

Justice, Peace and Life

February 2017

“Christians and Muslims are brothers and sisters.” -Pope Francis

*“It is our conviction as followers of the Lord Jesus that welcoming the stranger and protecting the vulnerable lie at the core of the Christian life. And so, to our Muslim brothers and sisters and all people of faith, **we stand with you and welcome you.**”*

-From the January 31, 2017 [joint statement](#) of Bishop Oscar Cantú, Chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on International Justice and Peace, Bishop William E. Lori, Chair of the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, and Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, Chair of the USCCB Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis



Pope Francis and Islamic leader Mufti Rahmi Yaran upon their arrival to the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey.

Catholic-Muslim Collaboration

For over 10 years the Diocese of Rochester has had an *Agreement of Understanding and Cooperation* with the Rochester-area Muslim Community. See:

www.dor.org/index.cfm/ministries/psmpages/muslim-catholic-alliance/

It reads in part:

Affirming our faith in only one God, and recognizing our common history and shared Abrahamic traditions, we pray to the merciful God to inspire in us respect, mutual understanding, and love and to guide us to pursue our common values for the benefit of all in our society and beyond.

*We jointly declare **our dedication to challenge continuously all forms of religious, ethnic intolerance, and bigotry** through active promotion of mutual understanding and respect for human life and dignity.*

From... [Pope Francis' Address to the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, November 2013](#)

[S]ituations in the world where coexistence is difficult are not lacking: often political or economic motives overlap with cultural and religious differences, which also play upon misunderstandings and mistakes of the past: this is all likely to generate suspicion and fear.

There is only one road for conquering this fear and it is dialogue and encounter marked by friendship and respect. When we take this path it is a human one.

Dialogue does not mean renouncing one's own identity when it goes against another's, nor does it mean compromising Christian faith and morals.

To the contrary, "true openness involves remaining steadfast in one's deepest convictions, clear and joyful in one's own identity" (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*) and therefore open to understanding the religion of another, capable of respectful human relationships, convinced that **the encounter with someone different than ourselves can be an occasion of growth in a spirit of fraternity, of enrichment and of witness.**



Stand With Refugees

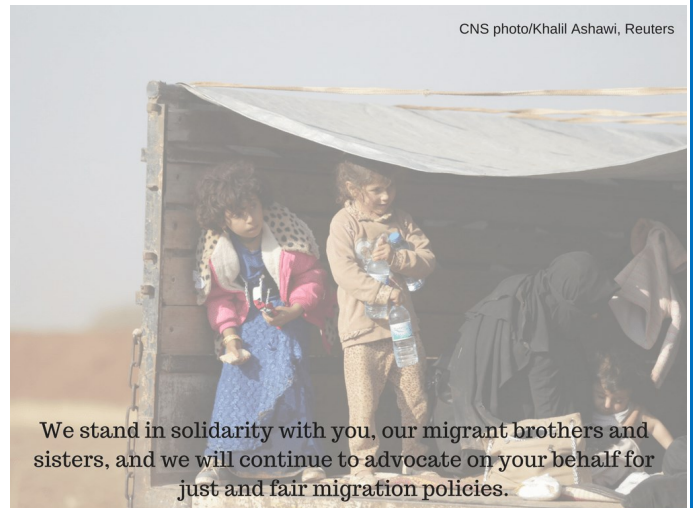
Sign the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' petition: www.justiceforimmigrants.org
(See below for the petition's wording.)

**Then make your voice heard even more loudly-
Write a postcard to the White House and
call your Congressional reps**

I write to express my strong objection with the Executive Order regarding refugee resettlement that:

- halts the whole refugee admissions program for 120 days to determine additional security vetting procedures
- drastically cuts the refugee admissions from 110,000 to 50,000 this fiscal year
- bans Syrian refugees for an undetermined amount of time

As a Catholic, I believe in the human dignity of all human beings, including immigrants and refugees. I strongly support the longstanding, U.S. government leadership on refugee protection that both Republican and Democratic administrations have asserted since the beginning of the current refugee program in 1980. I strongly support a refugee program that is safe for refugees and the communities that welcome them. While urging the government to continue improving the safety and security of the system continuously, I believe that the current program is a safe one.



We stand in solidarity with you, our migrant brothers and sisters, and we will continue to advocate on your behalf for just and fair migration policies.



Vigil for Life During Lent Outside Planned Parenthood Clinic

135 Walnut Street, Corning NY

All are invited to join in 2-hour prayerful, peaceful vigils on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons during Lent.

Candlelight Vigils on Ash Wednesday (March 1) and Good Friday (April 14), 5:00-7:00pm

Pro-Life Potluck Dinner on Sunday March 25, 5:00pm, at St. Mary's Southside, 224 Franklin St, Elmira, NY hosted by Bishop Matano

Call 607-857-8479 or 607-438-3884 for further information.

Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

Monroe 585-546-7220 Marvin Mich ext. 7021; MMich@cfcrochester.org / Ruth Marchetti ext.7099; RMarchetti@cfcrochester.org

Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; KDubel@dor.org

Cayuga/Ontario/ Seneca/Wayne/Yates Deacon Greg Kiley 315-789-2235 ext. 124; GKiley@dor.org

Tompkins Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; LKonwinski@dor.org

Livingston Tabitha Brewster 585-658-4466 ext. 13; TBrewster@dor.org

Steuben Lynda Lowin 607-776-8085 ext. 217; LLowin@dor.org

Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator: Suzanne Stack 585-328-3210 ext. 1304; SStack@dor.org