The Catholic bishops of the United States, in their pastoral letter Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity, invite us to enter into the mystery of the Mystical Body of Christ. As St. Paul teaches in his first letter to the Corinthians, the mystery is that we are made part of that Body through our Baptism. By learning to celebrate our individual differences while embracing our unions with others, we grow not only in our understanding of Jesus, but in the knowledge of our own true selves.

Such knowledge flies in the face of a culture that promotes fear of immigrants and that excludes or imprisons refugees and asylum seekers. In their pastoral letter, the bishops challenge us to embrace our sisters and brothers through a series of four calls: to conversion, to communion, to solidarity, and to evangelization.

There is no better guide to help us enter into this mystery and answer these calls than our Mother Mary. In her miraculous apparitions throughout the world she has embodied the diversity of every race and nation. As our loving Mother, she draws us into union with each other through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Praying the Rosary—particularly with the recent inclusion of the Luminous Mysteries, which celebrate the active ministry of Jesus Christ—is one way in which we can respond to the four calls of Welcoming the Stranger. As we reflect on the events in the lives of Jesus and Mary, we are invited to consider how even today, we, as Christ’s Mystical Body, continue to share these joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious experiences with one another.

The Catholic bishops of the United States carry out the fourfold mission of every race and nation. As our loving Mother, she draws us into union with each other through the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray that as we embrace our sisters and brothers through a series of four calls: to conversion, to communion, to solidarity, and to evangelization, our union with others, we grow not only in our understanding of Jesus, but in the knowledge of our own true selves.

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The Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty, from whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

The Prayers of the Rosary
The Hail Mary
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be (Doxology)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

The Our Father
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation—Luke 1:26-38

“The joy of the Lord is my strength.” With these words, Mary Magdalene answered the call to evangelize, to share the Gospel of new life with others. We are also called to share the Good News that Jesus is alive and among us today. Like Mary, however, at first we may not recognize him. We pray for the grace to recognize and proclaim the Body of Christ, alive in each person we meet.

The Luminous Mysteries


“Do not be afraid,” the Angel Gabriel told Mary. When we are afraid, we are afraid of trusting others. Do the angels ask Jesus to go to us? Do we believe the angels are helping us today? Do we feel the angels’ presence when we are afraid of trusting others?

The Sorrowsful Mysteries

The Crowning with Thorns—Matthew 27:26-30

Do we remember that Jesus’ captors were not content with torture; they humiliated him, crown him with thorns, and mocked him. Racism, prejudice, cruel stereotypes, and verbal abuse are the thorns that pierce many new migrants as they seek work, housing, and education for their children. We pray for compassion and for the grace to heal the wounds that divide us.

The Glorious Mysteries


During her pregnancy, Mary was a woman on the move, going to visit her cousin Elizabeth in the hill country. Today, millions of women—often pregnant or with young children—are forced to flee their homelands. We pray for the grace of hospitality, to welcome them into our country and our homes as Elizabeth welcomed Mary.

The Nativity—Luke 2:1-14

Jesus was born a migrant. Bethlehem had no room, no welcome for the outsiders, so Jesus was born in a stable. The wrath of King Herod turned Jesus and his family into refugees. Today, migrants and refugees are still forced from their homes by poverty, war, disaster, or oppression. We pray for the grace of hospitality, to offer them comfort and consolation.

The Visitation—Luke 1:39-50

How frantic Mary and Joseph must have been to discover that the child Jesus was missing, and how relieved they were to see the angels. We pray for the grace of solidarity with those who are denied welcome in our country.

The Baptism in the Jordan—Mark 1:9-11

When John baptized Jesus, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and a heavenly voice proclaimed: “You are my beloved Son.” Yet many still refuse to recognize Jesus as the anointed one of God. Today, many still fail to recognize the signs of Christ’s presence in our immigrant sisters and brothers. We pray for the grace to open ourselves to welcome Christ.

The Presentation—Luke 2:22-38

Simeon and Anna called a welcoming community when the Holy Family came to the temple. They were rewarded with the recognition that they had seen God’s Holy One. We are challenged to create welcoming communities in our own churches. We pray for the grace to recognize Jesus present in each immigrant and refugee.

The Redemption of the Captives—Luke 2:41-50

How frantic Mary and Joseph must have been to discover that the child Jesus was missing, and how relieved they were to recover him. Many thousands of refugees today are “unaccompanied minors”—lost children with no parents to seek and reclaim them. We pray for the grace to find loving homes and families for them, as we would for Jesus himself.


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The Scourging at the Pillar—John 19:1-4

Pilate used torture to try to force a confession from Jesus. Today, asylum seekers and torture victims who flee to the United States are often deported or imprisoned for failing to possess proper documents. We pray for forgiveness for our silence and the courage to speak out on their behalf.

The Coronation of Mary—Revelations 12:1-6

It is a radiant Mary, clothed in the sun and crowned with stars, who reigns as Queen of Heaven and battles the dragon who would destroy her child. As her children, we are called to battle the dragons of fear, prejudice, intolerance, and exclusion that separate us from our sisters and brothers. We pray for the grace of courageous, loving hearts.