

# Go Forth...

A SERVICE OF U.S. CATHOLIC MISSION ASSOCIATION

## MISSIONARY COMMENTARY

# DESERT WINDS



### SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts 1:12-14

Psalms 27:1, 4, 7-8

1 Peter 4:13-16

John 17:1-11a

### COMMENTARY

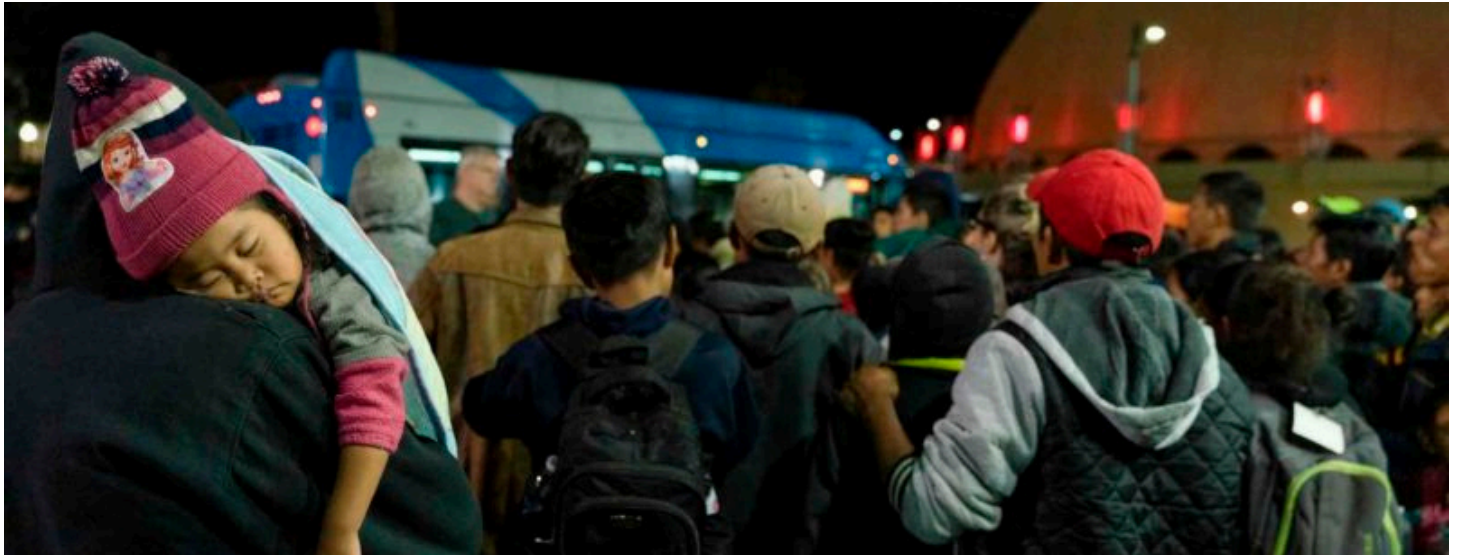
One Christmas Eve, the U.S. immigration personnel stationed in El Paso, Texas, seemed in a hurry to get home. At the end of a long day of processing asylum requests, checking the international police data base for many hours, ushering families and individuals into temporary holding cells and warming up frozen burritos

for many dozens of migrating people, it seemed that a critical moment had arrived.

They decided, as the dark of night descended, to just drop over a hundred migrating people off at the central bus station—with no food, no fresh clothing, no way of communicating with far-off family members who could buy them a bus ticket electronically, and little to no English.

The immigration personnel became anxious, it seemed, to get home to their own families and holiday celebrations, and just abandoned their detainees! The migrating adults and children were bewildered, hungry and at a loss about what to do next—an unusual breach in the protocol of cooperation that had been built up over the years between the local immigration authorities and the humanitarian organizations in the area.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



But, suddenly, a storm of solidarity broke out, and a community of volunteers suddenly came into being. They responded to those who were looking for respect and dignity, arriving from many countries—just as at the first Pentecost. Instead of a deadly, horrible drought of indifference and selfishness, a downpour fell hard, full of compassion and charity, relief and joy, shared Christmas feasts and rides to places of rest and renewal.

May we also be attentive in this Easter season, as we draw near to God in our ascended Christ, and Pentecost's promise nears fulfillment, to the release of the Holy Spirit among us, as well, bringing together a fresh community of faith in the Creator's enlivening of an expectant world, desperate for effective manifestations of love.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**





## NOTES ON THE SUNDAY READINGS:

**First Reading - Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14:** A ‘Sabbath day’s journey’ is considered to be about 1,000 yards, showing that the disciples of Jesus are Jews faithful to the Torah (specifically, Ex 16:29), since by going only as far as Mount Olivet they remain legally within Jerusalem, where Jesus commanded them to stay (Lk 24:49), to await being “clothed with power from on high” (at Pentecost).

**Responsorial Psalm - Psalm: 27:1, 4, 7-8:** A psalm of trust in God, and by extension in the ideal place of refuge—the Temple in Jerusalem, “God’s house”—as our very hearts urgently move us to approach God.

**Second Reading - 1 Peter 4:13-16:** The inspired author sums up key ideas about suffering as he comes to the close of his letter—suffering as a cause for rejoicing when considered as a share in the sufferings of Christ, for instance, in contrast to the justly imposed consequences of bad behavior.

**Gospel - John 17:1-11a:** John is inspired to end Jesus’ Last Supper discourses (begun in Jn 13:33) with this majestic prayer, in which Jesus prays for himself--that God will crown his work by glorifying him--and then for his disciples, that they will remain faithful to Jesus in a hostile world.

Notes and Commentary by by Fr. Bob Mosher,  
a member of the **Missionary Society of Saint Columban**.

Please pray for the missions, May God bless you in all the ways you Go Forth...  
Support our work! [Donate online today.](#)



Go Forth ... is a service funded by the USCMA, a community of faith leaders engaged in networking, formation, and advocacy for God’s mission. All who serve God’s mission are welcome. Learn more at [www.uscatholicmission.org](http://www.uscatholicmission.org) or call 202-832-3112.