



***Nine Immigration Themed Resources for Lent—
Encouraging Faith Commitments in Solidarity with Refugees & Immigrants
Focus: Border Communities Concerns***



Scripture: *When the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord . . ."*
John 12:12-13

Reflection: How will we go out to meet the King of Kings who comes to us in the guise of the migrant, the refugee? More than two millennia ago our God became one of us. He walked among us. The miracle of incarnation is that our God is with us still. Our God continues to walk among us in the person of our neighbors, our friends, and yes

even the stranger who crosses our borders seeking refuge and safety in our embrace. How will we go out to meet the living God who comes to our borders; longs for our welcome; and waits for our embrace?

Story: This is the story of a 29 year old father and husband, from the Kino Border Initiative ministry: "A month ago my wife and I left our house. We had thought about it a lot. We spoke many times and we made the decision to come the United States. We have three kids, and we want to give them a better life. I make 60 pesos a day [US\$3.23] Imagine, not even enough to eat. When we made it to the border, the coyote crossed us over and, after walking several days through the Arizona desert, abandoned us. We were a group of 12. My wife and I started falling back. They couldn't wait for us and my wife was already feeling sick. After walking for 14 days in the desert, without water, without food and tired, my wife was feeling worse every single day. She could not speak nor walk and I could hear a rasping sound from her chest.

The moment came when she no longer responded to me, and I started to be very afraid. I had to leave her to look for help. After walking for three hours, I found Border Patrol, and I told them that my wife was very ill, and they did not believe me. When they finally became convinced that I was telling them the truth, we went to the place where I had left her, and we found her dead. We never thought that we would live this nightmare, because up to this point, that is the way I see it, I am living a nightmare."



Actions/Resources:

- ⇒ Learn more about conditions and communities at the Southern Border through the [Southern Border Communities Coalition](#).
- ⇒ [Kino Border Initiative](#) (KBI) is a binational organization that works in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora in the area of migration.
- ⇒ [Columban Mission Center](#) in El Paso, Texas offers exposure programs to visiting groups and facilitates their contact with organizations and institutions related to U.S./Mexico border issues.
- ⇒ [No More Deaths](#) is a humanitarian organization based in southern Arizona, it works to end death and suffering in U.S.-Mexico borderlands and encourages humane immigrant policy.
- ⇒ [Fronteras Compasivas](#) offers humanitarian assistance through the deployment of water stations on routes commonly used by migrants, with the sole goal of preventing deaths.

Prayer: Incarnate God, give us the wisdom to see you in the faces of mothers and fathers who risk the crossing for the sake of their children. Give us the courage to accompany those wandering in our deserts. Give us the grace to welcome them as we would welcome you, with open arms and vulnerable hearts. *Amen.*

**INTERFAITH
IMMIGRATION
COALITION**

*Devotion by Sister Ann Schulz, Leadership Conference of Women Religious
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