Reflections from the Arizona-Mexico Border. A group of 7 parishioners spent Oct. 6-12 on the Border to better understand the realities of migration from Mexico into the U.S. Rita Amberg Waldref shares her reflection.

Border Images with Advent Scriptures

When we celebrate the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Season, we celebrate God migrating from heaven to earth, taking on human form in the person of Jesus. Jesus was a migrant.

“See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the Lord.” (Zechariah 2:10)


For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. (Ps 72:12-13)

Asylum seekers fleeing violence, gangs, poverty, domestic abuse. Weary. Determined. Dreaming of a better life for loved ones. Food, shelter, safety, healthcare, education. Waiting for weeks, months at Mexican Border to enter the United States. Hopeful...

Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! (Is 35:3-4)


Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Pilgrimage of Remembrance. Sacred cross planting ritual to remember Wilma near Douglas, AZ. Brazilian migrant. Died alone. We remember and honor her life. Powerful symbols. No one should be forgotten in death.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.” (Ps 72:7)
“Prevention through deterrence” funneled over 3000 migrants to their deaths in the Arizona desert. Prevention by death. Overwhelming loss and grief. Colibri Center for Human Rights assisting families who search for disappeared loves ones lost while crossing the U.S.-Mexico Border. Named for the hummingbird, a symbol of strength, hope and migration. A ministry of closure and peace.

O radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal life, sun of justice;
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness,
and in the shadow of death. (Gospel Acclamation. Dec 24)


Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget,
I will never forget you. (Is 49:14-15)

The Streamline Court with its “assembly line justice” for detained migrants. Shackled and dejected. The voiceless. No human being is illegal. Is this justice?

Remember that your compassion, O Lord,
and your kindness are from of old.
In you kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (Ps 25:6-7)


The Lord has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)

The Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Season celebrates Jesus as Migrant, God becoming one with us, entering our reality. I am in awe of the tenacity of migrants pursuing their dream, a dream that embraces their dignity as God’s beloved.