



SUORE MISSIONARIE DI SAN CARLO BORROMEO (SCALABRINIANE)  
CASA GENERALIZIA - VIA DI MONTE DEL GALLO, 68 - 00165 ROMA - TEL. 06 39377320 - 06 6390369

Rome, 20 June 2020

Prot. n° 082/2020

Subject: Message for the World Refugee day

*"Get up, take the child and his mother  
and flee to Egypt"  
(Mt. 2,13)*

*Dear Sisters, Formands, Lay Scalabrinian Missionaries*

*Believing in the dream, Joseph and Mary set off on a long journey into the desert, protecting the Son of God made man from the threat of King Herod. The journey and escape was very painful. The Holy Family followed a road that not even Joseph knew, but he knew that he had to, out of prudence, avoiding the places where Jews, Egyptians and Romans circulated, facing every risk of the desert, until they reached the land of Egypt, where they would be saved. The story of the family of Nazareth, a refugee, is still repeated today, World Refugee Day, decreed by the United Nations Assembly, in the year 2000; this day is an opportunity to show our solidarity with refugees and with the communities that welcome them.*



*There are currently 70.8 million people in the world forced to flee, victims of conflicts, persecutions, violence or natural disasters, of which 25.9 million are recognized refugees.*

*Pope Francis reminds us that "in every refugee Jesus is present, forced to flee, as in the time of Herod, to save Himself. In their faces we are called to recognize the face of Christ".*

*The numbers, the complexity and the duration of today's conflicts mean that forced displacements have reached an unprecedented level and there are not enough answers to offer solutions to these people, so that they can rebuild their lives. For this reason, the world refugee day, commemorated on June 20, must be an opportunity to animate the processes of solidarity and concrete actions that help refugees.*



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Globally, three quarters of refugees and many migrants live in developing nations, where health care systems were already overloaded and, with the COVID - 19 pandemic, have collapsed. Many refugees live in overcrowded camps, makeshift shelters or reception centers where they do not have access to health services, safe drinking water or even toilets. Most of them are located in recognized or informal detention centers, in situations of isolation and particularly distressing hygienic conditions. Migrants and refugees are disproportionately exposed to the vulnerability of exclusion, stigma and discrimination, especially when they are in the status of irregularity. We are appealed to make an impact so that local, national and international leaders do not passively witness the destruction of many lives in threat. It is essential to identify appropriate solutions, human and deserving means to ensure that people do not risk their own lives and that of their families, resorting to unscrupulous traffickers or using fragile boats, trying to reach places where they can find security at various levels. Let us join the various programs, initiatives and activities that are realized in the various spheres of society, the Church and the Congregation. We ask the Lord that through our pastoral service, which is expressed in welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating, we can spread love for the migrants and refugees, so that the earth becomes a place of fraternity where no one is excluded and all are called by the Father by name and all have life and life in abundance.



*In communion of prayers,*

*Sr. Neusa de Fátima Mariano, mscs  
General Superior, Councilors and General Secretary*

