

TO REACH ACROSS BORDERS

Lord of All,

Some of us make our homes on hills, others in valleys.
Some in tall buildings, some on shorelines, some at risk on the street.
And we divide up our patches with lines we scratch into the ground
And call them borders.

Where the lines don't suffice, we build fences.
Where fences fail, we dig moats.
Where moats aren't enough, we erect walls.

But what if we were to look across these borders?
Across fence, moat, and wall
And see you on the other side?

Lord, teach us to reach across all borders,
Fabricated or natural,
To join with all our brothers and sisters
To unify, and not separate.
To honor all who wander
Seeking hope, seeking opportunity—seeking you
As assuredly as we seek you

Lord, let no border ring our hearts.
May we find a place within them for all.
Turn our hands from building walls
Toward building justice.
Stretch our arms across fence, wall and moat

To seek out those on the other side
That we might find you in each other's eyes
In each other's hands
In each other's wounds.

Amen

Adapted from Catholic Relief Services