



## the World Day of Migrants and Refugees

*"IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT MIGRANTS" (Pope Francis)*

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

"... our response to the challenges posed by migration can be summed up in four verbs:  
*welcome, protect, promote and integrate.*

Yet these verbs do not apply only to migrants and refugees. They describe the Church's mission to all those living in the existential peripheries. If we put those four verbs into practice, we will help build the city of God and "man". We will promote the integral human development of all people. We will also help the world community to come closer to the goals of sustainable development that it has set for itself and that, lacking such an approach, will prove difficult to achieve. In a word, it is not only the cause of migrants that is at stake; it is not just about them, but about all of us, and about the present and future of the human family. Migrants, especially those who are most vulnerable, help us to read the "signs of the times". Through them, the Lord is calling us to conversion, to be set free from exclusivity, indifference and the throw-away culture. Through them, the Lord invites us to embrace fully our Christian life and to contribute, each according to his or her proper vocation, to the building up of a world that is more and more in accord with God's plan."

*(Pope Francis: World Day of Migrants and Refugees)*

## 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)*

**“The climate crisis has already been solved. We already have all the facts and solutions;**

**ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO WAKE UP AND CHANGE!” (GRETA THUNBERG)**

We are at critical crossroads in the history of humanity, and the action we do or do not undertake will determine the future of civilization. Compelled by Greta Thunberg in her passionate **CALL TO ACTION** (<https://bit.ly/2HJn990>), we urge all of us to participate in whatever way we can by visiting <https://globalclimatestrike.net/>.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

- Recall a moment where you felt lost or “in a strange land”?  
Who/What helped you find your way?
- How is God gently nudging, even urging, you/your local community to offer hospitality to a migrant and/or refugee ?
- What is one action of solidarity that you/your local community will undertake to promote LIFE in harmony with our common home?



## 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 Participate in SEPT. 27 **GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE** in whatever way you can.
- o **WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: “IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT MIGRANTS. It’s also about our fears”** See: <https://bit.ly/2klHG8G>