a Dios, nuestro Padre que derrame la protección amorosa de su espíritu sobre todos los inmigrantes, poniendo especial atención en aquellos que necesitan ayuda, que están aislados o separados de sus tierras natales, sea por elección o por necesidad.

San Juan Diego,  
intercede por aquellos que han sido separados de sus familias en  
la búsqueda de trabajo,  
para que puedan volver a reunirse esposos con esposas, y padres con hijos.

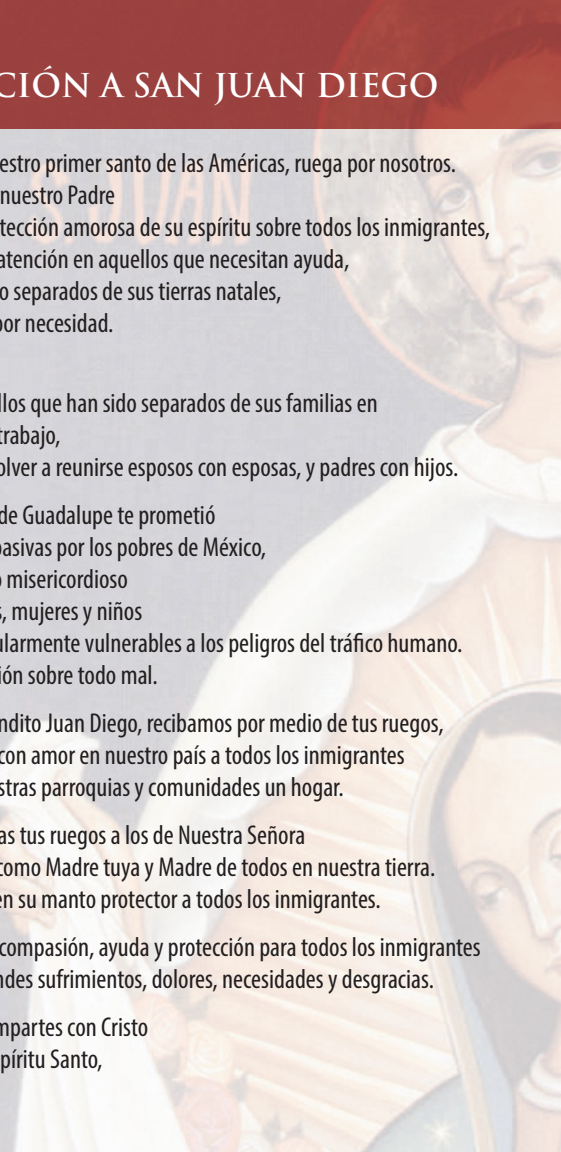
Así como la Virgen de Guadalupe te prometió  
sus oraciones compasivas por los pobres de México,  
ahora alza tu ruego misericordioso  
por los inmigrantes, mujeres y niños  
quienes son particularmente vulnerables a los peligros del tráfico humano.  
Búscales la protección sobre todo mal.

Que nosotros, O Bendito Juan Diego, recibamos por medio de tus ruegos,  
la gracia de recibir con amor en nuestro país a todos los inmigrantes  
que buscan en nuestras parroquias y comunidades un hogar.

Te pedimos que unas tus ruegos a los de Nuestra Señora  
que se te apareció como Madre tuya y Madre de todos en nuestra tierra.  
Que ella envuelva en su manto protector a todos los inmigrantes.

Rogamos su amor, compasión, ayuda y protección para todos los inmigrantes  
que hoy pasan grandes sufrimientos, dolores, necesidades y desgracias.

En el poder que compartes con Cristo  
y en la unión del Espíritu Santo,  
decimos: Amén.





**Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice**

**Prayer for migrant families**

## **Good and gracious God,**

we thank you for the gift of families.

We are grateful for all of the joy and love

that they bring into our lives,

and we ask that you provide

special protection for all families,

particularly those who face hardships

as they move in search of a better life.

Show mercy to those who travel in danger,

and lead them to a place of safety and peace.

Comfort those who are alone and afraid because

their families have been torn apart by violence

and injustice.

As we reflect upon the difficult journey

that the Holy Family faced as refugees in Egypt,

help us to remember the suffering of all migrant families.

Through the intercession of Mary our Mother,

and St. Joseph the Worker, her spouse,

we pray that all migrants may be reunited with their

loved ones

and find the meaningful work they seek.

Open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality

for all who come in search of refuge.

Give us the courage to welcome every stranger

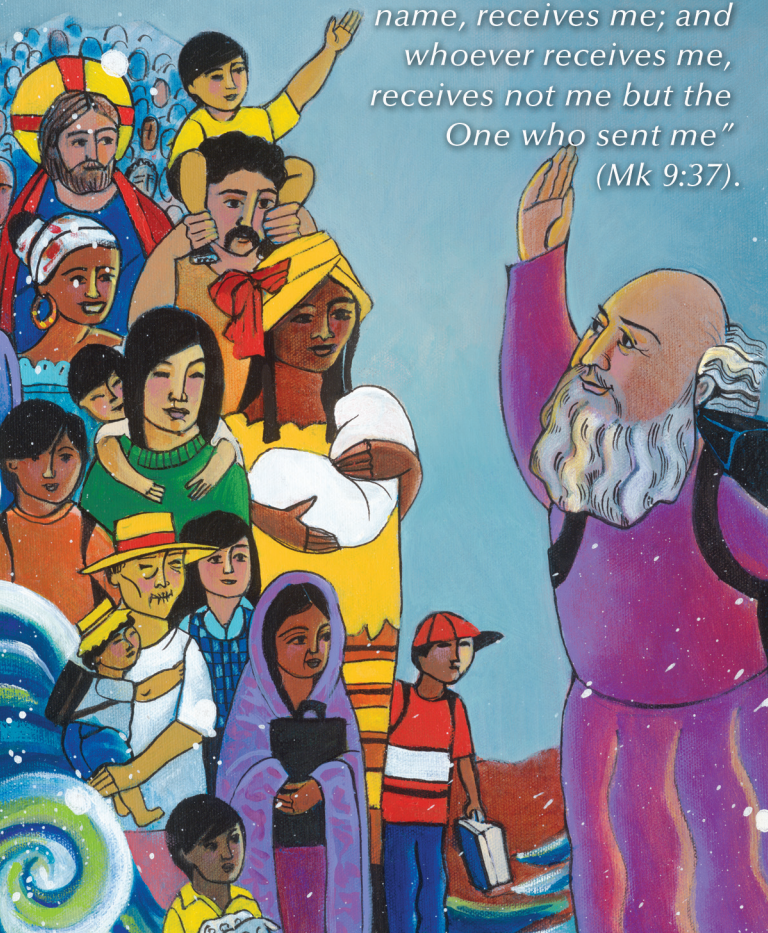
as Christ in our midst.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God forever and ever. Amen.

*"Whoever receives one  
child such as this in my  
name, receives me; and  
whoever receives me,  
receives not me but the  
One who sent me"  
(Mk 9:37).*



**A Prayer for Migrant Children**



## *Loving Father,*

in your infinite compassion,  
we seek your divine protection for refugee children who  
are often alone and afraid.

Provide solace to those who have been witnesses to  
violence and destruction,  
who have lost parents, family, friends, home, and all they  
cherish due to war or persecution.

Comfort them in their sorrow, and bring help in their time  
of need.

Show mercy to unaccompanied migrant children,  
too, Lord.

Reunite them with their families and loved ones.

Guide those children who are strangers in a foreign land  
to a place of peace and safety.

Comfort them in their sorrow, and bring help in their time  
of need.

Show us how we might reach out to these precious and  
vulnerable children.

Open our hearts to migrant and refugee children in need,  
so that we might see in them your own migrant Son.

Give us courage to stand up in their defense against those  
who would do them harm.

For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives  
and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.



ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA  
1869-1947  
MEMORIAL: FEBRUARY 8

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

February 8th has been designated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8th is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. She learned from Canossian nuns that she was created in the image of God and possessed human dignity. Once she asserted herself and refused to be enslaved, Josephine became a Canossian sister and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering

In October 2000, Josephine Bakhita was canonized by Pope John Paul II, at which point he noted that “in St. Josephine Bakhita we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights.” (St. Bakhita’s Canonization Mass, October 1, 2000)



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St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery  
as a child  
and endured untold hardship and suffering.  
Once liberated from your physical enslavement,  
you found true redemption in your encounter with  
Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a  
state of slavery;  
Intercede with God on their behalf  
so that they will be released from their chains  
of captivity.  
Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery  
and let them look to you as an example of hope  
and faith.  
Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.  
We ask for your prayers and intercessions for  
those enslaved among us.

Amen.

Santa Josefina Bakhita, cuando niña, fuiste vendida  
como esclava  
y tuviste que pasar indecibles dificultades y  
sufrimiento.  
Una vez liberada de tu esclavitud física,  
hallaste la verdadera redención en tu encuentro  
con Cristo y su Iglesia.

Oh, Santa Bakhita, ayuda a todos aquellos que  
están atrapados en la esclavitud;  
en nombre de ellos, intercede ante Dios  
para que sean liberados de las cadenas de  
su cautiverio.  
Que Dios libere a todo aquel que ha sido  
esclavizado por el hombre.

Bríndales alivio a los que sobreviven la esclavitud  
y permite que ellos te vean como modelo de fe  
y esperanza.  
Ayuda a todos los sobrevivientes para que  
encuentren la sanación de sus heridas.  
Te suplicamos orar e interceder por los que se  
encuentran esclavizados entre nosotros.

Amén.