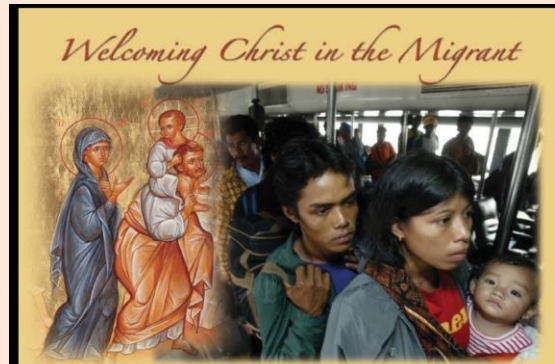


To all of our dear friends, we encircle you with God's love and peace ---

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 hear Pope Francis in his “*Message for the Celebration of the 2018 World Day of Peace*” calling us to draw upon “our wisdom of faith that fosters a contemplative gaze that recognises all of us as belonging to one family, migrants and the local populations that welcome them, and all have the same right to enjoy the goods of the Earth whose destination is universal. It is here that solidarity and sharing are founded”.

During this Festival of Lights let us all be ministers of peace and healing for refugees, for the people suffering and dying in Yemen, Syria, the Rohingya people, for the people in South Sudan, the DR Congo, Somalia and every other place in the world caught up in conflict.

Together in the days of 2018, let us bring God's love and peace
to our dear neighbour and to our earth.

Lois Anne Bordowitz, FCJ

Jose Cuervo (JVC)

Tina Solomon

Peter McKenna, SCJ