

Prayer to Mary for Immigrant Children on the Feast of the Visitation

Mary, you traveled alone to reach the loving embrace
Of your beloved family member.
Elizabeth welcomed you with open arms
And an open heart.

Be with the children who are traveling across borders
To seek solace with family.
Protect them from exploitation
And from traumatizing experiences.

Teach us by the example of the Visitation.
Grant us open arms and open hearts
To receive your children who are trying
To find their way to a new, life-giving home.

Guide our Church's efforts to advocate
For reform of the U.S. immigration process
So that all families may be reunited
In safety and security, without fear or terror.

Mary, Mother of the human family,
Help us end the misery of children
Who have been separated from their families
By man-made borders – not by love.

May they arrive, as you did,
To joy and to the benediction of a loving embrace. Amen.

– Jane Deren, Ph.D.

