

# **ALL ARE WELCOME**



**Community Gathering**  
**Tuesday, May 6, 2025**  
**3:30-4:30 PM**

## **A Kentucky Holy Land Welcome**

**Reader 1:** Members of the Dominican Sisters and the Loretto Community have come together. Recognizing ourselves as children of immigrants, we identify with the hopes and dreams of those seeking a safe home in a new land. Today we come here with all of you in support of those persecuted by unjust deportations, raids and detentions. We stand with those impoverished and marginalized by unjust government policies. We call for immediate, comprehensive immigration reform, and for the immediate return of illegally deported persons.

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**Cantor 1:** Let us begin by singing together  
"All Are Welcome" by Marty Haugen  
Let us build a house  
Where love can dwell  
And all can safely live  
A place where  
Saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive

## **All Are Welcome continued....**

Built of hopes and dreams and visions  
Rock of faith and vault of grace,  
Here the love of all shall end division  
    All are welcome, all are welcome,  
    All are welcome in this place.

Here the love of all shall end division  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.  
Let us build a house where prophets speak  
And words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
To dream God's dream anew  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
And a symbol of God's grace  
Here as one we claim that faith that frees  
us

    All are welcome, all are welcome,  
    All are welcome in this place.

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**Reader 2:** Let us now listen to the recent words of Pope Francis:

...The act of deporting people, who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women and entire families, placing them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness. .... The true common good is promoted when society and government, with creativity and strict respect for the rights of all, welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates the most fragile, unprotected and vulnerable. This does not impede the development of a policy that regulates orderly and legal migration. However, this development cannot come about through the privilege of some and the sacrifice of others. What is built on the basis of force, and not on the truth about the equal dignity of every human being, begins badly and will end badly.... With charity and clarity we are all called to live in solidarity and to build bridges that bring us ever closer together.

-Letter to US Catholic Bishops 2/25

**Reader 3:** A reading from the Gospel of Matthew. (25:34-40)

And then the Holy One will say, "Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." And they will answer, saying "When did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the Holy One will say to them in reply, "Truly I say to you, just as you did for these, the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me."

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**Reader 4:** Together let us remember and pray for all those without a safe home, and for all those persecuted because of their color, religion or gender identity.

**Our response: We pray for the grace to act.**

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**Our response: We pray for the grace to act.**

- For all who have been deported without cause and those who fear deportation. **R.**

-For immigrant children and families who have been torn apart. **R**

-For our own local immigrant families and children who are afraid to go to school, to church, or to the grocery store. **R.**

- For all residents in our country who have been disappeared by our government. **R.**

-For students coming to our country for an education whose rights are being violated. **R**

-For lawyers, social workers, religious leaders, media communicators and all who work so hard to make known the dangers immigrants face. **R.**

- For all minority communities, indigenous communities, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and others who do not feel safe in their homes. **R.**

-We pray for suffering people everywhere.

**Please name the country or community you wish to remember.**

## **Reader 5:**

As Lady Liberty welcomes all into our New York harbor, so we welcome migrants into our Kentucky holy land. In the words of Emma Lazarus in her poem "The New Colossus:"

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With her silent lips.

## **ALL READ TOGETHER:**

**"Give me your tired, your poor  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."**

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