

a moment for grace
a prayer for refugees



God of our Wandering Ancestors,

Long have we known
That your heart is with the refugee:
That you were born into time
In a family of refugees
Fleeing violence in their homeland,
Who then gathered up their hungry child
And fled into alien country.

Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:
"Will you let me in?"

Give us hearts that break open
When our brothers and sisters turn to us
with that same cry.
Then surely all these things will follow:
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.
And hands will reach out—
working for peace in their homeland,
working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.

Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me
And so make me worthy
Of the refuge I have found in you.

amen



Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find
ready comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the approaching Synod of Bishops
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.

Pope Francis

October 2015



Photo Credit: Steve Knight, Sacred Arts Guild, Vancouver

Holy Family of Nazareth
Grant that our families
May be places of peace

We pray with the Church and the World

Universal: HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

That human trafficking, the modern form of slavery, may be eradicated.

Evangelization: MISSION IN ASIA

That with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the Gospel to those who are still awaiting it.

We rejoice with and congratulate our sister **Nguyen Thu Thao** of the Australian and South Asia Province who made her Perpetual Profession in Vietnam on 26th September.

Let us remember in prayer Pope Francis and all who will gather in Rome 4 - 25 October for the **Synod on the family**. "The vocation and the mission of the family in the Church and in the Contemporary world"

At the close of the first session Pope Francis wrote "Dear brothers and sisters, now we still have one year to mature, with true spiritual discernment, the proposed ideas and to find concrete solutions to so many

difficulties and innumerable challenges that families must confront; .. May the Lord accompany us, and guide us in this journey for the glory of His Name, with the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St. Joseph.

11th October:

International Day of the Girl:

Theme: The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030:

UN agencies, Member States ... are called on to commit to putting adolescent girls at the centre of sustainable development efforts ... prepare girls for life, jobs, and leadership.

18th October: World Mission Day

Throughout the world the faithful will reflect on the universal call to Mission of all the baptized.

From the letter of Pope Francis for Mission Day:

Today the Church's mission is faced by the challenge of meeting the needs of all people to return to their roots and to protect the values of their respective cultures. This means knowing and respecting other traditions and

philosophical systems, and realizing that all peoples and cultures have the right to be helped from within their own traditions to enter into the mystery of God's wisdom and to accept the Gospel of Jesus, who is light and transforming strength for all cultures.

24th October – United Nations Day

"At this critical moment, let us reaffirm our commitment to empowering the marginalized and vulnerable. On United Nations Day, I call on Governments and individuals to work in common cause for the common good".

Ban Ki-moon

We remember the many **migrants and refugees** who have to leave their homes because of war and violence.

May they find acceptance and understanding on their journey and be welcomed with Christian hospitality.

We remember those who have died seeking a better life, especially the thousands who have died in the waters of the Mediterranean. May the Lord welcome them into his house and give comfort to their families.