

Pope Francis' Prayer for Migrants

Merciful God and Father of all,
wake us from **the slumber of indifference**,
open our eyes to their suffering, and
free us from **the insensitivity born of
worldly comfort and self-centeredness**.

Inspire us,
as nations, communities and individuals,
to see that those who come to our shores
are **our brothers and sisters**.

May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand,
and recognize that together, as one human family, **we are all migrants**,
journeying in hope to you, our true home, where every tear will be wiped away,
where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace. Amen.



Refugees with newborn rest during flight into Egypt

Excerpts from ...

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR THE 51st WORLD DAY OF PEACE, JANUARY 1, 2018 Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace

Among these whom I constantly keep in my thoughts and prayers, I would once again mention the over 250 million migrants worldwide, of whom **22.5 million are refugees**. Pope Benedict XVI, my beloved predecessor, spoke of them as “men and women, children, young and elderly people, who are searching for somewhere to live in peace.” In order to find that peace, they are willing to risk their lives on a journey that is often long and perilous, to endure hardships and suffering, and to encounter fences and walls built to keep them far from their goal...

In a spirit of compassion, **let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger**, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands.

Many destination countries have seen the spread of rhetoric decrying the risks posed to national security or the high cost of welcoming new arrivals, and thus **demeaning the human dignity due to all as sons and daughters of God**.

Those who, for what may be political reasons, foment fear of migrants instead of building peace are sowing violence, racial discrimination and xenophobia, which are matters of great concern for all those concerned for the safety of every human being.

All indicators available to the international community suggest that global migration will continue for the future. Some consider this a threat. For my part, I ask you to view it with confidence as **an opportunity to build peace...**

When we turn that gaze to migrants and refugees, we discover that they do not arrive empty-handed. They bring their courage, skills, energy and aspirations, as well as the treasures of their own cultures; and in this way, they enrich the lives of the nations that receive them.



Support for United Nations Global Compacts

In his World Day of Peace Message, Pope Francis also wrote about his support for current United Nations' efforts to draft and support two Global Compacts, one on migration and one for refugees.



UNITED NATIONS

On December 2, the United States government withdrew from the process of developing the compact on migration. Archbishop Timothy Broglio, Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, **responded** with the criticism "With a growing global concern about protracted forced migration situations, the UN process provides an opportunity for the United States to help build international cooperation that respects such rights and protections on behalf of those seeking safety and security for their families. Participation in that process allows the US to draw on our experience and influence the compact. Therefore, the USCCB encourages the Administration to reconsider its decision to withdraw from this process."

Express your opposition to this decision by contacting the Secretary of State at www.state.gov and the President at www.whitehouse.gov/contact and by calling the White House at 202-456-1111



**SHARE
THE
JOURNEY**
A two-year campaign
by the
Catholic Church to
stand with
migrants & refugees
Supported by
Pope Francis,
the USCCB,
Catholic Charities USA &
Catholic Relief Services

For Advent prayers and reflections: www.sharejourney.org

Bishop Matano and our Diocesan Public Policy Committee are asking parishes to participate in **Share the Journey** advocacy efforts in 2018.

First action during Advent:

Share the Journey with our undocumented sisters and brothers who were brought to the US as children.

Call your Representative: 1-888-496-3502 Call your Senators: 1-888-410-0619

Ask them to support the **DREAM Act of 2017 (S.1615/H.R.3440)**

This legislation will give these young people the opportunity to work, raise a family, and pursue their dreams without fear of deportation.

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