

National Migration Week: January 8-14

“For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated **National Migration Week**, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for **National Migration Week 2017** draws attention to Pope Francis’ call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us. In the homily given at his first Pentecost as pope, he emphasized the importance of encounter in the Christian faith: “For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others.”

With respect to migrants, too often in our contemporary culture we fail to encounter them as persons, and instead look at them as others or render them invisible. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious of their intentions. During this **National Migration Week**, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as community members and neighbors – all of whom are worthy of our attention and support.”



Unaccompanied Children and Families from Central America

Unaccompanied children arrive at our borders without their parent or legal guardian with them. In recent years, many of these children were from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Most are fleeing grave violence, gang recruitment and are seeking to reunify with family in the United States.

73% of unaccompanied children who had legal representation won their immigration case in the United States, compared to 15% who were unrepresented. (American Bar Association)



Refugee Protection

USCCB is the largest private refugee resettlement agency in the United States, helping to resettle more than 1 million refugees in the United States since 1975.

Facts:

The top five populations resettled during Fiscal Year (FY) 2015: Congo, Syria, Burma, Iraq, and Somalia.

12,000 Syrian refugees resettled in the United States since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011. (Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration)

According to the United Nation’s High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 66 million persons were displaced in the world at the end of 2015. (UNHCR)

All text and image of girl from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) National Migration Week Toolkit: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/upload/NMW-2017-Toolkit.pdf>. Image of Guadalupe from Ignatian Solidarity Network Facebook site.