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.