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## All Are Welcome

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# All Are *Welcome*

**M**ay we realize that, in our interconnected world, we are linked with all displaced persons by our common humanity. May we proclaim our solidarity with our sisters and brothers as we recognize their human dignity as children of God. Let us pray.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, refugees in Egypt, remember the men, women and children who long for home as they weep in exile. In your mercy, grant them new life. With your grace, help us to embody your concern and compassion for them.

We praise you, God of Migrants. You hear the cries of the poor, you lift up the weak and give them strength.

We praise you, Bread of Life. You feed the hungry and satisfy the longing of those in need.

We praise you, God of Gentleness. You hold with tenderness the orphan and widow and give the stranger a land and a home.

We praise you, God of Deliverance. You bring an end to oppression and suffering and deliver those in prison to freedom and home.

## Message of Pope Francis

Biblical revelation urges us to welcome the stranger; it tells us that in so doing, we open our doors to God, and that in the faces of others we see the face of Christ himself. Many groups are experiencing the wonder and joy of the feast of encounter, sharing and solidarity. They have heard the voice of Jesus Christ: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock” (Rev 3:20).

Yet there continue to be debates about the conditions and limit set for the reception of migrants. Faced with these issues, how can the Church fail to be inspired by the example and words of Jesus Christ?

## The answer of the Gospel is MERCY

In the first place, mercy is a gift of God the Father who is revealed in the Son. Mercy nourishes and strengthens solidarity towards others. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they live. Concern for fostering good relationships with others and the ability to overcome prejudice and fear are essential ingredients for promoting the culture of encounter, in which we are not only prepared to give, but also to receive from others.

*“Hospitality grows from both giving and receiving.”*

Courtesy: Becoming Neighbours