

March 07, 2021

Lenten greetings to all of our dear Becoming Neighbours friends,

GOD NOT ONLY GENTLY NUDGES US BUT TAKES US AT OUR WORD.

Over these last few weeks, Becoming Neighbours has been privileged to match 35 newcomers to strengthen their English skills with 35 new companions online. Witnessing the mutual welcome and hospitality extended in these encounters has been wonderful! In the midst of all of this, Nadeer and Ghazy, two of our Syrian friends who help welcome and settle newly arrived Syrians families, phoned and asked if there was any furniture available. Nothing by chance, by accident! One of the religious congregations and a resident of Presentation Manor had recently donated furniture and household items for just such a purpose. Nadeer shared that one family consists of Mohammed and Fatima with two children aged two and three. The other family consists of Hanna and Abdul with four children ages 18, 17 and two younger children ages 14 and 11. We asked Nadeer if there was anything else that the families needed. He then shared that the two younger children had lost their mobility as they were victims of a napalm bomb. Yes, clothing and furniture will be easy to share but what about the trauma that these children and so many others carry? Perhaps the pandemic is truly the parable of our times in which God not only nudges us but take us at our word.

“Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.” (FT #8)

Please find attached a “Fridge Notes for Companions” and a “Prayer for Companionship”. We also bring to your attention a Novena to Honour and Care for Creation presented by the Sisters of St. Joseph celebrating their 170th anniversary of their arrival in Toronto. [Click here](#).

May we join in authentic solidarity all our dreams and actions toward the creation of a just and compassionate world for all.

LENTEN BLESSINGS OF SOLIDARITY AND RENEWAL,



Lois Anne Bordowitz, FCJ



Peter McKenna, SCJ