

# SOLIDARITY AND COMPASSION

## Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings  
of the Roman Catholic Church

### A CHALLENGE FOR WORLD

At the beginning of this year, ... I pointed to the tragedy of internally displaced people as one of the challenges of our contemporary world: "Situations of conflict and humanitarian emergencies, aggravated by climate change, are increasing the numbers of displaced persons and affecting people already living in a state of dire poverty. Many of the countries experiencing these situations lack adequate structures for meeting the needs of the displaced..."

### NOT A TIME FOR FORGETFULNESS

... I have decided to devote this Message to the drama of internally displaced persons, an often unseen tragedy that the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated. In fact, due to its virulence, severity and geographic extent, this crisis has impacted on many other humanitarian emergencies that affect millions of people, which has relegated to the bottom of national political agendas those urgent international efforts essential to saving lives. But "this is not a time for forgetfulness. The crisis we are facing should not make us forget the many other crises that bring suffering to so many people" (*Urbi et Orbi Message* 4/12/20).



### RECOGNIZE JESUS

In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ, Who pleads with us to help... If we can recognize Him in those faces, we will be the ones to thank Him for having been able to meet, love and serve Him in them.

### "OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE LORD"

Displaced people offer us this opportunity to meet the Lord, "even though our eyes find it hard to recognize Him: His clothing in tatters, His feet dirty, His face disfigured, His body wounded, His tongue unable to speak our language" (homily, 2/15/19).

### MEETING THE CHALLENGE

We are called to respond to this pastoral challenge with the four verbs I mentioned in my Message for this Day in 2018: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. To these words, I would like to add another six pairs of verbs that deal with very practical actions and are linked together in a relationship of cause and effect. You have *to know* in order to *understand* ... It is necessary *to be close* in order *to serve*... In order *to be reconciled*, we need *to listen*... In order *to grow*, it is necessary *to share*... We need *to be involved* in order *to promote*... It is necessary *to cooperate* in order *to build*.

### A COMMON DUTY

Building the Kingdom of God is a duty common to all Christians, and for this reason it is necessary that we learn to cooperate, without yielding to the temptation to jealousy, discord and division... To preserve our common home and make it conform more and more to God's original plan, we must commit ourselves to ensuring international cooperation, global solidarity and local commitment, leaving no one excluded.

(Source: Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, May 13. 2020)

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**Presentation Ministries**

**3230 McHenry, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211**

**[www.presentationministries.com](http://www.presentationministries.com)**

**(513) 662-5378 [orders@presentationministries.com](mailto:orders@presentationministries.com)**