



Fratelli tutti

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL TOGETHER

Refugees

Certain populist political regimes, as well as certain liberal economic approaches, maintain that an influx of migrants is to be prevented at all costs. ... Many migrants have fled from war, persecution and natural catastrophes. Others, rightly, “are seeking opportunities for themselves and their families. They dream of a better future and they want to create the conditions for achieving it”

Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, paragraph 37

Watch

The Journey (Help Refugees) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2dXLfVtWdw>

A short animated film capturing one child’s journey as a refugee.

Scripture

You shall be richly rewarded, for when I was hungry, you fed Me. And when I was thirsty, you gave Me something to drink. I was alone as a stranger, and you welcomed Me into your homes and into your lives.

Matthew 25:35

Questions for discussion

- How much do I/ do we know about the reasons people are forced to seek asylum, the journeys they experience, and the challenges involved in rebuilding a life?
- What is the response in our country/ local area; are we welcoming of those in need, or are we hostile towards strangers?
- What are the ways that I/ we can be more active in challenging hostility towards refugees and witnessing to the command to welcome the stranger?

Other Church Teaching

The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2241

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A particular category of war victim is formed by refugees, forced by combat to flee the places where they habitually live and to seek refuge in foreign countries. The Church is close to them not only with her pastoral presence and material support, but also with her commitment to defend their human dignity.

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church #505

The émigré Holy Family of Nazareth, fleeing into Egypt, is the archetype of every refugee family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, living in exile in Egypt to escape the fury of an evil king, are, for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, alien and refugee of whatever kind who, whether compelled by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave his native land, his beloved parents and relatives, his close friends, and to seek a foreign soil.

Pope Pius XII, Exsul Familia Nazarethana

Listen

The Least of These (Matt Maher) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgV5-gnnZG0>

Break the Bread of Belonging (Brian Wren) <https://www.pluralguild.com/journal/2018/10/10/break-the-bread-of-belonging>

Prayer

God of the widows and orphans, the immigrants and refugees,

You have promised justice for the oppressed food for the hungry, freedom for the prisoner, and relief to all who are burdened.

In Christ, You offer life to all.

Open our hearts and minds to see what You see, to love as You love, to give as You have given, so that Your promised justice would become reality in our world.

Amen

Written by Christine Longhurst for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Further Learning

Refugee Rights Europe - Reports on a range of refugee issues in Europe <https://refugee-rights.eu/resources/reports/>

Faceless, forgotten—a film on Europe's refugee crisis (2016) <https://vimeo.com/173609095>

Calais: After the jungle (Huffington Post) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzFiOSP8tdo>

UNHCR Learning Resources <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/teaching-about-refugees.html>