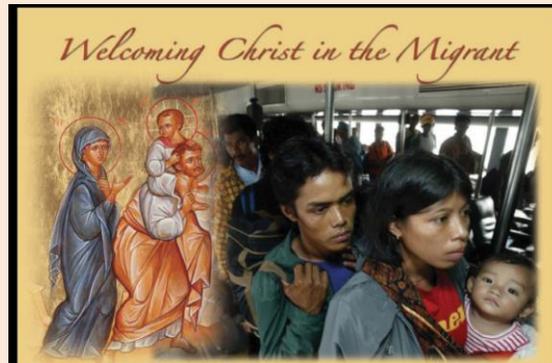


December 28, 2016  
Feast of the Holy Innocents

To all of our dear friends, we encircle you with God's love and peace ---

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and magi are home,  
when the shepherds are with their flocks  
the work of Christmas begins ---



to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to bring peace  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to recognize one another as **Neighbour**.

— Howard Thurman

NOW OUR WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS ---

To help situate ourselves in what we are to be about, we encourage you to take a moment and read Pope Francis' *"Message for the 2017 World Day of Peace"* in which he gently urges us to show mercy by refusing to discard people, harm the environment, or seek to win at any cost." Then in his *"Message of World Day of Migrants and Refugees"* he goes even further and challenges us to never grow *"tired of courageously living the Gospel which calls us to recognize and welcome the Lord Jesus, among the smallest and most vulnerable --- and "migrant" children constitute the most vulnerable—for they are -invisible, voiceless – deprived of documentation, hidden from the world's eyes."*

## "MIGRANT CHILDREN ARE TODAY'S HOLY INNOCENTS"



To deepen our consciousness and commitment to *"take care of the young, who in a three-fold way are defenceless: they are children, they are foreigners, and they have no way to protect themselves"* we share with you the CENTER OF CONCERN'S PowerPoint *"the Message of World Day of Migrants and Refugees."*

See: <http://bit.ly/2h6HVB8>

It poignantly reminds us that love does not save us from suffering but empowers us to create LIFE, even in the midst of suffering. It means living in the flow between immense suffering and naming, being sustained and transformed by daily moments of beauty.

With your PRAYER, PRESENCE, and SOLIDARITY this same movement of connectivity embraces the ministry of Becoming Neighbours. Together we mutually accompany one another as neighbour. Together we share our moments of joy, suffering, despair and hope.

Your lovingly hand-knit gloves and infinity scarves, your generous gift certificates and financial donations, your awesome gift of toys, and delightful gift of teddy bears, all made a difference.

But it is your prayer and presence that is the real gift of Christmas

*- and for all this, we give thanks to God.*

YES, NOW THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS--

Together in the days of 2017,  
let us bring God's love and peace  
to our dear neighbour and to our earth.



Lois Anne Bordowitz, FCJ

Krista Bowman (JVC)

Tina Solomon

Peter McKenna, SCJ