



MIGRANTS

REFUGEES

16 October 2021
E-Conference on WDMR

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE 107th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2021

[26 September 2021]

TOWARDS AN EVER WIDER "WE"

Inspiration, Context and Purpose of the Message

Inspiration from Fratelli Tutti 35: “Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of ‘them’ and ‘those’, but only ‘us’”.

Context/challenges: C-19 pandemic, “myopic and aggressive forms of nationalism (cf. *FT*, 11) and radical individualism (cf. *FT*, 105)”.

Purpose: “indicate a clear horizon for our common journey in this world”.

Media campaign for the WDMR 2021 [here](#).



A "WE" AS WIDE AS HUMANITY

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A "We" as wide as Humanity

The history of this "we": CREATION - The horizon of the "we" is already present in God's creative plan. «God created us male and female, different yet complementary, in order to form a "we" destined to become ever more numerous in the succession of generations. God created us in his image, in the image of his own triune being, a communion in diversity».

Disobedience/sin - God «wished to offer us a path of reconciliation, not as individuals but as a people, a "we", meant to embrace the entire human family, without exception».

A "We" as wide as Humanity

«**SALVATION HISTORY** thus has a "we" in its beginning and a "we" at its end, and at its centre **THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST**, who died and rose so "that they may all be one"» (Jn 17:21).

Therefore: «we are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer *others*, but only a single "we", encompassing all of humanity».



ONE CHURCH, ONE HOME, ONE FAMILY



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One Church, One Home, One Family

A Church that is more and more "catholic": The "we" applied to the Church, entailing «a commitment to becoming ever more faithful to our being "catholic"», embracing everyone and building communion in diversity.

One home - «All the baptized, wherever they find themselves, are by right members of both their local ecclesial community and the one Church».

One Church, One Home, One Family

One family - «In encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees, and in the intercultural dialogue that can emerge from this encounter, we have an opportunity to grow as Church and to enrich one another».

Challenge/task: «to make the Church become ever more inclusive»; «to build communion in diversity».



A CHURCH THAT REACHES OUT



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A Church that reaches out

Widen the tent - «In our day, the Church is called to go out into the streets of every existential periphery in order to heal wounds and to seek out the straying, without prejudice or fear, without proselytising, but ready to widen her tent to embrace everyone».

Reaching out to people on the move - «Among those dwelling in those existential peripheries, we find many migrants and refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking, to whom the Lord wants his love to be manifested and his salvation preached».



LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER

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Learning to live together

An appeal for an ever more inclusive world - «I also make this appeal to journey together towards an ever wider “we” to all men and women, for the sake of renewing the human family, building together a future of justice and peace, and ensuring that no one is left behind».

The society of the future, the new Jerusalem - «Our societies will have a “colourful” future, enriched by diversity and by cultural exchanges. Consequently, we must even now learn to live together in harmony and peace».

Learning to live together

Today's migrations movements, an opportunity... «to overcome our fears and let ourselves be enriched by the diversity of each person's gifts».

Challenge/task: «to break down the walls that separate us and, in acknowledging our profound interconnection, build bridges that foster a culture of encounter».



**BUILDING A "WE" THAT CARES
FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

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Building a “We” that cares for our common home

Ensuring the proper care of our common home - «We must become a “we” that is ever wider and more co-responsible, in the profound conviction that whatever good is done in our world is done for present and future generations».

Challenge/task: ***A personal and collective commitment*** - Caring for «all our brothers and sisters who continue to suffer, even as we work towards a more sustainable, balanced and inclusive development»; «A commitment that makes no distinction between natives and foreigners, between residents and guests, since it is a matter of a treasure we hold in common, from whose care and benefits no one should be excluded».



DREAMING AS ONE HUMAN FAMILY

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Dreaming as One Human Family

The messianic future, "a time of dreams and visions inspired by the Spirit" - «We are called to dream together, fearlessly, as a single human family, as companions on the same journey, as sons and daughters of the same earth that is our common home, sisters and brothers all (cf. FT, 8)».

Prayer

**Holy, beloved Father,
your Son Jesus taught us
that there is great rejoicing in
heaven
whenever someone lost is found,
whenever someone excluded,
rejected or discarded
is gathered into our "we",
which thus becomes ever wider.**

**We ask you to grant the followers
of Jesus,**

and all people of good will,

the grace to do your will on earth.

**Bless each act of welcome and
outreach**

that draws those in exile

**into the "we" of community and of
the Church,**

so that our earth may truly become

what you yourself created it to be:

**the common home of all our
brothers and sisters. Amen.**