

Adobe Walls



an anthology of New Mexico poetry
(#1)

edited by Kenneth P. Gurney

Diana Rico

Mi Oración Para Juárez / My Prayer for Juarez

Virgin Mother

Your daughters are crying out for you.
Virgen, in Ciudad Juárez and everywhere,
Your daughters are crying out for you.

Listen to them now.

Alma García.
Blanca Yadira Nuñez.
Claudia Ramos López.
Dora Alicia Martínez Mendoza.
Elizabeth Ramos.
Francisca Lucero Gallardo.
Gabriela "La China."
Hilda Fierro Olivas.
Irene Castillo.
Julia Luna Vera.
Karina Soto Cruz.
Laura Georgina Vargas.
María de Jesús González.
Nelly América Gómez.
Olga Alicia Carrillo Pérez.
Paulina León.
Rocío Rincón.
Soledad Beltrán.
Teresita López.
Viridiana Torres Moreno.
Yolanda Tapia Vega.
Zenaida Bermúdez Campa.
And many
Many hundreds more.

Virgin, their young children
Are screaming out for you.
Their abuelitas are weeping
Down on their knees
Fingering rosaries
Tears an endless river
Crying out for you.

The bus stops
And the taco stands
The dollar stores
And the meat markets
The corrugated shacks

And the emergency rooms
All have mouths
They are crying out for you.

The parks filled with blossoms
And the sage-fragrant desert
The coyotes, the jackrabbits, the jabalinas,
Can't you hear them?
They are crying out for you.

En El Río Grande
Wandering to and fro
Searching for her lost daughters
La Llorona cries out for you.

In the cemeteries
The plots with their handmade wooden crosses
And pink plastic roses
They all, all of them are crying out for you.

And here in El Norte, I am crying out for you.
We gathered here are all crying out for you.
We cry for every woman we've ever known
Who has suffered.
We cry for every man we've ever known
Who was abused and attacked
And became the abuser, the attacker.

Dear Holy Mother,
Hear my prayer now.
Pour your holy healing waters
Over our ripped-open hearts.

Bring us back to our deep humanity.
Deliver us to our own buried sweetness.

Remind us always
That we are all one.

Holy Mother, Virgen
The whole world is crying out for you.
Hear our prayers now.
Amen.