



Justice and Ecology Office

06 September 2026

World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2026: “Even Just One of These Children”

Dear Companions in Mission,

Greetings! I hope this message find you well.

We would like to encourage and invite all Jesuit companions and partners in mission across Africa and Madagascar to join the Catholic Church in celebrating the **112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) on Sunday, 27 September 2026.**

The origins of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees can be traced back to 1914, when Pope Pius X called on all Christians to pray for migrants. This longstanding tradition reflects the Church's commitment to accompanying people on the move and to recognising the dignity and rights of migrants and refugees.

Since 2019, the Catholic Church has observed the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on the last Sunday of September. In January 2018, Pope Francis announced the decision to move the celebration to this date, providing an annual opportunity for the Church to reflect, pray and act in solidarity with migrants, refugees and displaced people around the world.

For 2026, the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has chosen the theme:

“Even Just One of These Children” (cf. Mt 18:10)

The theme draws our attention particularly to the vulnerability and dignity of children on the move. It reminds us that every person, especially every child who is displaced, is precious in God's eyes and deserves our attention, protection and care.

The Holy Father's message invites us to move beyond seeing migration merely as a social or political issue and to encounter migrants and refugees as brothers and sisters, children of God, and persons whose dignity must be protected.

For us as Jesuits and as companions in mission, this celebration is also an opportunity to reflect and act on our **Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs)**. In particular, it calls us to renew our commitment to walking with the poor and excluded, accompanying migrants and refugees, and justice and care for our common home.

An Invitation to Celebrate

We therefore encourage every Jesuit community, parish, school, social centre, university, formation community, apostolic work and partner organisations to find an appropriate way of marking the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Celebration can take many forms: prayer, Eucharistic celebrations, awareness-raising, formation sessions, solidarity activities, advocacy, accompaniment of migrants and refugees, youth activities, cultural events, or concrete acts of solidarity.

What matters is that, in our different contexts, we find ways of making visible the Church's commitment to those who are displaced and vulnerable.

Let us Share Our Stories

We also invite you to share with us the activities and initiatives taking place in your communities and ministries.

Across Africa and Madagascar, Jesuits and partners in mission are already accompanying migrants, refugees and displaced people in many creative and courageous ways. This World Day provides an opportunity not only to celebrate locally, but also to connect, learn from one another and amplify the many ways in which our Jesuit (Ignatian) family is responding to the call to accompany those on the move.

If your ministry is organising an activity for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, please share it with us and, where possible, tag JCAM and JENA on social media and use the hashtags:

**#WDMR #WDMR2026
#JesuitsAfricaMadagascar #Jesuits #SocialApostolate**

May the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2026 deepen our solidarity with migrants and refugees and renew our commitment to building communities where every person is welcomed, protected, accompanied and enabled to flourish.

With gratitude for your continued commitment and partnership in mission,

Rampe Hlobo SJ
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Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar

[MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV FOR THE 112th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES](#)

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