

# “WORLD Refugee Day – June 20”

Every year the UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) publishes the current world refugee numbers on 20 June. Sad records are expected again. Violence, persecution and violations of human rights in many regions of the world will be characterized by high levels of internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers. But in the debate about numbers and quotas the human being and his or her personal history must not be lost sight of.



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On World Refugee Day we recall the strength, the courage and the perseverance of millions of refugees.

Some recent news from the UNHCR - 2017

- February 10: The number of refugees from South Sudan rises to 1.5 million
- April 5: Financing gap endangers aid for Syrian refugees
- April 11: Risk of starvation increases in parts of Africa and Yemen
- May 8: More than 1 million children are fleeing violence in southern Sudan.
- May 5: Again boats capsized in the Mediterranean

# Open your heart !

## Let us pray:

(Sign of the Cross)

In the name of God - who looks at us mercifully,  
In the name of Jesus Christ - who has lived peace,  
In the name of the Spirit - which strengthens and inspires  
us and leads us to courageous action.



James writes in his epistle: «What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?... ” James 2, 14-16

Faith Without Works Is Dead

Mt. 25.40: And the king will say to them in reply: “Amen, I say to you: whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did me.”

## SILENCE

## Kyrie:

God, the source of all life, for you every life counts! Have mercy on us.  
Jesus Christ, you show us our neighbor! Have mercy on us.  
Holy Spirit, touch us and give us the courage to face the needy, without  
fear and indifference! Have mercy on us.

**Antiphon: Do not hide your face from me; in you, O God, I trust.**

With my voice I cry out to God; with full voice I beseech the Lord.

Before God I pour out my complaint, lay bare my distress.

My spirit is faint within me, but you know my path. Along the way I walk they have  
hidden a trap for me.

I look to my right hand, but no friend is there. There is no escape for me; no one  
cares for me.

I cry out to you, God, I say, You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

Listen to my cry for help, for I am brought very low. Rescue me from my pursuers, for  
they are too strong for me.

Lead me out of my prison, that I may give thanks to your name. Then the just shall gather around me, because you have been good to me. (Psalm 42)

**Antiphon: Do not hide your face from me; in you, O God, I trust.**

Pope Francis, after his arrival in Fatima on 12 May 2017:

"Hail, O Queen, Blessed Virgin of Fatima," prayed the Pope. He had come as a "pilgrim of peace and hope" and prayed for peace because "today blood is shed in the wars that destroy our world." He clearly referred to the so-called Third Secret of Fatima: "As a white-clad bishop, I intend to think of all those who want to live with the pure robes of baptism in God and to look at the secrets of Christ in peace."



### **Intercession:**

Jesus encourages us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Therefore let us pray: Oh God, hear us.

- We ask for all people who are on the move from their home country, who had to leave everything and have only the most necessary.
- We ask for all the needy, the sick and the afflicted who are not able to help themselves.
- We ask for all those who live in social and financial poverty.
- We ask for all the helpers who see the need of the people and actively help.
- We ask for those who close their hearts, look away, or pass by indifference when their help is needed.
- We ask the politicians to work unanimously and wisely for the suffering of the people and the transformation of the social conditions.
- We ask for peace, unity and justice in the countries and peoples affected by wars, unrest, terror and pollution.
- We especially pray for the many children who no longer find their family for protection and help.
- We ask for the victims of violence and terror and for all those who are persecuted for their faith's sake.

**Prayer:** "Almighty, eternal God, no human being is strange to you, no one is so far from you that your help could not reach him. Look graciously at the refugees, the homeland, the outcasts, and the disowned families. Bring them back home and security. And give us a heart for all who are needy. Therefore, we ask through Christ, our Lord. Amen."