World Refugee Day 2020

March 18, 2020

This webinar is intended as an off-the-record discussion with the JFI network. Please direct all press inquiries to Mark Priceman at mepriceman@usccb.org.
Presenters/Speakers

• Todd Scribner, USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services

• Matt Wilch, USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services

• Sister Pegge Boehm, PBVM, Caminando Juntos – Sioux Fall, South Dakota
World Refugee Day 2020

- Forty Years ago (Almost) Today

- The Roots of the Resettlement Program

- The State of the Situation: Contemporary Challenges and Promising Possibilities

- Taking Action on the Local Level – Yep, We Need You!

World Refugee Day
June 20, 2020
A Moment of 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 courtesy of CRS
Roots of the Refugee Resettlement Program
Refugee Act of 1980

What did it do?
Refugee Resettlement Numbers

- 1980: 166000
- 1990: 120000
- 2000: 71000
- 2010: 73000
- 2019: 37000
Why is your engagement so important?
GLOBAL FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Forcibly displaced persons in 2020 = 70.8 million
Refugees in 2020 = 25.9 million
Refugees Needing Resettlement in 2020 = 1.44 million
Every Person is Made In the Image of God
Growing Global Resettlement Need

2020 1,440,000
2019 1,400,000
2018 1,2000,000
2017 1,190,000
2016 1,150,000
2015 960,000
## Declining U.S. Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US Goal</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>53,716</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>22,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2020</td>
<td>18,000</td>
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### Executive Actions
- Executive Order 13769*
- Executive Order 13780*
- Executive Order 13815*
- Proclamation 9645
- Proclamation 9822
- Proclamation 9983
- Executive Order 13888*
## Solutions to Declining U.S. Program

### Executive Actions (EOs)

- The Administration could reverse the EOs
- Congress could vacate the EOs
  - NO BAN Act, H.R. 2214/S.1123

### Annual Refugee Arrivals

- The Administration could increase PDs and actual arrivals
- Congress could do so by legislation
  - GRACE Act, H.R./S.1088
Build Bi-Partisan, National/Local Support

• JFI Action Alerts/Social Media

• Do in-state, in district visits during Congressional breaks

• World Refugee Day—join and help organize local community events with Catholic Charities locals and others; invite your federal, state, and local officials to celebrate with you.
WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Sharing the Experience from Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Sister Pegge Boehm, PBVM -
March 18, 2020 Webinar
SIOUX FALLS DIOCESE (EAST RIVER SD)

• Serves Eastern South Dakota (East River; East of the Missouri River)
• Population of South Dakota (870,000)
• Population of Sioux Falls Diocese (550,000)
• Diocese covers 35,100 Square Miles (size of Indiana)
• Catholics in the Sioux Falls Diocese (135,600 or 24%)
• 150 parishes (6 hour ride from one corner to the other corner)
• Sioux Falls – largest city in Diocese/State (183,000)

WE ARE A RURAL DIOCESE
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>NO</strong></th>
<th><strong>YES</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office for Refugee Resettlement</td>
<td>• Respect Life Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities Office</td>
<td>• Catholic Conference <em>(new in the past several years)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Ministry Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Concerns Office</td>
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IN THE BEGINNING: REFUGEES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

RESOURCES

- LSS Center for New Americans Refugee Resettlement Agency – located in Sioux Falls, SD

- In 1948, following WWII, began resettlement.
- In 2015, 495 refugees resettled.
- In 2019, 130 refugees resettled.
- Congo, Eritrea, Ukraine, Burma, ....
WORLD REFUGEE DAY EVENTS IN SD
2003 – 2016

- The Refugee Congress Delegate for SD
  a refugee herself from Mozambique

- In-School presentations of Refugees’ experiences.
PLANNING WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2017
ONE PERSON → COMMITTEE

- Justice for Immigrants (JFI)
- LSS- Center for New Americans
- Refugee Congress/UN
- Caminando Juntos
- Presentation Sisters of Aberdeen, SD
- Sioux Falls Multicultural Center

Islamophobia
Hate – Events, etc.
State Legislature
Current Administration
GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE FORMED

challenges are opportunities in disguise
WORLD REFUGEE DAY – JUNE 20, 2017
THEME: WE STAND TOGETHER WITH REFUGEES

- Refugee Simulation on the grounds of Lutheran Social Services in Sioux Falls
- UN Refugee Camp Ration display
- Table = Port of Entry to the country
- Explanation of the immigration and refugee process
- Refugee Family in a UN Refugee tent explaining life in the Camps
- Ethnic Food truck on the campus
- Took place over lunch hour
- Mayor read Proclamation
- Bus from Aberdeen, SD
- 150 participants!
WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2018
RAINED OUT! CAME IN!

- Increased participation and investment of LSS
- Redesigned Simulation Process – participants were escorted
- Included refugee youth as guides, leaders
- Increased number of LSS personnel involved

- Local media coverage
- More informational tables
- Two food trucks
- Local Hispanic artist created logo
WRD 2019

• Increased marketing and media coverage


• Simulation was done in a local Lutheran Church
WORLD REFUGEE WEEKEND 2020

• Added partners
  SD Voices for Peace
  Siouxland Library/City
  Levitt Stage

* Guiding Values
  1. EDUCATION
  2. SOLIDARITY
  3. CELEBRATE

WEEKEND EVENTS

1. Friday, June 19: Levitt Stage
   Pre-Show: Local Refugee Music/Dance groups
   Barrio Manouce Concert
   Craft Display Tables
   Green Card Voices Banners
WORLD REFUGEE WEEKEND 2020

2. **Saturday, June 20:** Green Card Voices Display of 21 banners at Downtown Library

3. **Sunday, June 21:** Refugee Panel at Library; RAISED IN SD stories of local refugees
QUESTIONS?

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Hector Curriel, Local Artist