

# Prayer & Reflection for Refugees

**Call to Solidarity:** The United Nations estimates that in 2008 there were more than 11 million refugees globally. These numbers do not include the millions of people who are displaced within their own countries due to civil conflicts and face similar insecurity and need. Let us pause and hold in our hearts and prayers, our brothers and sisters throughout the world, who ...

“...owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country or return there because there is fear of persecution.” *(from the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees 1951 and Protocol 1967).*

## “Blessed Are”

Blessed are those who are on the move  
Transforming exodus and flight in energy for a new search.  
From the victims will come the protagonists of history.

Blessed are those who wander without direction,  
With wisdom learn and teach the lessons of the road.  
They will be the architects of a new time

Blessed are those who suffer pain, nostalgia and loneliness,  
Yet know how to make of every arrival a new beginning.  
They shall act with faith, hope and life.

Blessed are those who open borders  
And mix the anthems, flags, races and creeds.  
Without discrimination, they make the world everyone’s home.

Blessed are the wayfarers of all roads  
In the tears, sweat and the work of their hands.  
They prepare a tomorrow of justice and right.

Blessed are those who open the door to pilgrims,  
Making solidarity the passport to our common homeland.  
They are constructing a new citizenship.

*("Blessed Are" continued)*

Blessed are those who foment encounters and re-encounters, sowing peace.  
They will harvest flowers and stars in the new heaven and the new earth.

Blessed are the excluded, without opportunities and without voice.  
They will be the first guests in the great banquet,  
Where bread will not be lacking on anyone's table.

(Fr. Jose Goncalves, Brazil, [Prayers without Borders](#), CRS)

**Reading:** Matthew 2: 13-23 (The Flight to Egypt)

**Study/Conversation:**

"After Trauma, Iraqi Refugees Look for Healing" (Huffington Post, 6/3/09)  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/catholic-relief-services/after-trauma-iraqi-refuge\\_b\\_210816.html?view=print](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/catholic-relief-services/after-trauma-iraqi-refuge_b_210816.html?view=print)

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Leader: In their fear and insecurity,  
All: Accompany them, God

Leader: In their wandering and homelessness,  
All: Accompany them, God

Leader: In the search for peace.  
All: Accompany them, God

Leader: In their healing and rebuilding  
All: Accompany them, God

**Closing Prayer:** God of exile and God of home, protect all whose lives have been destabilized by war, fear, want or fear of persecution. Hear our prayers and guide our actions, so our work for justice and peace will bring stability and hope to the lives of our brothers and sisters, refugees. Amen.