



DIocese of ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

September 27, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today we observe the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, a day set aside by the Church more than a century ago to recognize the millions of people worldwide who every year are forcibly displaced from their homes by violent conflict, terrorism, persecution, natural disaster, or extreme poverty. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, choose as a theme for this year's observance "*Forced like Jesus Christ to flee,*" as a reminder of how Jesus and the Holy Family were themselves refugees, forced to flee to the land of Egypt.

Pope Francis reminds us that we should listen to the stories of migrants and refugees, including those who now live in our communities. Many will never be able to return to their homes. Others come to us through the refugee resettlement program after an intense multi-year vetting process. The Holy Father reminds us that when we see the faces of migrants and refugees, we see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help (cf. Mt 25:31-46).

Please be assured of my prayers for you. Through the intercession of Mary our Mother and Saint Joseph, may Our Lord Jesus bless you and keep you in His care.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington