

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

A WAY OF LIFE

Global Stewardship



The Syrian refugee exodus. New York Times Photo

Stewardship as a Way of Life

Resource Kit for Global Stewardship

With the beginning of Advent and a new liturgical year, we have a chance to reflect on different aspects of our life. Please use the resources in this booklet for yourself, your family, small groups, as a guide for prayer, reflection, and action. This year, we will explore the journey of refugees and the struggles they face.

Ways to use the Resource Kit:

1. Use the “Prayer for Refugees” found on the next page with your Basilica groups, or personally.
2. Read or watch a film about the life of refugees.
3. Choose one of the suggested scripture passages to use in your Basilica groups for prayer, reflection and discussion.
4. Attend an event or activity to learn more about refugees. Explore how our Catholic faith calls us to respond through thoughts, words, and actions.
5. Check out the resources on pages 12-13 to help increase your understanding of Global Stewardship and the issues faced by refugees. Decide on a plan of action to learn more.
6. Use the prayer intentions and closing prayer in your Basilica groups or personally.

A Prayer for Refugees

*Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee
and had no place to call his own;*

*look with mercy on those who today
are fleeing from danger, homeless and
hungry.*

*Bless those who work to bring them relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all
our hearts;*

*and guide the nations of the world
towards that day when all will rejoice in
your Kingdom of justice and of peace;*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Stewardship as a Way of Life *Global Stewardship*

Definition: “*Global Stewardship*” – Reaching out to people around the world, promoting peace and social justice through education, medicine, food, housing, clean water, financial support and political action.

Summary Statement: Catholic social teaching states that all human beings are members of the ‘Body of Christ,’ created in the image and likeness of God (GN 1:26-27) and have an inherent value, worth and distinction. As members of the universal Christian church, we are obligated to help those whose dignity has been diminished, denied or discarded due to disease, poverty or war.

Key Message: The challenges refugees face are not just issues of international importance. Minnesota is home to many refugees from all over the world. This makes understanding the plight of refugees immensely important. Understanding the hardships faced by refugees can strengthen the bonds within our Twin Cities community.

“While every refugee’s story is different and their anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage: the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives.”

António Guterres,
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
(UNHCR)

Did You Know?

Refugees:

- Are legally defined as persons outside his or her country of nationality and unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution because of his or her race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.
- Since 1975, the US has welcomed over 3 million refugees from all over the world. In Minnesota, there are currently 70,000 refugees.
- Minnesota has the largest Somali population in the US and the Twin Cities has the largest Hmong population outside of Laos.
- Annually, 25-30% of Minnesota immigrants are refugees vs. 8% nationally.
- 80% of refugees are women and children, and in 2012, 46% were under the age of 18.
- 895,000 individuals applied for asylum or refugee status to governments and UNHCR offices in 166 countries in 2011.



Journey of Refugees

To become a refugee, people must apply for consideration. Typically, they are recommended by refugee organizations or embassies. They must pass an interview process. If approved, they are referred by the Department of Health and Human Services to a US non-profit located in the area they will be resettled to help them connect with health care, language instruction, and school registration.

Relocation Challenges

While many organizations help provide opportunities for jobs, the infrastructure is not strong for providing language assistance for people who need to learn English. Adequate health care is provided by the US for 8 months, but after that, it can be difficult for them to find support.

Refugees in Minnesota

Many refugees are assigned to relocate in Minnesota because of the strong governments and non-profit support. Agencies like Lutheran Social Services, Catholic Charities, and World Relief Minnesota provide help in many ways. They find housing, provide language assistance, and help refugees acclimate to the culture. Refugees who have moved to the area report on the living conditions, potentially leading to a further increase in certain populations such as Somali and Hmong people.



Refugees find homes in new countries, able to celebrate culture and religion. A Syrian family relocated to Egypt, shares an evening Ramadan meal together.

Education—a Key to Success for Refugees



The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) Learning Circle program helps displaced children receive an education.

Education of children is another critical issue refugees face. Unless there is infrastructure in the relocation country to help children learn in their own language, it can be difficult for them to continue their education. Children must also learn about a very different school culture than they had experienced in their home country.

Suggested Scripture Readings

Micah 6:8 –“And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, and to love kindness and mercy, and to humble yourself and walk humbly with your God? “

Leviticus 19:33-34 and 24:22 – “When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Mark 12:30-31 –” Which commandment is the first of all? . . . you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Hebrews 13:1-2 – “...show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels...”

Malachi 3:5 – “The messenger will bear witness against those who thrust aside the alien.”

Matthew 25 :35-40 – “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was in prison, and you came to me” ... “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me”

Deuteronomy 1:16 – “Give the members of your community a fair hearing, and judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or resident alien.”

Numbers 35 and Joshua 20 – “The Lord instructs Moses to give cities of refuge to the Levites so that when the Israelites must flee into Canaan they may have cities of refuge given to them.”

Reflection and Discussion

Identify one fact that you learned about refugees. What was your reaction?
What action might you take as a result of this discovered knowledge?

Reflect on what challenges you might have if you moved to another country. What steps would you take to get acclimated? What kind of support would you want and need?

Discuss ways you could help the refugees. What volunteer actions could you take to help them out?

Discuss times you have felt unwelcome in your community. How did you overcome it? Consider that refugees typically encounter an unwelcoming environment.

Prayer and Reflection

Advent Vespers: 3:00pm Sundays, in the Basilica Choir Stalls with the Schola Cantorum

Morning Prayer: 9:15am Tuesdays and Thursdays in the St. Joseph Chapel

Compline: 8:00pm Sundays, Dec. 1, Jan. 5 & 19 in The Basilica with the Minnesota Compline Choir

Vespers for Epiphany: 3:00pm, Sunday Jan. 5 in the Basilica Choir Stalls, with the Schola Cantorum and Cathedral Choristers.

Gregorian Vespers for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: 3:00pm, Sunday, Jan. 12 in the Basilica Choir Stalls with The Rose Ensemble.

Events & Activities

Go to www.mary.org to see a full listing of opportunities for prayer, reflection, events and activities.

Dec. 1—Jan. 12 “O Holy Night—Creches from Around the World

Art Exhibit—featuring nativity scenes from countries worldwide. Great for children of all ages.

John XX111 Gallery and Teresa of Calcutta Hall, Basilica’s lower level.

1:30 pm, Saturday, Dec. 7 LaGuadalupana

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre present the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe at The Basilica.

Saturday, Dec. 7 Celebrate the Vigil of Our Lady of Guadalupe

3:45 pm Aztec Dancers on the Basilica Plaza

4:30 pm Bi-lingual Eucharist with Mariachi Flor y Canto, The Banderas, and traditional Aztec Dancers. Fiesta follows.

1:00 pm Sunday, January, 19, 2014—Journey of Refugees

Hear stories of refugees who’ve resettled in Minnesota, learn about support provided by area non-profits, what your can do to help. Basilica’s lower level.

Resources

Films

Rain in a Dry Land– Fleeing the horn of Africa, 2 Somali Bantu families spend 10 years in a Kenyan refugee camp, and learn they being resettled in the US. See the challenges, determination of what their geographic psychological journeys. 2007 documentary .

El Norte - Mayan Indian peasants, tired of being thought of as "brazos fuertes" (manual laborers) and organize an effort to improve their lot in life, but are discovered by the Guatemalan army. A teenage brother and sister barely escape massacre, and decide to flee to "El Norte" ("the North" or USA) to make a new life.

Which Way Home - Child migrants journey without parents or family through Mexico, as they try to reach the US. Meet Olga and Freddy, nine year old Hondurans, desperately trying to reach their parents in the US.; Jose, a ten year old El Salvadoran, abandoned by smugglers and alone in a Mexican detention center; and Kevin, a canny, streetwise fourteen-year old Honduran, whose mother hopes that he will reach the US and send money back to her.

Resources continued . . .

Books

Immigration and American Democracy: Subverting the Rule of Law by Robert Koulish

Tainted Legacy: 9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights – William Schulz

Led by Faith: rising from the Ashes of the Rwandan Genocide and *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* by Imaculee Ilibagiza

We Are All Suspects Now by Tram Nguyen

What is the What by Dave Eggers

Groups that Make a Difference

AccessAbility, Inc., www.accessability.org

diversified training, employment & production facility providing training, work & recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities & economic disadvantages who have barriers to employment & community inclusion

American Refugee Committee, www.arcrelief.org

International relief agency empowers refugees and displaced people offering medical care, water and sanitation projects, skills training, and gender-based violence programs.

CAPI, www.capiusa.org

Provides: MFIP, employment services, elder care programming, RES, RSS, referrals for other social services. Languages spoken include: Hindi, Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Nepali, English, Oromo, Karen, Burmese, Thai, and Kiswahili.

Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) Center for Families, www.mnchurches.org

Helps African immigrant and refugee teens and their families through job training, housing, mental health, health screenings and referrals, and parent-child play groups for pre-schoolers

Resources, continued...

Hands Across the World, www.handsacrosstheworldmn.org

First contact for new immigrants and refugees who need language or living skills to thrive in our community. Child care provided.

Hmong American Partnership, www.hmong.org

Build strengths of the Hmong community; self-sufficiency, family and youth.

International Institute of MN, www.iimn.org

ESL and self-sufficiency classes (parenting, nutrition) for African refugee women. Day Care and transportation provided.

World Relief Minnesota, www.worldreliefmn.org/

Works with churches to welcome and support new refugees with housing, furniture, food, and more.

Neighborhood House, www.neighb.org

Adult education, English language learner, GED, college access, school readiness, arts access, health access, cultural competency, and operates a food shelf. Refugee resettlement family support is provided for Latino, Hmong, Karen, Somali, East African, and anyone else.

PACER Center: Family to Family Health Information Center, www.pacer.org

Multicultural advocates provide assistance to parents and families who have children with disabilities or special health care needs. Translated publications, webinars, and workshops

Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant Services of Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, www.smrls.org

High quality immigration legal services to low income immigrants and refugees in the East metro and Southern Minnesota.

United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, www.unhcr.org

Worldwide field operation from recruitment of new staff and ensuring their security in dangerous situations to procurement of medical supplies and bulk food shipments to aircraft charters.

Prayer Intentions

(Response is Lord, Hear our Prayer)

For those fleeing violence and oppression.
We pray to the Lord.

For those who are homeless and seeking safe shelter and food
for their families.
We pray to the Lord.

For children separated from their families by war and
violence—for their safe keeping, and for the help
and support by strangers in their path.
We pray to the Lord.

For all refugees, especially those who make new homes in
Minnesota, for welcome and support from their new
Communities.
We pray to the Lord.

For peace in the world.
We pray to the world.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war, those separated from their loved ones, young people who are lost, and those who have left home or who have run away from home.

Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY



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Location: 16th Street and Hennepin Ave**

Mass Times at the Basilica of St. Mary

Mon-Fri 7:00 am & Noon
Saint Joseph Chapel

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am
4:30 pm & 6:30 pm