

## For Children Immigrating Alone

Mary, you traveled alone  
To reach the loving embrace  
Of your beloved family member.  
Elizabeth welcomed you with  
Open arms and an open heart.

Be with those children  
Who are traveling across borders  
To seek solace with family.  
Protect them from exploitation  
And from traumatizing experiences.

Teach us by  
The example of the Visitation.  
Grant us open arms  
And open hearts  
To receive your children  
Trying to find the way  
To a new, life-giving home.

Guide our Church's efforts  
To advocate for reform  
Of the U.S. immigration process  
So all families can be reunited  
In safety and security,  
Without fear or terror.

Mary, Mother of the human family,  
Help us end the misery  
Of children separated from family  
By man-made borders--  
But not by love.  
May they arrive, as you did,  
To joy and to the benediction  
Of a loving embrace.  
Amen.

