

JUNE PARISH MAILING

Refugees



Pope Francis Center
for Justice and Charity

Homily Hints

Biblical revelation urges us to welcome the stranger; it tells us that in so doing, we open our doors to God, and that in the faces of others we see the face of Christ himself.

Jesus calls us to welcome refugees and immigrants, and says that when we extend a helping hand to them, we are meeting him face-to-face.

Let us not forget the flesh of Christ which is in the flesh of refugees: their flesh is the flesh of Christ.

Catholic social teaching

Welcoming the stranger and those in flight is not one option among many in the Christian life. It is the very form of Christianity itself.

The Church is mother and her motherly attention is expressed with special tenderness and closeness to those who are obliged to flee their own country and exist

between rootlessness and integration. This tension destroys people.

Christian compassion—this “suffering with”, compassion is expressed first of all in the commitment to obtain knowledge of the events that force people to leave their homeland, and, where necessary, to give voice to those who cannot manage to make their cry of distress and oppression heard.

Refugees and people fleeing from their homes challenge individuals and communities, and their traditional ways of life; at times they upset the cultural and social horizons which they encounter.

Today, more than in the past, the Gospel of mercy troubles our consciences, prevents us from taking the suffering

of others for granted, and points out way of responding which, grounded in the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, find practical expression in works of spiritual and corporal mercy.

Prayer Intentions

For all refugees who are forced to flee from their homes, that God might bring them to a place of peace and safety—
we pray to the Lord.

For refugee children, who have been separated from their families due to difficult circumstances or death, that God will provide his protection—

we pray to the Lord.

For our bishops, that they will continue in their commitment to lead Catholic social service agencies and encourage parishes in their dioceses to be active partners in refugee resettlement and provide in their communities a place of welcome—

we pray to the Lord.

For Christian faithful and all people of good will, that they might find the compassion to walk in solidarity with refugees and the courage to advocate on their behalf—

we pray to the Lord.

For U.S. and world leaders and elected officials, that they might work together to end the strife and persecution that gives rise to refugee crises, provide care and protection for refugees forced to flee, and share responsibility in helping them build new lives—

we pray to the Lord.





Pray

Lord Jesus, when you multiplied the loaves and fishes, you provided more than food for the body, you offered us the gift of yourself, the gift which satisfies every hunger and quenches every thirst! Your disciples were filled with fear and doubt, but you poured out your love and compassion on the migrant crowd, welcoming them as brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds.

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace, to banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister; to welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs; to realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice; to share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us; to give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring.

We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one Most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

June 20 is World Refugee Day

Refugees

Refugees are individuals who have fled their countries of origin and who meet the United Nations' criteria of having a "well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."

Refugees, having suffered great loss, including loss of their homes, livelihoods, possessions and oftentimes families, need assistance starting over in a new country.

Work of Mercy

Welcome the Stranger

I was a stranger and you welcomed me
(Matthew 25:35)

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Donate items to Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Program.
- Advocate
- Accompany



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