







DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

Youth Ministry Resource for Advent 2016

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me"



A D V E N T 2 0 1 6

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>27 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT <u>Matthew 24: 37-44</u></p> <p>Today's Gospel is all about signs of Jesus' coming. There are many signs in the media today that the refugee crisis is needy of our support. Reflect on what you know about the global refugee crisis. What questions do I have? Where can I go for answers?</p> | <p>28</p>  | <p>29 Definitions: What do these different labels mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Refugee → Immigrant → Internally Displaced Person → Stateless Person → Asylum Seeker <p>(See Resource Sheet)</p> | <p>30 "So we strugglin' Fightin' to eat And we wonderin' When we'll be free"</p> <p>Did you know that K'naan is a former refugee from Somalia? Watch the video of K'naan's song 'Wavin' Flag' on YouTube HERE and contemplate his message.</p> | <p>1 Contextual Reflection: Reflect on what becoming a refugee would look like in your life. For example: Civil War has broken out in Ontario and it is no longer safe for your family to stay here. You are forced to flee to the United States. What challenges would you face? What would be the most difficult part of leaving home?</p> | <p>2 Feature Friday: Take a moment to remember the dignity of a human being. Dignity is at the root of our Catholic social teaching. Please watch this short clip HERE.</p> | <p>3 Take a moment to consider all of the news media you have seen this past year about the refugee crisis. Ask them to help you pray for those in need, and discuss the ways your family can be present to those suffering through material and spiritual aid.</p> |
| <p>4 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT <u>Matthew 3: 1-12</u></p> <p>In the Gospel today, John the Baptist travels around Jordan proclaiming the hope of Jesus' coming. Pope Francis challenges us to give refugees a reason for hope. How can I personally offer hope in light of the refugee crisis?</p> | <p>5</p>  | <p>6 Map it out: Using the map provided HERE, highlight the major areas of the refugee crisis. Place this map as a bookmark into your Bible at Matthew 25:35-40 as a reminder to see Jesus in those who suffer. 📖</p> | <p>7 Understanding the Where and the Why:</p> <p>Where are the largest numbers of refugees coming from and why are they forced to leave their homes? Click HERE for answers.</p> | <p>8 <i>Tonight, share this prayer at the dinner table:</i></p> <p>Creator God, you send us the Holy Spirit to help us be your hands and feet on earth.</p> <p>Make us mindful of the needs of refugees around the world that we may offer your love and mercy to those torn apart by pain and distress.</p> <p>We ask this all through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p> | <p>9 Feature Friday: MOAS - Migrant Offshore Aid Station. A family taking action to help those crossing the Mediterranean Sea. Watch the video HERE.</p> | <p>10 International Human Rights Day</p> <p>Today commemorates the when the UN signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Today we focus on everyone's rights, including freedoms of speech and worship and to right to a life without fear. For more information, click HERE.</p> |
| <p>11 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT <u>Matthew 11:2-11</u></p> <p>The refugee crisis demands a response of charity built on a foundation of justice (CCCB). How can I challenge myself to be charitable outside of monetary support? What can I give to show my solidarity to those in need?</p> | <p>12</p>  | <p>13 Check out the Office for Refugees website at the Diocese of Hamilton. Consider the value of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program as a way to help.</p> | <p>14 "Each of us is responsible for his or her neighbour: we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live." – Pope Francis</p> <p>Let us Pray for our Brothers and Sisters in Need!</p> | <p>15 Infographic Challenge: What are additional challenges refugees could face once resettled in a new place (for example, money, food, housing, friends, education)?</p> <p>Create an infographic that shows these challenges and share with your friends via Twitter or Facebook.</p> | <p>16 Feature Friday: Watch the movie The Good Lie to learn more about the refugee experience, as well as the experience of North Americans when they meet refugees in countries like Canada.</p> | <p>17 As you write your Christmas cards, consider challenging extended family to pray for those displaced in refugee camps, and to stay up-to-date of their situation. Imagine: some refugees in Tanzania, Kenya and Pakistan have lived in refugee camps for more than 30 years.</p> |
| <p>18 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT <u>Matthew 1:18-24</u></p> <p>Family reunification is a big focus in Canadian immigration and refugee policy, as well as in the UN refugee protection system. Today, reflect on the importance of family. How do you feel when you gather together with your family? What would it feel like to be without them?</p> | <p>19</p>  | <p>20 2016 was a big year for refugee resettlement in Canada. Click HERE to see how many Syrian refugees have arrived in Canada and what the road ahead looks like.</p> | <p>21 "It is time for us to look at refugees and realize we are not looking through a window, but in a mirror." – Craig and Marc Kielburger</p> | <p>22 The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace has created a prayer for the ongoing crisis in Syria and those that are living in the war torn country. Please click HERE to view the prayer.</p> | <p>23 Please see our resource sheet for more information.</p> | <p>24 Tweet: 🐦 On Christmas Eve take a moment to participate in the social media campaign you researched by tweeting out your support for the cause.</p> |

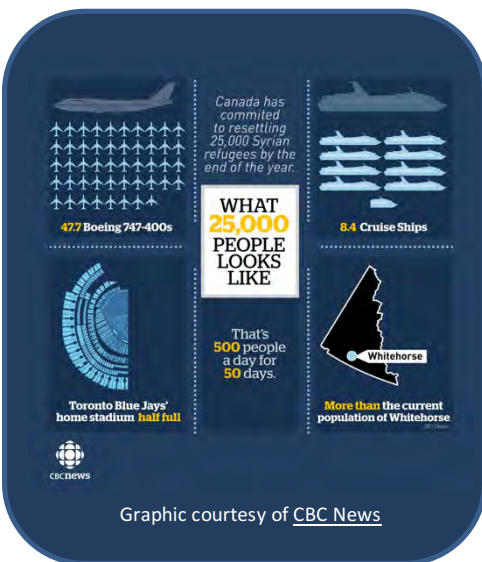
VIDEO RESOURCES



Click above! MOAS (Migrant Offshore Aid Station) is a foundation dedicated to preventing loss of life at sea by providing aid, assistance and medical help to migrants who find themselves in distress whilst crossing the Mediterranean Sea in unsafe boats.



Not quite sure about the relationship between Advent and Christmas? Click the thumbnail above for a two-minute video that describes why we celebrate Advent and wait to celebrate Christmas.



Development & Peace has a section about the *Crisis in Syria* on their website.

Please click [HERE](#) for their special report, videos, and materials and learn about giving hope through solidarity.



"Each one of them is Jesus in disguise" – Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Photo Source: [HERE](#)

DEFINITIONS from Canadian Council for Refugees

Refugee – a person who is forced to flee from persecution.

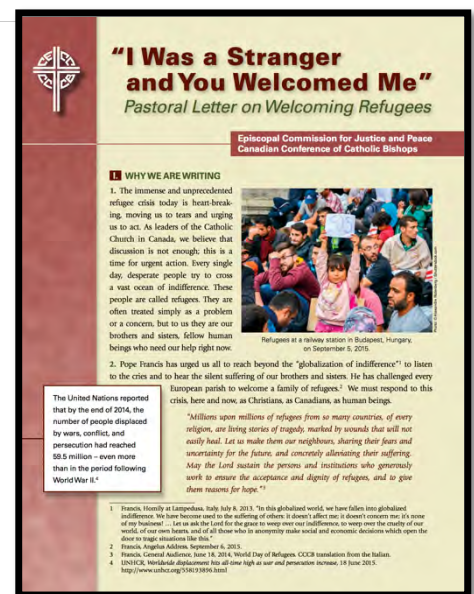
Immigrant – a person who has settled permanently in another country. Immigrants choose to move, whereas refugees are forced to flee.

Asylum-seeker – a person who is seeking asylum. Until a determination is made, it is impossible to say whether the asylum-seeker is a refugee or not.

Stateless person – a person who is not recognized as a citizen by any state. Some refugees may be stateless but not all are, and similarly not all stateless people are refugees.

Internally displaced person – a person who has been forcibly displaced but is still within the borders of their home country.

The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty! – Pope Francis, World Youth Day 2013



Please click above for CCCB's pastoral letter "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me"

We are called by our Catholic Faith to get involved! We are challenged to respond through our faith to the cries of those in need, for they, are our brothers and sisters. In them, we find Jesus the Lord.

Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. To feed the hungry.
2. To give drink to the thirsty.
3. To clothe the naked.
4. To Shelter the Homeless
5. To visit the sick.
6. To visit the imprisoned
7. To bury the dead.