



PRAYER FOR ALL THE CHILDREN IN THE WORLD

“Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” After he placed his hands on them, he went away.” Mt 19:13-15

The Church's social doctrine constantly points out the need to respect the dignity of children.

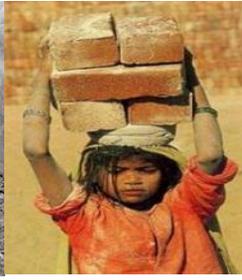
“In the family, which is a community of persons, special attention must be devoted to the children by developing a profound esteem for their personal dignity, and a great respect and generous concern for their rights.” (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)

(Rome, 15 January, 2017).- “Protecting” migrant children, “integrating” them and proposing “long-term solutions” are the goals set by Pope Francis for the 2017 World Day of Migrants and Refugees: *“Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless.”* The Holy Father insists on the duty to resolve and regularize the status of child migrants, in full respect of their dignity.

He said that finding “long-term solutions” to this problem means above all to strive to eliminate the causes of forced migration of so many children: wars, human rights violations, corruption, poverty, inequalities, and environmental disasters.



Refugee Children



Working



Homeless



Malnourished

It should be a priority for all countries to combat extreme poverty and malnutrition, preventing children from dying for lack of food.

Father Mother God, this month we entrust all children to you: They are the seeds of tomorrow, the hope of a better world, a beautiful blessing you have given us.

FATHER MOTHER GOD:

- ✚ We pray to you for those who have yet to be born and are being aborted.
- ✚ We pray to you for those who are victims of family issues, fights, violence, abuse and lack of love.
- ✚ For the children who suffer the terror of war, the fear of losing their families, persecution, migration, who live lives full of fear, anguish, desperation. Give them peace.
- ✚ For those who have been abandoned, rejected, despised, humiliated and don't have a family to grow up with joyfully.
- ✚ For those who don't receive an education because they need to work from a young age, and many who are exploited and enslaved.
- ✚ For those who do not have food, who do not have a roof and wander the streets, pleading for charity. Defend them from evil.
- ✚ For those who have everything materially, who are abandoned in front of a television, computers and games, instead of being accompanied by their families.
- ✚ For those children who are sexually assaulted.
- ✚ For those children who have been orphaned, lacking the love of their parents.
- ✚ For all, we ask you God, that you protect them, give them love, change the hearts of all of us who can transform their situation, have mercy and compassion.
- ✚ May none of these little ones be lost, and always come to You.



They are children, not slaves!

God, your word calls us to hunger and thirst for justice, it guides us to mercy and renewal.

Guide us to a faith that will commit us to build a better world for all your sons and daughters.

God, help us to denounce all crimes against children. Encourage us to act when we suspect that a child is in danger. Do not leave us in peace until we act in your favor.

God, you see the suffering of children exhausted from so many hours of work and so little to eat. You know that they are tired and can more easily hurt themselves. Protect them from danger and move us to help them.

God, we ask you for rulers to promote laws against all forms of exploitation. That governments around the world commit to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

God, we ask that children, regardless of their socioeconomic conditions, have access to comprehensive educational programs that allow them to grow spiritually, physically, emotionally and academically.

God, help us to strengthen all families so that they can live their life in fullness, as You have willed for them.

FINAL PRAYER:

When we hear about children, men and women who are deceived and taken to unknown places for sexual exploitation, forced labor and the sale of organs, our hearts are indignant and our spirits are in pain because their dignity and their rights have been trampled with threats, lies and violence. God, help me to live my life counteracting all forms of slavery. Give us wisdom and courage to make us close to all who have suffered wounds to their body, heart and spirit, so that together we can realize Your promise of life and tender and infinite love for our exploited brothers and sisters. Touch the hearts of those responsible for this grave crime and uphold our commitment to freedom, which is your gift to all your sons and daughters. Amen.



Prayer prepared by Sister María Goretti Stockmanns-Spirituality Contact, and
Sister Mónica B. Scavuzzo- JP Contact, Province of Argentina-Uruguay