



World Refugee Day June 20, 2018

A Faithful Call to Pray with Refugees

God,
We pray for all people.
for those who leave their countries of origin in search of a better life and safety
for their families.
Help us to stand strong in actions of solidarity and prayer.
Give courage to elected leaders to do the right thing by enacting laws that
protect all refugees and migrants.
You always make something new in each one of us.
With your help, let us build a better world for all, let us turn indifference into
compassion and mercy.
We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Every year on June 20, we are all invited to commemorate and honor the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees -women, men and children who are forced to flee their homes under threat of persecution, conflict and violence. Refugees don't leave their countries because they want to, they make life-changing decisions because their lives are in danger – whether from violence, war, famine or natural disasters.

For many years the United States has been at the forefront of a global humanitarian response to refugees, offering them protection and direct service. The U.S Catholic community supports refugees around the world by advocating for U.S. foreign aid and refugee resettlement programs. As people of faith, we must recognize the hopes and dreams of refugees as we answer the call to love as Jesus loved and welcome the stranger. This World Refugee Day, here are some ways you can become involved:

- Learn more about "Share the Journey" campaign, visit <https://www.sharejourney.org/>
- Join the Global Week of Action (17-24 June) to promote dialogue and understanding between communities and migrants and refugees <http://journey.caritas.org/gwa18/>
- Use your social media (Facebook, Twitter) with the tags #Refugees Welcome and #StandToSupportRefugees
- Write a Letter to the Editor to promote education on refugee resettlement in your community.
- Hold an information session or speaker panel with a refugee or immigrant member of your community or parish.

"Do not tire of courageously living the Gospel, which calls you to recognize and welcome the Lord Jesus among the smallest and most vulnerable."

**Pope Francis, 2017, Message
for the World Day of Migrants
and Refugees**

Oblates Refugee Ministry

U.S Oblates offer journey of faith for a refugee family fleeing religious persecution, helping them start a new life in Chicago: www.oblatesusa.org/who-we-are/our-missionary-work/newsroom/a-journey-of-faith/

An Oblate parish in Ottawa, Canada pool their resources and welcome two refugee families: <http://omiworld.org/en/content/news/3632/omi-parish-welcomes-refugees/>

The UN Global Compact for Migration is an opportunity to improve the governance on migration, to address challenges and strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development. The UN will hold an intergovernmental conference on international migration in December 2018 to ask governments to adopt the global compact. Read more <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/Pages/GlobalCompactforMigration.aspx>