



the World Day of Migrants and Refugees

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

**“LIKE JESUS CHRIST, FORCED TO FLEE.
welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating internally displaced persons.**

*When we talk about migrants and displaced persons, all too often we stop at statistics.
But it is not about statistics, it is about real people!*

If we encounter them, we will get to know more about them. And knowing their stories, we will be able to understand them. We will be able to understand, for example, that the precariousness that we have come to experience as a result of this pandemic is a constant in the lives of displaced people. It is necessary to be close in order to serve. It may seem obvious, yet often it is the contrary. “But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to ... the man ...; when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him” (Lk 10:33-34). Fears and prejudices – all too many prejudices – keep us distant from others and often prevent us from “becoming neighbours” ... and serving them with love.” (Pope Francis, 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees)

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CALL TO PRAYER:

Our faith challenges us to a journey, an ongoing conversion of the heart.

Scripture is filled with such journey stories: Abraham and Sarai bring their family to a new land as part of a new covenant, Moses leads his people through the desert back to the Promised Land, Mary and Joseph must travel to Bethlehem and later flee to Egypt. Jesus spends his ministry journeying through Palestine, often “with no place to lay his head.”

Today, we, too, are called to offer our outstretched hands and hearts to those who migrate from their homes and from loved ones because of the violence of conflict and poverty.

LET US PRAY:

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 as refugees.

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

We pray that today's refugees, forced migrants, and internally displaced people
may know you are always with them, in and through us.

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



SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 19: 33-34

“When aliens settle with you in your land, you shall not oppress them. They shall be treated as native-born among you, and you shall love them as people like yourselves, because you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

REFLECTION: Let us pause for a few minutes.

Consider the reasons that make people leave their country, families, homes, jobs...
Remember the people you have encountered and place them before God.

READING: *“our sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world,
cries out and pleads that we take another course” (Laudato Si’, 53)*

“HOPE is the force that drives us “to share the journey”,
because the journey is made jointly: by those who come to our land, and by us who go
towards their heart, to understand them, to understand their culture, their language.

It is a joint journey by two parties; but without HOPE, that journey cannot be made.”

“To share in order to grow” – Pope Francis

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Recall the history of your own family arriving in Canada.
What were some of their struggles and hopes for the future?
What helped them to make this country their home?
- How is God gently nudging, even urging, you/your local community
to offer HOPE to a migrant and/or refugee ?



SHARING/PETITIONS: Each one is invited to a time of faith sharing.

OUR FATHER

SOLIDARITY/SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

- o [Read the text](#) of Pope Francis for World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees.
- o View: [“IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT MIGRANTS. It’s also about our fears”](#)
- o Celebrate Eucharist virtually 10:00 am Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020 with presider Thomas Cardinal Collins. [Click here](#) to join the live stream.
- o Read [“We Need New Names”](#) NoVilet Bulawayo
- o Become a member of the refugee sponsorship group of your religious congregation or in your local parish OR become more involved with Becoming Neighbours.
- o Keep migrants, refugees and those who provide support to them in your daily prayers.

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

Fleeing from Herod,
Mary and Joseph took the child Jesus
on a difficult journey to a foreign land
never doubting that God was with them.

To Jesus we entrust
all mothers, fathers, children
who are today’s “Holy Family,”
migrating in hope, in fear,
longing for peace and a new home.

May they find their journey’s end
as we open ourselves to their stories,
their needs, their hopes.

Together may we experience
fraternal solidarity, warmth of friendship
and recognize one another as Neighbour.

This we ask in the name of Jesus,
our Lord and our Brother. Amen

SIGN OF PEACE

