Becoming Neighbours

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Fridge Notes for Companions

August 31, 2025

No. 379



111th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
OCTOBER 04–05, 2025
"MIGRANTS, MISSIONARIES OF HOPE"
Click Here to read the full message

PRAYER SERVICE TO FOLLOW

Congratulations & Blessings!

⇒ VISITATION PROVINCE CONGRÉGATION DE NOTRE-DAME, Provincial Leader: REBECCA MCKENNA Associate to Provincial: Deborah Warner with Donna McInnis and Karen Kelly as councillors

⇒ URSULINE SISTERS OF CHATHAM MARGO RITCHIE, CSJ nominated Commissary

MAJOR FEDERAL CUTS TO REFUGEE SHELTER FUNDING

This week, the Federal Government notified the City of their decision to pay only 26 percent of projected costs to shelter refugees and asylum seekers this year.

As a result of funding cuts through the Interim Housing Assistance Program, the City is facing a \$107 million shortfall this year, which is equivalent to more than a two percent property tax increase.

This is immensely disappointing. Toronto is accommodating more than 3,500 refugee claimants and asylum seekers in our shelter system every night. Yet, providing safe shelter for refugee claimants is a Federal responsibility for which the City and Province can not shoulder the cost alone.

At the Ontario Big City Mayors meeting this week, Mayor Chow's motion was unanimously adopted calling on the Federal Government to fulfill their commitments to municipalities through the IHAP to fund the shelter cost for refugee claimants and asylum seekers at no less than 95 percent of costs incurred by the City to deliver this vital service.

All levels of government must work together to give those fleeing war, famine and persecution a good start in Canada. The Federal Government must not walk away from their responsibility to provide the funding to do so.

Contact your Federal Member of Parliament to urge him/her to ensure the Federal Government does their part.



WE REMEMBER MARGARET WALSH, OLM

who died August 16, 2025 for her support with refugees in the early days of BN ministry.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR CHAPTER SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH IN CANADA OCTOBER 05-10





WE REMEMBER GRACE SAUVÉ, CSJ

who died July 28, 2025 for her ongoing support of "our dear neighbour" in whatever way she could.

WE REMEMBER JIM CARRUTHERS, CSB

who died August 08, 2025 for his supportive presence with and for refugees.





SEPT 01-OCT 04

"Seeds of Peace and Hope" "we are one single human family. . . . The poor and the earth are crying out."

(POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATO SI)

RESOURCES:

- Pope Leo's Message
- Official Season of Creation Website o
- "What it means to live out Laudato Si" o
- 2025 Celebration Guide; Liturgical Guide o
- Peace with Creation: Video

Highly Recommended

- "A new kind of slavery: Skyrocketing use of temporary foreign workers in restaurants and fast food chains has advocates concerned"
- "Canada's immigration system, once admired for its fairness and balance, drifted into crisis"
- "Federal government to stop funding hotel rooms for asylum seekers, IRCC says"
- "How do Canadian officials detect plagiarized refugee claims?"
- "Immigration applicants to Canada face rising refusal rates, data reveals"
- "An immigrant bishop calls the church to reclaim its prophetic mission"

Climate-Induced Migration: Canada's Obligations & Opportunities



Click here to learn more

Beyoncé - I Was Here (United Nations World Humanitarian Day Performance)





Click here to watch



Living the Season of **Creation Nonviolently** Let Justice and Peace Flow







Click here to learn more

RAISING HOPE CONFERENCE

for the tenth anniversary of Laudato Si'



OCTOBER 1-3, 2025





Pope Leo XIV will lead a global event to mark the tenth anniversary of the Laudato Si' Encyclical together with a host of high-level leaders from the realms of civil society, science, and policy.

This will be Pope Leo XIV's first major statement on climate displacement and environmental protection.

READ MORE

MARKYOUR CALENDAR

WORLD CLEANUP DAY: SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

WORLD CLEANUP DAY



Volunteers worldwide will gather to rid our planet of trash - cleaning up litter and mismanaged waste from our beaches, rivers, forests, and streets.

A powerful 'green wave' of cleanups will start in New Zealand; end 36 hours later in Hawaii. Click here.

Established in 1993, Clean Up the World Weekend is a non-government apolitical event encouraging communities to carry out activities to address environmental issues.

What could you/we do?

What WILL you do TO CLEAN UP THE WORLD?

TAKE ACTION: ON SEPT 21, PEACE DAY MAKE PLANS TO PRAY FOR PEACE

"End Racism, Build Peace"

celebrating the 77 anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a day devoted to strengthening Ideals of Peace, both within and among nations.

"It is time all nations and all people recognize the inherent dignity and equal inalienable rights of all members of the human race" (U.N.Secretary Gen. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES)

CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF PEACE



United Nations International Day of Peace

RESOURCE FOR REFLECTIONS ON PEACE
Click here for full document

(Prepared and shared by Ursula Witkowska, IBVM)



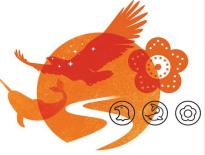
Take this opportunity to make **PEACE** in your own relationships and impact larger conflicts of our time.

IMAGINE what a whole Day of Ceasefire would mean to humankind and to our Earth!

National Day

for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th



Recognizing and commemorating the legacy of residential schools, Canadians observe September 30 as Orange Shirt Day to recognize the colonial legacy of residential schools



MARIANNA GIGNAC, IBVM 100 YEARS OF MAGNIFICENCE!



Prayer Partner with Milton Enrique Canales





Annual holiday celebrated worldwide from efforts of the labour union movement to celebrate economic and social achievements of workers. Origins in eight hour day movement: eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, eight hours for rest.

UR CALEND

SISTERS OF SERVICE AS CANADIAN TRAILBLAZERS



Date: Thursday, October 23 Place: John Kelly Library Input: Mark McGowan



Rejoicing in the gifts of encounter and dialogue, join us to celebrate the 50 anniversary of the formal launch of the CHRISTIAN-JEWISH DIALOGUE OF TORONTO

4:00 TO 6:00 p.m Sunday October 19, 2025 Timothy Eaton Memorial Church 230 St Clair Ave W

Please email CJDT50TH@gmail.com to attend

Canadian Jesuits International At 70, Living a faith that does justice

Guest speakers:



Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal,SJ Provincial of the new

Martha Lucía Márquez Restrepo Executive Director Colombia

Hlobo, SJ Director of the Jesuit Network - Africa (JENA)

Fr. Rampeoane

Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuit Province

Join us



Thursday, October 9 12:00 p.m. (ET), via Zoom



Click here to register

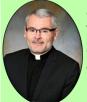
IBVM members have voted in favour of merger with the Congregatio Jesu





FROM ST. MICHAEL'S MAGAZINE 2025

JOANN ROSSITTER — is winner of a prestigious art award in Peel Region and is in process of publishing her own historian fiction novelette. (Prayer Partner with Anna Elumah)



GEORGE SMITH, CSB

"What we need to be looking at are the issues that transcend politics, the values that we revere, such as faith and family" (Previous member of BN Board of Directors. Prayer Partner with Elmer Araus Flores)

UISG announces leadership transition: Pat Murray, executive secretary, to retire



International Union of Superiors General announced Aug. 25 the retirement of Loretto Patricia Murray (left), from Ireland, as UISG executive secretary, with School Sisters of

Notre Dame, Roxanne Schares, from United States, to succeed her. Click here to read



"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, a heart of grace, and a soul generated by love." (Coretta Scott King)

Keep the Door Open - Justice for All Refugees

Bill C-2 threatens refugee protections and impact on all Canadians

STOP BILL C-2

Over 300 organizations have united to demand complete withdrawal of Bill C-2. The "Strong Borders Act" threatens human rights, refugee and migrant rights, and privacy of all residents of Canada.

3/5/2/13

THE SO-CALLED "STRONG BORDERS ACT" THREATENS HUMAN RIGHTS, REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RIGHTS, AND PRIVACY OF ALL RESIDENTS OF CANADA

BECOMING NEIGHBOURS has joined over 300 organizations from across Canada to demand complete withdrawal of Bill C-2, the so-called "Strong Borders Act", an initiative by the Federal Government that threatens human rights, refugee and migrant rights, and privacy of all residents of Canada.

OPEN LETTER: CANADA PUTS REFUGEE CLAIMANTS AT RISK WITH BILL C-2

"The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Public Safety Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

We are writing to you as a coalition of civil society groups from across Canada to express our deep concern that your Government is putting refugee claimants, immigrants and migrants at risk with Bill C-2

We call on your Government to withdraw Bill C-2 and withdraw from the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the United States of America.

Bill C-2 erodes the rights of refugee claimants and migrants to due process and access to justice.

The proposed changes can put them at grave risk."

<u>Click here</u> to read the Open Letter

Immigration and the Butterfly

The monarch Butterfly is a symbol of Immigration.

Butterflies travel far and wide
to escape the harsh winters.
Their migration is a symbol
of immigrants migrating to Canada





Angels Unawares

Unveiled by Pope Francis at Vatican Square (2019) Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz wanted "to reflect the different states of mind and emotion involved in a migrant's journey ... Within this diverse crowd of people, angel wings are visible in the center, suggesting within the migrant ... is the SACRED."

Click here to read more