

EGC Prayer – 17th June 10, 2018

We, too, are migrants!

“ Like Abraham, Moses, Joseph and Mary, Jesus was a migrant...” “Like our first sisters in the founding communities around the world...” We too are migrants!

Opening Prayer - **Short Video** - To reach across borders....

Reflection:

The Scriptures are studded with stories of migration. Mary and Joseph....like their distant ancestors Abraham and Moses, - belonged to a migrant people. They were on the move, knowing exile and displacement. Jesus was born far away from home... After the massacre of the children by Herod, the parents of Jesus fled Bethlehem and took refuge in Egypt. On their return the family settled in Galilee. During His ministry Jesus went to Phoenicia (Lebanon) and Trachonitis (Syria). Jesus, considered as an outsider will hardly be tolerated in Judea. Jesus was a Galilean who became a migrant in Egypt and in Judea. “Setting off on the road” is the experience of Jesus, of Mary and Joseph that so many people all over the world live today. They are forced to leave their ‘home’ and go elsewhere.

We are carried along on our pilgrim way today by the Word of God, “ I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” (Mt 25:35). Adapted from JPIC Coordination Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa



Reading: General Chapter 2013

The Spirit impels us to listen and learn from voices from below that are being silenced, and to open our hearts ever wider to our marginalized brothers and sisters, especially women and children, as we journey with all who share the same vision and commitment to our earth and her peoples.

Voices from below...

Reader 1: *Amina is living in a displaced people’s camp in Darfur. “I was sleeping when I heard our village being attacked. I didn’t know who was shooting at us or why, their faces were covered. First they came on camels and horses, then they came in heavy vehicles, and then they came on foot. There was so much screaming, people running, and fire everywhere. I was so afraid I just ran. I didn’t even put my shoes on.”*

Ref: *The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.*

Reader 2: *Seline Netoi lives on the Carteret islands in the South Pacific, where rising sea levels mean her whole community must leave before the islands are completely under water. “It’s our home, it will be difficult to leave but we must. When the King Tide comes, water floods our home. If there is a cyclone or a tsunami, we’ll be swept away. I was a war refugee and now I’ll be a climate one.”*

Ref: *The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.*

Reader 3: *In Myanmar, a Muslim minority are being driven from their homes by violence. The government does not recognise them as citizens. Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon says, “It breaks my heart to see the rising hatred and religious intolerance in Myanmar. From the depths of my heart... I cry out two words to my brothers and sisters from all communities in my beloved country: ‘peace’ and ‘love’.*

Ref: *The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.*

Reader 4: *Aza is a 21-year-old mother with an infant son. She crossed to Greece in a boat after fleeing Syria: "They told us that there would be 35 people in our boat, but when we arrived, there were more than 200. We were in the sea and the engine stopped. It was full of smoke. My son was vomiting and he couldn't breathe. I was praying to God so he could save us. I saw lots of people pray. All of them were crying. And all of them were scared."*

Ref: *The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.*

Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas;
and to hearts broken, God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor.

Ref: *The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.*

Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Migrants & Refugees 2018



Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age (*Matthew 25:35-43*). The Lord entrusts to the Church's motherly love every person forced to leave their homeland in search of a better future.^[1] This solidarity must be concretely expressed at every stage of the migratory experience – from departure through journey to arrival and return. This is a great responsibility, which the Church intends to share with all believers and men and women of good will, who are called to respond to the many challenges of contemporary migration with generosity, promptness, wisdom and foresight, each according to their own abilities.

In this regard, I wish to reaffirm that "our shared response may be articulated by four verbs: **to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate**".

Pope Francis Message for the World Day of PEACE - 1st Jan 2018

Migrants and refugees: men and women in search of peace

In order to find that peace, (migrants and refugees) 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.... The wisdom of faith fosters a contemplative gaze that recognizes that all of us "belong to one family, migrants and the local populations that welcome them, and all have the same right to enjoy the goods of the earth, whose destination is universal, as the social doctrine of the Church teaches. It is here that solidarity and sharing are founded."..... Offering asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking an opportunity to find the peace they seek requires a strategy combining four actions: *welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating*.^[12]

**Reflection on card – Welcoming, protecting, promoting or integrating
Spontaneous prayers of intercession**

Together on the Journey

A Prayer for Migrants and Refugees

Loving God, our journey through life is long and hard.
We cannot make this trip alone; we must walk together on the journey.
You promised to send us a helper, your Spirit.
Help us to see your Spirit in those you send to journey with us.

In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence, Let us see your Spirit.
In the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables, Let us see your Spirit.
In the asylum-seeker, seeking justice for himself and his family, Let us see your Spirit.
In the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world, Let us see your Spirit.

Teach us to recognize that as we walk with each other, You are present.
Teach us to welcome not only the strangers in our midst but the gifts they bring as well:
the invitation to conversion, communion, and solidarity.

This is the help you have sent: we are not alone. We are together on the journey, and for this we give you thanks.

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