



Refugees are individuals who have fled their countries of origin and who meet the United Nations' criteria of having a "well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."

Each year the POTUS authorizes the admission of a certain number of refugees into the country. This determination is based on a consultative process between Congress, the President and various federal agencies. In recent years, the US has accepted between 50,000 to 75,000 refugees per year. Before admission to the US, each refugee undergoes an extensive interviewing, screening and security clearance process.

Refugees, having suffered great loss, including loss of their homes, livelihoods, possessions and oftentimes families, need assistance starting over in a new country.

Their initial needs are many: food, clothing, shelter, employment, English language training, and orientation to a new community and culture. In partnership with its affiliates, the US Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services Department resettles approximately 30% of the refugees that arrive in the US each year. The Catholic refugee resettlement network includes over 100 diocesan offices across the country and in Guam and Puerto Rico. Resettling refugees provides an extraordinary opportunity for countless Americans to take an active part in offering a caring and supportive environment for refugees as they begin new lives. Without volunteers and resources from the community and parishes, MRS and its affiliated diocesan resettlement offices would be unable to accomplish the tremendous task of giving refugees new hope and the opportunity to begin again.

Migrants and travelers include people like migrant farmworkers, circus and race car workers, seafarers and others whose work and lifestyle necessitate frequent travel. These "people on the move" may be unable to participate actively in a local parish community year round. Yet they and their families have the same needs for religious formation, preparation for and the reception of the sacraments, opportunities to deepen their relationship with Christ and a need to be welcomed by Catholic parishes when they are in local communities.

The Catholic Church's concern for people on the move expresses itself primarily in a ministry of pastoral accompaniment coordinated by the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church.



Prayer For Migrants & Refugees

Lord Jesus, when you multiplied the loaves and fishes, you provided more than food for the body, you offered us the gift of yourself, the gift which satisfies every hunger and quenches every thirst! Your disciples were filled with fear and doubt, but you poured out your love and compassion on the migrant crowd, welcoming them as brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds.

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace,

- To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister;
- To welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs;
- To realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice;
- To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us;
- To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring.

We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one Most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Spiritual Adoption Program 2014
Month 9

In the January, 2014 Life Notes, we invited all parishioners to join as one voice in prayer in the Spiritual Adoption Program. (See brochures in Pro-Life information rack.) The following prayer was recommended by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen to be said every day for a period of one year to spare the life of a baby in danger of abortion:

*“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much.
I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted,
who is in danger of abortion.”*

Saturday, September 13th, 2014 – Hi, Holy Rosary people! I’m your spiritually adopted baby. I’ve now reached the final month in my mommy’s womb. I’m now almost 20in long and weigh almost 8lbs! I’m starting to get ready for birth by settling into the fetal position with my head down against my mommy’s birth canal, my legs tucked up to my chest, and my knees are against my nose! My mommy’s antibodies to disease are beginning to flow rapidly through the placenta from her to me to help me stay healthy once I’m outside the womb. I’m almost out of room now, so I’ll be born anytime between the 37th & 42nd week. I can’t wait to finally meet my mommy & daddy in person! Thank you all for your continued prayers for me, my mommy and my daddy.

Please refer to online sources of hearts4life.org & lifeissues.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 17 - Respect Life Mass at Terre Haute (for more info contact Connie Kehl Fitch at (812) 232-6517)
- September 20 - Helpers of God’s Precious Infants Prayer Vigil at St. Michael the Archangel Church (for more info or to register call Colleen Simon at (317) 861-6174)
- September 21 - Indianapolis 40 Days for Life Kick-Off Rally (visit 40daysindy.org to learn more)
- Sept 24 - Nov 2 - National 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign (visit 40daysforlife.com to learn more)
- September 29 - 1st Annual White mass for Healthcare Professionals at Holy Rosary Church (for more info contact Dr. Casey L. Reising at casey.1.reising@gmail.com)

Resources & Information

- Donate: National Catholic Fund for Migration & Refugee Services - (<http://dft.ba/-mrsfund>)
- Diocesan Resettlement & Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Offices - (<http://dft.ba/-resettlementoffices>)
- USCCB Family Reunification Program - (<http://dft.ba/-usccbfrp>)
- USCCB Migration & Refugee Services - (<http://usccb.org/mrs>)
- USCCB Anti-Trafficking Program - (<http://usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/index.cfm>)
- CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, INC.) - (cliniclegal.org)
- Catholic Help Network - (chn.archindy.org/)
- Arch Indy Refugee & Immigrant Services - (archindy.org/cc/refugee/index.html)

The Church hears the suffering cry of all who are uprooted from their own land, of families forcefully separated, of those who, in the rapid changes of our day, are unable to find a stable home anywhere. She senses the anguish of those without rights, without any security, at the mercy of every kind of exploitation, and she supports them in their unhappiness. [We are called to work] so that every person’s dignity is respected, the immigrant is welcomed as a brother or sister, and all humanity forms a united family which knows how to appreciate with discernment the different cultures which comprise it.

- St. John Paul II, Message for World Migration Day 2000

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.

*Life Notes is a publication of the Holy Rosary Pro-Life Committee
Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Indianapolis, IN*