

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## MORNING PRAYER

*We place ourselves in the Presence of the Lord: in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

*We come to interior silence and we prepare ourselves to listen to the Lord in our hearts. We try to relax, quiet our thoughts, avoid what distracts us and concentrate on what is important.*

*In today's prayer, the Lord invites us to go out of ourselves and empathize with those who suffer the most.*

### Reading: Mathew 2:13-18

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

*This is a painful Gospel. The angels bring tough news: Joseph and his small family have become refugees and travel at night to a foreign land.*

*In our days, through social networks and different media, we witness a very sad reality: many families are forced to flee and leave their homes. They are families that arrive at the coasts of the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, families crossing the American continent. Families that flee leaving their loved ones and suffering being uprooted, in search of a place to live in peace and dignified conditions. Families that move to escape from war and violence. There are so many news items like this every day that, many times these facts move us at that moment, but then we forget them.*

*The massacre of the innocent, as in the time of Jesus, is alive and continues in our days. Unjust rulers wreak havoc plunging many people into misery. Genocide, atrocities, refugee camps, hunger, diseases and large displacements are frequent today.*

*At this moment we can bring before the Lord the situation of so many suffering families, let us pray for them and for all the innocents of the world who reveal the face of Christ who suffers on the Cross.*

*We invite you to say your petition aloud and share it with the assembly.*

### **(Personal prayer) Instrumental music**

*We ask you, Father of Heaven, for the needs of all those who suffer, and we present them to You. We also ask You to encourage us to help the refugees of the world, in a concrete way and according to our possibilities. May we be witnesses of nonviolence and welcome all the displaced persons who are forced to emigrate. We ask this through the Prayer that Jesus himself taught us: Our Father ...*