



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

June 20, 2026
World Refugee Day

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am grateful for the many individuals, families, parishes, and volunteers throughout the Diocese of Hamilton who respond generously to the needs of refugees and newcomers. Through acts of welcome and accompaniment, they bear witness to Christ's love and help newcomers build a sense of belonging within our communities.

Their generosity reflects a fundamental call of our Christian faith. Throughout Sacred Scripture, God repeatedly calls His people to welcome the stranger and care for those in society who are most vulnerable.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus reminds us: "*I was a stranger and you welcomed me*" (Mt 25:35). These words call us to recognize the dignity of every person and to encounter Christ in those seeking safety, peace, and a new beginning.

The experience of refugees is also reflected in the life of the Holy Family. When Joseph was warned to flee with Mary and the Child Jesus into Egypt, they too experienced displacement and uncertainty. Their journey reminds us that behind every refugee story are individuals and families longing for hope and the opportunity to live in peace.

May we continue to open our hearts to those who seek refuge among us. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Family, may all refugees find safety and hope, and may we always recognize in the stranger the face of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† *Joseph Dabrowski*, CSMA

Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski, CSMA
Bishop of Hamilton

/cd