



the World Day of Migrants and Refugees

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

“TOWARDS AN EVER WIDER WE”

“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!”*

The present time, however, shows that this “we” willed by God is broken and fragmented, wounded and disfigured. This becomes all the more evident in moments of great crisis, as is the case with the current pandemic. Our “we”, both in the wider world and within the Church, is crumbling and cracking due to myopic and aggressive forms of nationalism and radical individualism (Fratelli Tutti 11, 5). And the highest price is being paid by those who most easily become viewed as *others*: foreigners, migrants, the marginalized, those living on the existential peripheries.

The truth however is that we are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer *others*, but only a single “we”, encompassing all of humanity.”

“Towards An Ever Wider We”– Pope Francis

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 forced to leave their homes to escape war, persecution, poverty and natural disasters, to plunge into the unknown and to seek refuge in lands and cultures not their own.

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: Revelation 21:3

“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them;
they will be his people, and God himself will always be with them”.

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. Place them in the heart of 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)*

“Today’s migration movements offer an opportunity for us to overcome our fears
and let ourselves be enriched by the diversity of each person’s gifts.
Then, if we so desire, we can transform borders into privileged places of encounter,
where the miracle of an ever wider “we” can come about.”

“Towards An Ever Wider We”– Pope Francis

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- o Recall the history of your own family arriving in North America.
What were some of their struggles and hopes for the future?
What helped them to make this country their home?
- o 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.

ACT OF REPARATION

We are mindful of refugees fleeing violence in their own countries,
only to face additional violence as they cross unwelcoming borders.

Our special love shall go to them,
who have the greatest need of being acknowledged and loved.
We should do our utmost to avoid every form of social injustice.

Only in this way will we be able to awaken consciences
to the tragedies of misery and the demands of justice.

His way is our way, and so we promise:

All: Following Leo John Dehon, according to the signs of the times,
and in communion with the life of the Church,
we want to contribute to establishing
the reign of justice and Christian charity in the world.

(Friday Act of Reparation: North American Dehonian Retreat)

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 Read [“We Need New Names”](#) NoVilet Bulawayo
- o Become a member of the refugee sponsorship group in your local parish and/or become an active member of the US Province JPR Commission.
- o Keep migrants, refugees and those who provide support to them in your daily prayers.

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

Holy, beloved Father,
your Son Jesus taught us
that there is great rejoicing in heaven
whenever someone lost is found,
whenever someone excluded,
rejected or discarded
is gathered into our “we”,
which thus becomes ever wider.

We ask you to grant the followers of Jesus,
and all people of good will,

the grace to do your will on earth.
Bless each act of welcome and outreach
that draws those in exile
into the “we” of community
and of the Church,
so that our earth may truly become
what you yourself created it to be:
COMMON HOME
of all our brothers and sisters. Amen.

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SIGN OF PEACE

