



CLERGY RESOURCE



Greetings! We hope the summer allowed you time to relax and recharge for the exciting year ahead!

Faithful Catholics in the United States face a dilemma around the plight of migrants and refugees in the world today. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger, but concerns for security and loss of jobs fuels an instinct to protect against the unknown. Pope Francis is asking Catholics to know the unknown, to meet the people who are themselves victims of conflict and economic hardship. That is the foundation of Caritas' "Share the Journey" campaign which Pope Francis will launch from Rome on September 27. We invite you to *Love Your Neighbor* by being part of the *Share the Journey* campaign.

Here in the U.S. the campaign will begin with a week of Prayer and Action October 7th-13th, 2017. To learn more about the campaign visit loveyourneighbor.us, the website for the campaign in the U.S.

As the campaign nears and you consider how you and your community will take part, I ask you to reflect on these words of Pope Francis, who continues to remind us that our closeness to migrants reflects our closeness to Christ:

"We are all immigrants, we are all on a journey. And this word that we are all immigrants is not written in a book, it is written in our flesh, in our journey of life, which assures us that in Jesus we are all children of God, beloved children, wanted children, saved children. Let us consider this: we are all immigrants on the journey of life, none of us has a fixed abode in this land, we all must go."

(Pastoral Visit of his Holiness Pope Francis to Pompeii and Naples, 3/21/15)



Ministry Resources

Love Your Neighbor by participating in the Share the Journey Campaign. Bishops in the U.S. are asking Catholics around the country to help kick off the campaign by taking part in a week of prayer and action for migrants and refugees October 7th -13th. To help you kick off the campaign in your community check out the resources below:

- [The Parish Toolkit](#): a toolkit with sample prayers, general intercessions, and ideas for parish leaders.
- [Prayer and Commitment Sheets](#): Printable prayer and commitment sheets that can be downloaded, printed and placed in the pews at mass on the weekend of October 7-8.
- [Homily Notes](#)
- [Additional Resources](#) for your parish and community

CRS on the Ground

Hiat is a mother on the run. Hiat is also a mother of 6, who made the perilous journey to Athens after the death of her husband in the Syrian civil war. During a trip to the Balkans, Deacon Steve Swope from the Archdiocese of Atlanta, met Hiat. [Read more](#) about Deacon Steve's encounter and Hiat's journey.

TAKE ACTION



The international Share the Journey campaign launches September 27, along with a U.S.-based Love Your Neighbor outreach. We invite you to join a Facebook Live around this historic campaign and learn how churches, schools and individuals can be involved and reach out to migrants and refugees fleeing war, persecution and severe poverty. Join us on **September 12 at 1 pm** on the [Catholic Relief Services Facebook page](#). If you can't join us live, please watch it later on Facebook.

Take part in the **Week of Prayer and Action** October 7-13 to kick off Pope Francis' launch of the global campaign supporting migrants and refugees. Visit the campaign [website](#) for ideas and resources to help you get involved.

2016 OPERATING EXPENSES



6% Fundraising,
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