

Solidarity and Refugees

In Father Han's homily on September 4th and 5th we were reminded that as members of Christ's body we are our brothers and sisters keepers and that we must take on the suffering as the body of Christ in order to provide healing. The refugees fleeing from the armed and violent conflict in Afghanistan are our brothers and sisters and they are suffering.

Our Catholic social teaching has this to say about refugees and how we are to act in solidarity with them.

The Church is close to them [refugees] not only with her pastoral presence and material support, but also with her commitment to defend their human dignity: "Concern for refugees must lead us to reaffirm and highlight universally recognized human rights and to ask that the effective recognition of these rights be guaranteed to refugees". ***Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Sec. 505***

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_en.html

Pope Francis in his August 29th, 2021 Angelus Address had this to say about the situation in Afghanistan. Dear brothers and sisters, with great concern I am following the situation in Afghanistan, and I take part in the suffering of those who are grieving for the persons who lost their lives in the suicide attacks that happened last Thursday [Aug. 26, 2021], and of those who are seeking help and protection. I entrust the deceased to the mercy of Almighty God and I thank those who are striving to help that population so tried, in particular the women and children. I ask everyone to continue to help the needy and to pray that dialogue and **solidarity** may lead to the establishment of a peaceful and fraternal coexistence and offer hope for the country's future. In historic moments like this one we cannot remain indifferent; the history of the Church teaches us this. As Christians this situation involves us. For this reason I address an appeal, to everyone, to intensify your prayer and practice fasting. Prayer and fasting, prayer and penance. This is the moment to do so. I am speaking seriously: intensify your prayer and practice fasting, asking the Lord for mercy and forgiveness. ***Pope Francis, Angelus Address, August 29, 2021***

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20210829.html

Prayer for Solidarity with Refugees and Migrants

Loving God, you create every person in your image and unite us all in one human family. As our brothers' and sisters' keepers, fill us with courage and compassion, that we might meet the hardships of migrants and refugees, not with silence and indifference, but with generous acts of mercy, welcoming every stranger as Christ in our midst. Amen.

https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/prayers_reflections/prayer-for-refugees-and-migrants/