



**Nine Immigration Themed Resources for Lent—
Encouraging Faith Commitments in Solidarity with Refugees & Immigrants**

Focus: Protecting Dreamers

(Note: At the time of publishing, dreamer legislation continues under discussion by Congress.)

Scripture: *“Now Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. ... (Jesus) He asked her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who is it you are looking for?’.... Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means “Teacher”). Jesus said, ‘Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”*
John 20:11-17

Reflection: Mary was the first at the tomb and she stayed after everyone else had gone home. Mary was weeping because she wanted to give someone she loved a proper burial. The crucifixion was so real and the Resurrection was still unclear, but she showed up again to do what she could. When she recognizes Jesus’ salvific face, her hope resurrects. She can hardly believe her eyes and she doesn’t want to let Him go. He tells this woman of courage and faith to loosen her grip, take a deep breath. He is not dead and has not gone home, yet. He reassures her that her dreams for salvation have arrived and with Him, they can never die. And he urges that she share the Good News.



At times, Dreamers have thought The Dream was crucified. But they have not let that prevent them from showing up and doing more. Dreamers and their supporters have marched, protested, called Congress leaders and told their stories. In seeking a legislative solution and nearing the March 5th deadline, we have to take a rejuvenating, deep breath. The Dream did not die and Dreamers have not gone home, yet. In dark moments, we sought hope and Jesus arrived in courageous strangers who walk with us. Like Mary, we have more work to do, but we are grateful that our faith and dreams will never die at the hands of politicians. And we must share this good news.

Story: Juan is a DACA recipient. He says that he has always known that, one day, the temporary nature of DACA would produce a threat to his safety and his dreams. Right now, Juan volunteers with an immigrant rights organization. He dreams of completing his engineering degree, but for now, there are more urgent issues at hand. He must continue to fight to remain in the USA. “It’s something that I have in my mind every day and it’s something that I incorporate into my everyday life.... What’s the point of an engineering degree if I’m on the verge of being deported the next day?” He weeps but he is not beaten; and he continues to show up because his dream will not die.

Actions/Resources:

- ⇒ Use the Interfaith Immigration Coalition’s Dream Sabbath toolkit to learn about and support dreamers: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Dream-Sabbath-2017-4-FINAL-09.108.17.pdf>
- ⇒ Dreamers can be separated from their families. See resources for family unity vigils: http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/IIC_Prayer_Vigil_Toolkit_01.18.13.pdf
- ⇒ During Lent, engage in meaningful, patient conversation with a person who has a different perspective on Dreamer justice. Sacrifice the need to convert; rather, aim for understanding.
- ⇒ Utilize Justice for immigrant’s Family and Dreamer toolkit to learn more and learn how to share the truth about immigration <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/2016site/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Final-DREAM-Toolkit.pdf>

Prayer: Precious Lord, we are a resurrection people and we believe in Your Good News that promises salvation for all. We have faithfully believed your love would want Dreamers to find safety in their only home. We ask you to continue to strengthen the hearts of dreamers, and all members of their families, as our nation struggles to understand and offer justice to immigrants who suffer under constant fears of separation. May they find through you the hope you offered to all through Your Resurrection. In Jesus’ name, we ask this.

Amen.

Devotion by Sister Mary Ellen Lacy, Daughters of Charity. For questions about this resource, contact Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries: ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org

