



BECOMING NEIGHBOURS



JANUARY 2013

PILGRIMAGES OF FAITH AND HOPE



WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER

FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

JAN 6-13, 2013

Opening Reflections:

For me, my journey of migration has been...

A great life experience....Full of much anguish and blessing....

A true test of faith....Hope for a new life to live without fear

Something different and full of surprises.....

A marvelous experience of faith and hope.....

A process of growth full of shocks...

A TESTIMONY FOR TOMORROW.

(Reflections of members of Latina Women's Circle – December 22, 2012)

CALL TO PRAYER:

Loving Creator, Companioning Spirit, as we gather during this world week of prayer for refugees and migrants, we ask you to inspire our vision and the work of our hands.

Lead us to a deeper awareness of your presence with all those undertaking the pilgrimage of migration.

Be our joy as we celebrate the World Day for Migrants and Refugees and gift us with your infinite compassion which knows no boundaries.



Strengthen our resolve to struggle against shrinking humanitarian space in Canada and around the world.

Be our comfort as we confront doors which close on the rights of refugees and all those seeking our protection.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our good shepherd and guide who leads all the lost and weary home.

Amen.

Meditations:

❖ **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

Theme: Jesus brings divine justice to the nations. As his baptized followers, we seek the reign of God through justice and peace.

“...Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS~

Recall a time of feeling lost or as “in a strange land”.
Who helped you find your way?

What is it like for you to have an experience of gently leading another who is lost and vulnerable?

❖ **Migration: Pilgrimages of Faith and Hope**

POPE BENEDICT “*WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES*”

Theme: Ministry and the work of authentic integration

“Migration is in fact a striking phenomenon because of the sheer numbers of people involved, the social, economic, political, cultural and religious problems it raises, and the dramatic challenges it poses to nations and the international community...Where migrants and refugees are concerned, the Church and her various agencies ought to avoid offering charitable services alone; they are also called to promote real integration in a society where all are active members and responsible for one another’s welfare, generously offering a creative contribution and rightfully sharing in the same rights and duties.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS ~

Where have you noticed real integration of newcomers happening in your community?

What do you perceive as the most challenging aspect for full integration of refugees and migrants?

Sharing/Petitions: Each one is invited to a time of faith sharing

Solidarity Action:



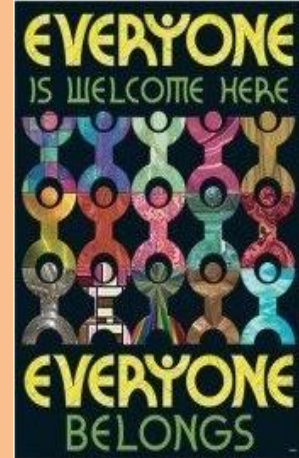
www.WeekendofPrayer.net

CONCLUDING PRAYER: The God Who Moves

Holy God,
You are a God on the move.

You move in the world and in our lives.
You shape and direct Creation, and us.

Your people have always been on the move.
Moses led your people out of slavery in Egypt.
The Holy Family fled to Egypt with Jesus
to escape the murderous King Herod.



Today, people continue to move.
War, poverty, oppression and injustice drive people from home and country.

We pray you will move with today's refugees, forced migrants, and internally displaced people. Comfort and save them. We pray for all those who serve those forced to move in our world.

Holy, moving God, hear our prayer
for the sake of your own uprooted son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

With special thanks for resources:

The God Who Moves by John Newbury, International Catholic Migration Commission.
www.archdioceseofanchorage.org/refugee.htm

LOGO (pg. 1) www.cam.org.au/News-and-Events/Features/Migrant-and-Refugees/Article/4020/migrants-and-the-new-evangelisation

Message for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, January 13, 2013 Pope Benedict
www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20121012_world-migrants-day_en.html

Latina Women's Circle, formed by the newcomers within the Becoming Neighbours' community, meets on a monthly basis at Scarboro Missions.