

People: Make us also ones committed to re-gathering and restoring hope to all separated from their loved ones, to ones who have been pushed away, or who have run away, from their homes, their nation, their families, their relationships.

Leader: Lord, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from you loving care. In your kindness watch over refugees and exiles, those separated from their loved ones. Grant them healing and wholeness. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be. Grant us eyes to see them and the will to reach out and welcome them. Help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need. **AMEN**

**As we leave we share a greeting of peace . . .
resolving to do all that we can to live the Gospel . . .**

I was a stranger/refugee and you welcomed me.
Mt. 25: 35

Resources for your further study and action:

- **Refugees Welcome Initiative.** This effort offers resources for welcoming refugees as well as for advocacy on behalf of refugee resettlement. Parts of this prayer come from this website. www.refugeesarewelcome.org/
- **Interfaith Immigration Coalition** This partnership of faith-based organizations is committed to enacting fair and humane immigration reform. www.interfaithimmigration.org/
- **Education for Justice** promotes outreach and education on Catholic Social Teaching and social justice issues. Parts of this prayer come from their website. <https://educationforjustice.org/>

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

Dubuque Auto Plaza — Location
Rondinelli Audio — Equipment

Sponsored by Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley:

Dominican Sisters, Sinsinawa, Wis.; Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque, Ia.; Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Ia.; Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, Ia.; Sisters of the Visitation, Dubuque, Ia.; Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Davenport, Ia.; Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Ia.; Sisters of St. Benedict, Rock Island, Ill.; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse, Wis.; Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest Community, Omaha, Neb.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/catholicsisters.



WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2016

June 20, 2016

Welcome

+ In silence we remember the...

- 58 million people displaced worldwide
- 34 million forcibly displaced within their own countries
- 7.6 million Syrians displaced within their own country
- 3.8 million Syrian refugees outside their country
- 1.5 million refugees in Pakistan
- 240,000 internally displaced people within Myanmar
- 1.1 million Somalis displaced internally
- 1.4 million people displaced within Ukraine from their homes in the east and Crimea
- 2.3 million displaced Sudanese
- 4 million Iraqi refugees forced to leave their homes
- 470,000 Central African Republic refugees
- 5.8 million Palestinian descendants awaiting a return to their homeland

ALL: God in your mercy grant your children, our brothers and sisters, your justice and peace.

Leader: And together let us sing . . .

Sing: *All are welcome,
All are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

Reading: "Home"

A poem written by Warsan Shire, a British poet born of Somalian parents in a refugee camp in Kenya

Reader: Oh God, our God, and God of every suffering refugee, we ask for the wisdom and the courage to name the situations that make life intolerable for so many people in the world. We recognize that:

- for lack of peace and safety,
- for lack of opportunity,
- for lack of basic life essentials,
- for lack of food,
- for lack of water,
- for lack of political representation,
- for lack of leadership without corruption,

thousands of people are driven to abandon the homes they've known. They are driven to risk their own lives. They are even driven to risk the lives of their children.

Sing: *All Are Welcome...*

Words from Our Faith Traditions:

Reader I: "... truly righteous is he who believes in Allah, ... and spends his money for love of Him, on the kindred and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and those who ask for charity, and for ransoming the captives;... and those who fulfill their promise when they have

made one, and the patient in poverty and afflictions and the steadfast in time of war; it is these who have proved truthful and it is these who are the God-fearing." Quran Chapter 2:178

Reader II: "You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt." (Exodus 23:9)

Reader III: "You are no longer strangers and sojourners...but fellow citizens...members of the household of God." (Eph 2:19)

Sing: *All Are Welcome...*

Reader: We journey into this prayer remembering your call for Abraham and Sarah to travel to a new land so all families of the earth may be blessed.

People: God, help us bless those who have sacrificed and braved dangers to find safety among us.

Reader: We seek to strengthen our love for others, remembering your words to "do no wrong to the stranger."

People: God, strengthen us to be family for newcomers we encounter, welcoming them and offering security and hope through our community, even as you have welcomed us.

Reader: We gather as one, united from lives that are diverse, and recalling how you asked us to care for the widow, the orphan, and the sojourner.

People: God, encourage us to know that whenever we share hospitality with others, we find in those relationships opportunities to more deeply see your face and do your will.

Reader: God for whom no one is a stranger, who came with grace again and again to restore and gather your community even following your resurrection.