



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM  
DE SPIRITUALI MIGRANTIUM  
ATQUE ITINERANTIUM CURA

Vatican City, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Prot. N. 8306/2015/M

Re: *Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees (January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016)*

Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

The next World Day of Migrants and Refugees, an annual commemoration of the Church that raises awareness of the migration phenomenon, logically enters into the context of the Year of Mercy. In line with the Holy Father's desire that the Jubilee Year be experienced particularly in the Local Churches, the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People wishes to propose that a Jubilee Day of Migrants and Refugees be celebrated at the local level in the dioceses of every Conference of Bishops.

It would be desirable that the Jubilee be celebrated in conjunction with the World Day for Migrants and Refugees, which will be observed on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and which the Holy Father has dedicated with His Message to the theme: "*Migrants and Refugees challenge us. The response of the Gospel of Mercy*".

For this reason, I wish to offer a few suggestions for the local celebration of the Jubilee in each of the Conferences of Bishops:

- that the Jubilee Day be celebrated in the diocesan and parish levels with the active participation of migrants and refugees and with the involvement of the entire Catholic community (the diocese and the parish are the place where interaction with migrants and refugees practically takes place);
- that the celebration be a distinct opportunity for tangible signs of solidarity with migrants and refugees in the spirit of the works of mercy: gestures that would both have a symbolic significance and express our closeness and sensitivity to migrants and refugees;
- that this Event be a specific occasion to raise awareness of the faithful to the migration phenomenon, by presenting the full picture of the migration

**To the Presidents of the Conferences of Bishops  
and the Corresponding Hierarchical Structures  
of the Oriental Catholic Churches**

CC: The Bishops Promoters and National Directors  
for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees

reality - that is, with all of its positive aspects, while at the same time presenting its dangers and risks;

- that the Jubilee Day be an opportunity to distribute the annual Message of the Holy Father, which will be published in the near future;

- that the celebration not be confined to a single day, but that it may be a chance to plan and organize other initiatives relative to the migration phenomenon during the Year of Mercy.


Furthermore, I would like to notice that the Year of Mercy is an opportunity to encourage the dioceses and Catholic communities within your Conference of Bishops that do not yet celebrate the annual World Day of Migrants and Refugees to do so, beginning from 2016.

It is my sincere wish that, through the collective prayer and action of the entire Catholic Church, this Jubilee celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees will truly be a moment of grace and stimulus in the construction of more just world, characterized by fraternal solidarity.

Meanwhile I express, in advance, my sincere gratitude to You and the fellow Bishops, Pastors and pastoral agents involved with migration of your Conference of Bishops for the collaboration, I avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere sentiments of profound veneration / kindest regard.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Antonio Maria Card. Vegliò  
President

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✠ Joseph Kalathiparambil  
Secretary