

Share the Journey: Prayer Pilgrimage

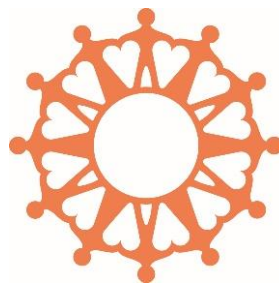
Walking with Refugees

NOTES

- Please feel free to use this Pilgrimage resource in its entirety, or you can also adapt it, revise it, or shorten it to fit into another event or specific timeframe.
- You can find the most updated advocacy letter and other resources on our “I am Migration” page: [HTTP://UNIVERSITY.CRS.ORG/MIGRATION](http://university.crs.org/migration).
- Please reach out to UNIVERSITY@CRS.ORG with any questions.

MATERIALS

- Printed Materials
 - Copies of the pilgrimage for the leader and readers
 - Photos from refugee stories: Rajida, Fatima, Pamela, and Leila
 - I am Migration Prayer Cards (or order prayer cards and other materials here)
 - Outlined walking path
- Station Materials
 - 5 tables
 - Photo frames for each table (with refugee photos inside)
 - 2-3 candles per table
 - Lighters/matches
 - Prayerful/reflective materials on refugee stories such as table cloths, bible, prayer cards, etc.
 - Laptop, projector, and screen for tables with videography (see preparation below)
- Sound system (dependent upon expectant number of attendees)
- Course markers (depending upon length of pilgrimage path)



Share the Journey ✿
#sharejourney

CREATE YOUR PILGRIMAGE

- Learn about the pilgrimage here.
- Watch Pilgrimage: 5 Easy Steps to Walk and Pray as One Human Family
- Check to see if there are pilgrimages in your area to join. If you are organizing a new pilgrimage, you can register your pilgrimage here.
- Calculate the expected miles of your pilgrimage
 - Determine how long the pilgrimage path is
 - Determine how many people will be making the pilgrimage
 - (pilgrimage path) x (# of people) = pilgrimage mileage
- Map out the route of your pilgrimage
- Advertise your pilgrimage
 - In addition to inviting students, faculty, staff and others from your campus community, consider inviting local Catholic parish communities or other nearby universities.
- Fundraising Option
 - Sell Share the Journey Socks
 - Have each participant create a CRS Fundraising Page (or create one for the campus in general) for family and friends to donate – this can be shared on social media

STATION PREPARATION

- Be sure to have a way of communication among leaders/guides of the pilgrimage
- Select 3-10 students from your campus for readings and one student to act as “leader”
- Select a student to light candles
- Prepare a pilgrimage start point: This may be a chapel, classroom, campus multipurpose space, outside area, or whatever best fits your campus setting and needs.
- Station One: Introduction & I Am Migration
 - 2-3 small candles
 - I am Migration Prayer Cards & other materials
 - If playing the video, set up a laptop, projector, and screen and select a student to play the video
- Station Two: *Rajida’s Story*
 - 2-3 small candles
 - Print out photo(s) and place in photo frame(s)
- Station Three: *Fatima’s Story*
 - 2-3 small candles
 - Print out photo(s) and place in photo frame(s)
 - If playing the video, set up a laptop, projector, and screen and select a student to play the video
- Station Four: *Pamela’s Story*
 - 2-3 small candles
 - Print out photo(s) and place into photo frame(s)
- Station Five: *Leila’s Story*
 - 2-3 small candles
 - Print out photos and place in photo frames(s)
 - If playing the video, set up a laptop, projector, and screen and select a student to play the video

ADVOCACY PREPARATION

Option 1 - Online Letters:

- Text to Sign: Instruct participants to text “I am Migration” to 30644. An automatic reply will provide the link to the online letter. They can then enter their information and personalize the letter from their phones.
- Laptops: Navigate to www.university.crs.org/migration, and select the “Advocate to Congress” button. This will open the online letter which you can then have participants complete.

Option 2 – Handwritten/Hand signed letters

- **COPIES:** Each participant will need three copies of the letter: one for each of their two senators and one for their representative.
 - To make copies of the letters, you will need to insert the text from the most recent action alert into the blank letter template available [here](#) to download and adapt.
 - There is also a section, where you should ask attendees to personalize with a closing remark, such as a story or reason in their own words to share why they care.
- **ADDRESS:** Decide if you will ask participants to use their home or university address.
 - **Option 2A - Home Address**
 - During the letter-writing section, offer to show participants how to find their members of Congress online at <https://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org/find-members-congress/>, Ask them to enter their ZIP code when prompted. After they enter it, the names of their two senators and representative will pop up. They should write the full names of their senators and representative at the top of each letter.
 - They should put their home address at the bottom of the letter underneath where they will sign their name.
 - **Option 2B - University Address**
 - Pre-address the letters with the senators and representative information corresponding to your University's district at the top of the letter.
 - Pre-insert the University address at the bottom of the letter underneath where they will sign their name.
- **DELIVERY:** Decide how you will get your letters to your senators and representative.
 - Your letters will have the most impact if they are hand delivered to the local offices. [Check out these tips](#) on how to set up a meeting with your members of Congress.
 - If you are mailing letters to several states and/or districts, be sure to mail the letters separately to each senator and representative. You can find senators' addresses by visiting www.senate.gov, and representatives by visiting www.house.gov.
- **MEDIA & FOLLOW UP:** It helps to send along a copy of any press coverage of the pilgrimage along with the letters. Also, be sure to follow up with each member

YOUR PILGRIMAGE

BEGIN AT PILGRIMAGE START POINT

Welcome¹ and Opening Prayer²

LEADER: We begin our pilgrimage today with this short video.

[Play introductory video]

LEADER: Pilgrimage means to journey with a purpose. Our purpose is to be the hands and feet of our just and merciful Lord. Pope Francis is asking us to stand with migrants through a spiritual pilgrimage, to mark “an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal.” We invite all to come together and participate in a universal pilgrimage to highlight the plight of our neighbors fleeing violence and injustice worldwide. “Whatever you did for one of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40) Reflecting on Christ’s admonition, we are invited to reflect on how we can respond to the global migration crisis. We have a duty to stand in solidarity with the 65 million people in our world forced from their homes and act to support them through prayer and advocacy. We are also invited to answer and respond to the question “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus tells us that He is in every one of our neighbors; loving our neighbor is loving Jesus Christ. We must answer the question, ‘Who is my neighbor?’ is our answer ‘the Lord of All Creation?’ Every step we take will send a message to political leaders that we are leaders and advocates who support migrants and refugees. Our steps will also conclude with the opportunity to take action, to sign a letter to Congress raising our voices in solidarity with those who migrate and making a tangible commitment to use our power to make the world a better place. We will go home after walking together; they may never see their homes again.

READER ONE: Pope Francis launched Share the Journey, a two-year migration campaign on September 27, 2017, and in doing so implored each of us to be a witness and take a public stand in support of migrants and refugees during this global crisis. His challenge calls to mind the command of our Lord to welcome the stranger as if the stranger were Christ Himself. Considering this, Pope Francis writes, “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.” (Message on World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2016.) Christ was a refugee. He descended from his heavenly place to embrace humanity, and as a baby and child, his family experienced the fear of the flight into Egypt and the welcoming sanctuary offered by a neighboring country. As an adult, Christ journeyed from Nazareth to Capernaum by sea and traveled through Galilee preaching news from heaven. His final earthly journey was up the hill of Calvary hauling the solid wooden beam that stretched across his shoulders. Like Christ’s journey, may this pilgrimage be an opportunity to place ourselves firmly on the side of the oppressed, those treated unjustly, those fleeing untenable situations throughout our world.

READER TWO: As we begin this pilgrimage, we remember that throughout Scripture, God has given us examples to follow. God stood with refugees, even to the point of becoming a refugee himself, in the person of Jesus. And so we pray...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...

[ENGLISH]

God of our Wandering Ancestors,
Long have we known
That your heart is with the refugee:
That you were born into time
In a family of refugees
Fleeing violence in their homeland
Who then gathered up their hungry child
And fled into an alien country.

Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:
“Will you let me in?”

[SPANISH]

Dios de nuestros ancestros errantes,
desde hace tiempo sabemos
que tu corazón está con los refugiados,
que naciste entre nosotros
en na familia de refugiados
huyendo de la violencia en su tierra natal,
que luego recogieron a su niño hambriento
y huyeron a un país extranjero.

Su clamor, Tu clamor, resuena a través de los tiempos:
“¿Me dejas entrar?”

¹ Share the Journey Toolkit

² A Moment for Grace - English A Moment for Grace - Spanish

Give us hearts that break open
When our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry.
Then surely all these things will follow:
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of threat.
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.
And hands will reach out –
working for peace in their homeland,
working for justice in the lands where they seek safe heaven.

Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me
And so make me worthy
Of the refuge I have found in you.

Amen.

Danos corazones que se abran
cuando nuestros hermanos y hermanas recurren a nosotros
con ese mismo clamor.
Entonces seguramente todas estas cosas sucederán:
los oídos ya no se volverán sordos a sus voces,
los ojos verán un momento de gracia en lugar de una amenaza,
y las lenguas no serán silenciadas sino que defenderán una causa.
Y las manos se extenderán –
trabajando por la paz en su tierra natal,
trabajando por la justicia en las tierras en las que buscan un refugio seguro.

Señor, protege a todos los refugiados en sus viajes.
Que puedan encontrar un amigo en mí
y así hacerme digno
Del refugio que he encontrado en ti
Amén.

Station 1: I Am Migration³

LEADER: There are 65 million refugees and displaced people worldwide – and 50% of them are children. Conflict and persecution around the globe have forced millions of individuals to flee for their lives. The scope of this crisis and the number of people affected are outpacing the international community’s ability – and willingness – to respond. Not only are more people displaced today, but they are displaced for an average of 17 years. While refugees come from everywhere, the largest group is from Syria. Many are living in urban communities rather than refugee camps, communities in developing countries that are struggling to meet the needs of their own people. The challenging landscape of migration requires new long-term solutions.

READER ONE: CRS is leading the way in providing refugees with lifesaving basic necessities such as food, water, and shelter. We also have the opportunity to urge our leaders and the international community to address education, livelihoods, and resettlement of refugees. Just as importantly, we can work for diplomatic solutions to the war and political instability that are the root causes of this global humanitarian crisis.

LEADER: “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”

BEGIN YOUR WALK TO STATION 2. HAVE A STUDENT WALK AHEAD TO LIGHT THE CANDLES

WHILE WALKING: CANTOR TO LEAD: Come and Fill Our Hearts, by Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community [English Option] or Envía Tu Espíritu, by Bob Hurd [Spanish Option].

Station 2: Rajida’s Story⁴

READER THREE: Rajida Begum, a 30-year-old mother, gave birth to a baby girl just five days after she fled to Bangladesh. Abdul Rahman, a 21-year-old Burmese father is struggling to keep his 4-month-old baby daughter alive after his wife was killed in the violence. Both Rajida, Abdul and their baby daughters are being cared for by CRS and Caritas Bangladesh, after they were forced from their homes because they belong to a Muslim minority in majority-Buddhist Myanmar.

READER FOUR: Thousands of Rohingya are fleeing to Bangladesh to escape a recent military crackdown in Myanmar that includes burning villages. The Rohingya are members of a persecuted Muslim minority in majority-Buddhist

³ I Am Migration One-Pager

Myanmar. Not recognized as Myanmar citizens, they are stateless. The desperate refugees arrive at a rate of 20,000 a day on foot and in boats, pushed out by the surge in violence. “For 4 days, I hid myself in the forest. Then, we tried to walk to the border. I was so scared,” says Rajida Begum, a 30-year-old mother who fled her village with neighbors when she was 9 months pregnant. She gave birth to a baby girl under a piece of plastic sheeting in the middle of a rice paddy 5 days after arriving in Bangladesh. As she cradled her newborn baby, she looked relieved: “When I saw that she was healthy, I was so happy. I gave thanks to God.” The humanitarian crisis is overwhelming existing refugee camps, forcing many of the families to live in makeshift shelters—tents of bamboo and plastic constructed along roadways or on hillsides. Others are living with the Rohingya families who were already in Bangladesh. “Most of the new arrivals are in dire need of food, water and shelter,” says Deepti Pant, CRS country manager in Bangladesh. “Few have any resources, having spent all their savings traveling across the border and meeting some of their basic needs along the way.”

READER FIVE: The aid that CRS and Caritas Bangladesh are providing includes a 2-week supply of food—rice, lentils, sugar, salt and vegetable oil—as well as cooking equipment and other household items for 5,300 displaced families, reaching a total of more than 26,000 people. Caritas is coordinating with the local government as well as U.N. agencies and other humanitarian groups to distribute these relief items. But Deepti says the emergency need is far greater, including access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation and health care, and security in the overcrowded and disorganized refugee camps. Abdul Rahman, 21, who lost his wife in the violence, now is the sole caregiver for his 4-month-old daughter. “The baby won’t stop crying. I’m asking lactating mothers to help with feeding her, but I’m so worried. I don’t know if she will survive. We have no food. We have nothing at all,” he says. ⁴

LEADER: “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”

BEGIN YOUR WALK TO STATION 3. HAVE A STUDENT WALK AHEAD TO LIGHT THE CANDLES

WHILE WALKING: CANTOR TO LEAD: Come and Fill Our Hearts, by Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community [English Option] or Envía Tu Espíritu, by Bob Hurd [Spanish Option].

Station 3: Fatima’s Story⁵

READER SIX: Fatima and her family fled Syria back in 2013. They are now resettled in Bulgaria through the aid of CRS and other Catholic agencies. Now Fatima, a mother of two, together with her husband, opened a new bakery and are successfully becoming a part of the Bulgarian society.

[Play this video]

LEADER: “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”

BEGIN YOUR WALK TO STATION 4. HAVE A STUDENT WALK AHEAD TO LIGHT THE CANDLES

WHILE WALKING: CANTOR TO LEAD: Come and Fill Our Hearts, by Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community [English Option] or Envía Tu Espíritu, by Bob Hurd [Spanish Option].

Pamela’s Story⁶

READER SEVEN: In 2001, when Pamela was just seven years old, violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo forced her to flee to safety in the Mayukwayukwa refugee camp in Zambia. She lived there for eight years with her sister, with almost no hope of a better future. After all, less than one percent of refugees are resettled in a new country. When she was 15 years old, Pamela’s dreams came true: her application for resettlement as an unaccompanied minor was accepted, and she discovered that she would be starting a new life in the United States.

READER EIGHT: On October 20, 2009, Catholic Community Services of Utah’s Refugee Foster Care program placed Pamela in a loving foster care home. Once in Utah, Pamela enrolled in the 9th grade and went on to graduate from

⁴ Rajida's Story

⁵ Fatima's Story

⁶ Pamela's Story

Jordan High School. Now in her third year at university, Pamela is studying Biology in preparation for a medical degree in Pediatrics.

LEADER: “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”

BEGIN YOUR WALK TO STATION 5. HAVE A STUDENT WALK AHEAD TO LIGHT THE CANDLES

WHILE WALKING: CANTOR TO LEAD: Come and Fill Our Hearts, by Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community [English Option] or Envía Tu Espíritu, by Bob Hurd [Spanish Option].

Station 5: Leila’s Story⁷

READER NINE: In Lebanon, we meet the El Saho family, who arrived from Syria four years ago. With five children to care for, two with disabilities, the family has resorted to living on the roof of the factory where the father has found work. What sustains them all is the love of their mother. Meet Leila El Saho and her family.

[Play this video]

LEADER: “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”

BEGIN YOUR WALK BACK TO THE PILGRIMAGE START POINT.

WHILE WALKING: CANTOR TO LEAD: Come and Fill Our Hearts, by Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community [English Option] or Envía Tu Espíritu, by Bob Hurd [Spanish Option].

Letter Writing

LEADER: Pope Francis has said, “An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. If indeed ‘the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics,’ the Church ‘cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice’” (Evangeli Gaudium, no. 183). We can put our faith in action and care for refugees in our midst by contributing to the work of organizations like Catholic Relief Services, by volunteering to support local agencies that assist refugees in our own communities, and by using our power through advocacy. We can ask our government to do all in its power to help organizations meet the immediate needs of refugees, and to address the root causes of migration that force people to flee their homes. We’ve learned about several of these push factors through the stories of Rajida, Fatima, Pamela, and Leila. As we reflect on the poverty and violence they’ve experienced, we are called to advocate for policies that can help bring justice and peace not only to migrants, but also to their home countries. You will now have the opportunity to advocate to Congress on issues surrounding global migration.

[Follow instructions from Advocacy Preparation above.

Allow participants to sign letters, collect the letters (if doing handwritten), transition into closing prayer.]

Closing Prayer⁸

READER TEN: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

[English]
Gracious God,

We join our cries today with refugees:
Who have seen too much violence,
Who have seen too much displacement,
Who have seen too much mourning
And borne far too great a burden.

[Spanish]
Dios misericordioso,

Unimos hoy nuestro clamor con refugiados
quienes han visto demasiada violencia,
quienes han visto demasiada guerra,
quienes han visto demasiado desplazamiento,
quienes han visto demasiado luto

⁷ Leila's Story

⁸ We Cry Out

We cry out for peace.
We cry out for stability.
We cry out for healing.
We cry out for neighbors living as neighbors, as we are
meant to live.

For whether we call ourselves
Christian or Muslim,
Sunni or Shiite,
Jew or Arab,
Kurd or Mandaean,
Whatever the name,
When we take up arms against our neighbor,
When we curse our neighbor,

Even when we so much as turn from our neighbor,
We shame ourselves before you.

So we turn in prayer toward our neighbors
in their time of great need.
In solidarity with these sisters and brothers,
we cry out to you:
Let there be joy where there is mourning.

Let there be hope where there is fear.
And let there be peace.
A just and lasting peace.

Lord, your grace abounds.
May it rest upon the peoples today and always.
Amen.

y soportado una carga demasiado pesada.

Clamamos por la paz.
Clamamos por la estabilidad.
Clamamos por la sanación.
Clamamos por prójimos que viven como prójimos,
tal como estábamos destinados a vivir.

Ya sea que nos llamemos
cristianos o musulmanes,
sunitas o chiitas,
judíos o árabes,
kurdos o mandeos,
cualquiera que sea el nombre,
cuando tomamos las armas contra nuestro prójimo;
cuando maldecimos a nuestro prójimo;
Incluso cuando nos alejamos de nuestro prójimo;
nos avergonzamos ante ti.

Por lo tanto, nos dirigimos en oración
por nuestros prójimos en su momento de gran necesidad.
En solidaridad con estos hermanos y hermanas,
clamamos a ti:
que haya alegría donde hay luto;
Let there be stillness where there is violence.
que haya esperanza donde hay miedo;
que haya clama donde hay violencia, y que haya paz, una
paz justa y duradera.

Señor, tu gracia abunda.
Que descanse sobre los pueblos hoy y siempre.
Amén.