



*"Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees"*  
(Pope Francis)

JANUARY 14, 2018

Pope Francis chose to place under his personal direction "the Church's concern for migrants, displaced people, refugees and victims of human trafficking. Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age (Matthew 25:35-43). The Lord entrusts to the Church's motherly love every person forced to leave their homeland in search of a better future. This solidarity must be concretely expressed at every stage of the migratory experience – from departure through journey to arrival and return. This is a great responsibility, which the Church intends to share with all believers and men and women of good will, who are called to respond to the many challenges of contemporary migration with generosity, promptness, wisdom and foresight, each according to their own abilities. In this regard, I wish to reaffirm that "our shared response may be articulated by four verbs:

to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate".

## CALL TO PRAYER

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

Scripture is filled with such journey stories: Abram 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, Ruth accompanies Naomi to become one with the covenant people in Judah, 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 faces and names you know and place them before God.

**READING:** “Christ Child of the Year’ should be the world’s refugee children”



Ron Rolheiser, OMI poignantly challenges us and the world: “The real Christ is forever seeking a home in a world within which there’s no room for him. The Christ-Child can be seen most clearly today in the countless refugee children who, with their families, are being driven from their homes by violence, war, starvation, ethnic cleansing, poverty, tribalism, racism, and religious persecution. They, and their families, best fit the picture of Joseph and Mary, searching for a room, outsiders, powerless, uninvited, no home, no one to take them in, on the periphery, strangers labeled as “aliens”. But they are the present-day Holy Family and their children are the Christ-Child for us and our world.” [Click Here to Read Full Article](#)

Time for Quiet Reflection: Music is appropriate, either instrumental or vocal.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Get in touch with a moment in your past history when you responded to a migrant(s).

- o What was the change in you and what was the change in those you encountered?
- o Today, how is God gently nudging, you and/ or your local community to encounter/welcome a migrant and/or refugee?



## FAITH SHARING/PETITIONS

Invitation to a time of 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

## SIGN OF PEACE



## SOLIDARITY/SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

- o [Read the text](#) of Pope Francis for “World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees.”
- 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.
- o Share the USCCB Resources to help celebrate National Migration Week [Click Here](#)