

*Dear friends, it is certainly necessary
To give bread to the hungry – that is an act of justice.
But there is a deeper hunger, the hunger for a happiness that
Only God can satisfy, the hunger for dignity.*

(*The Church of Mercy*; Pope Francis; p. 125)



Recently, a refugee family was welcomed into our parish family. The safe arrival of this family was a definite reminder that we are neighbours to people both near and far. The outpouring of caring and help has been overwhelming. We are humbled as we listen to the stories of what this family, like so many, has endured. As we reflect, it is easy to see how often we take our daily freedoms for granted. We may live feeling entitled to a safer and better life without appreciating the manifold sacrifices that have shaped our present reality. What about our brothers and sisters all over the world who live in constant fear and violence? What responsibility do we carry for them?

Pope Francis continues to remind us that we are to help bring justice, peace, practical assistance, and support to others as they search for home, safety, happiness and dignity. We are to

become involved and let people know that they are loved by us and by a compassionate God. God has chosen to use us to help satisfy the longings of human hearts for joy and respect.

Sleeping calmly and without fear is a gift that a new Canadian shared with me. This was one difference he found in his new, adopted home. And now this young boy is helping with the orientation of a new refugee family. I think Pope Francis would applaud his efforts for sharing what he has learned and now lives freely and gratefully each day.

In a June 25, 2017 article in *The Catholic Register*, the following refugee information was reported:

* In 2016, a recorded 22.5 million refugees needed urgent assistance. This is the highest number since the U.N. High Commission for Refugees was established in 1950.

* By the end of 2016, a total of 65.6 million people were forcibly displaced from their homes.

* By December 2016, 2.8 million refugees applied for asylum including 75,000 children travelling alone or who are separated from their parents.

* The world's fastest growing refugee crisis, generated by famine and war, has occurred in South Sudan.

*Let's make a difference, no matter how big or small,
In another person's life today!*



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