



*Let us think of this little girl: what was her name?*

In an article by Denise Simeone that was reprinted in *The New Wine Press*, January 2017, I was profoundly moved by the quotes about and from Pope Francis. He was presented with a life jacket from a young girl who drowned trying to reach freedom. Upon giving the jacket to Pope Francis, Oscar Camps, founder of a non-profit Spanish organization that attempts to rescue migrants from the sea, said: "Each boat load of people has a dramatic tale to tell...families are separated, orphaned children who lost their parents along the way now find themselves in a strange country, a continent that is not their own, and on one to help them".

According to Vatican Radio's translation, Pope Francis said to a group of youth: "Let us think of this little girl: what was her name? I do not know: a little girl with no name. Each of you give her the name you would like, each in his heart. She is in heaven; she is looking on us."

"He [Oscar Camps] brought me this jacket and with tears in his eyes he said to me, 'Father, I couldn't do it - there was a little girl on the waves, and I did all I could, but I couldn't save her: only the life vest was left'."

Pope Francis continued: "I do not tell you this because I want you to be sad, but because you are brave and you should know the truth: they are in danger - many boys and girls, small children, men, women - they are in danger."

Children presented Pope Francis with money they collected and shared the following words: "We children promise that we will welcome anyone who arrives in our country ... we shall never consider anyone who has a different skin color, or who speaks a different language, or who professes a different religion from ours, a dangerous enemy."

The UNHCR (UN High Commission for Refugees) keeps us aware of the movements and the numbers of men, women and children forcibly removed from their homes and the number of people newly displaced due to persecution, conflict and violence. By land and by sea, too many are dying trying to escape to a safe location. And many more are finding their departures blocked because of closed and unreceptive borders. The political climate is wavering in terms of countries wanting to assist and help refugees.

It has been noted that 1 in every 113 persons of our world's population is a refugee trying to find safe sanctuary to begin a new life and heal from horrific experiences.

Do we hear Jesus' words echoing in the refugee drama?

**"Whatever you have done to the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done to me."**

Wishing you a reflective Lent,

*Sister Teresa Morrison, CPS*

Do unto others  
as you would have them  
do unto you.