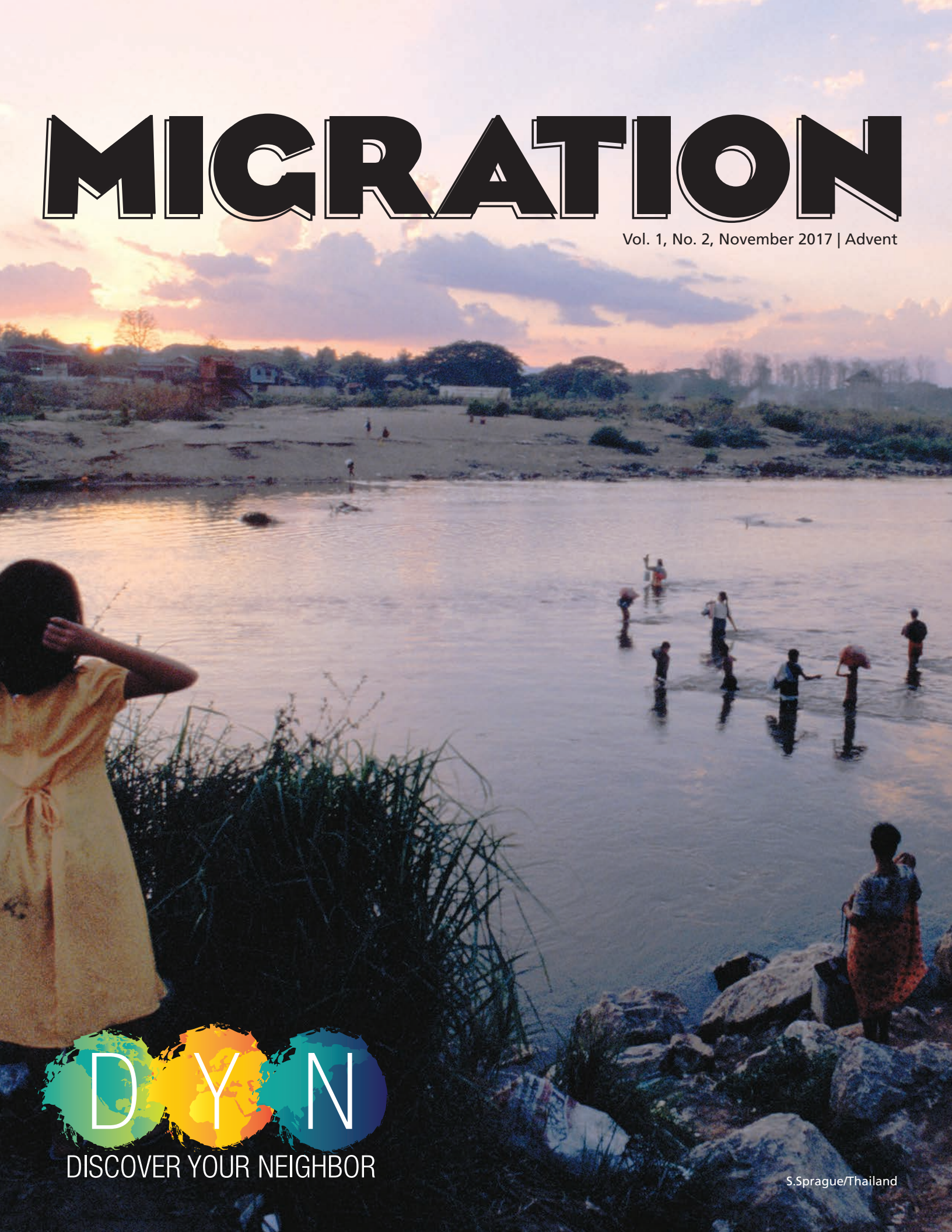


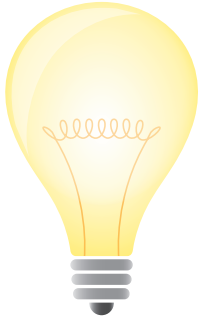
MIGRATION

Vol. 1, No. 2, November 2017 | Advent



DYN
DISCOVER YOUR NEIGHBOR

S.Sprague/Thailand



WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

We recognize Christ in both those who migrate and those who welcome the stranger. The story of our faith is in many ways a story of migration. Abraham and Sarah crossed borders to find a new home; the Israelites sought refuge in Egypt and later fled from slavery to the promised land; Mary and Joseph left their home as refugees to avoid violence against their family. As the bishops of the US and Mexico together remind us, God calls for genuine communion and solidarity between those who migrate and the communities and nations which receive them. *Learn more at DiscoverYourNeighbor.org*

STEP 1: PRAY

Compassionate God,

Thank you for loving each one of us.

Whenever we feel unwelcome, help us remember that you love and accept us for who we are.

When we see someone treated as a stranger because of where they come from, the color of their skin, or the language they speak, inspire us to show them the same love that you show to us.

Amen.



STEP 2: MAKE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

OBJECTIVE: Students will reflect on how others show them love and discern what it means to love the stranger.

JOURNAL: Think of someone who loves you. How do they show their love?

CHALK TALK: As a class, list on a large piece of paper at the front of the room, the different ways that people show you love. When finished, the teacher reads the list aloud.

READ the *FAITH PERSPECTIVE* article. **DISCUSS WITH A PARTNER:** Remember a time when you were in a new place or around new people. What did people do to make you feel welcome? What else could they have done to welcome you?

AS A CLASS add these new ideas to the list from the Chalk Talk.

READ NEIGHBOR FOCUS. CLASS DISCUSSION: The teacher asks a question, then throws a ball to a student who wants to answer. After answering, the student throws the ball back to the teacher. The teacher then invites someone else to add a response, agree or disagree, or asks a new question. (Teachers can find sample questions at DiscoverYourNeighbor.org.) **EXTENSION:** Read *A Right to Dream* on the DYN website. Conduct interviews with classmates playing the characters in the story.

AS A CLASS add any additional examples to the list at the front of the room of how we can make everyone feel welcome in our community.

FAITH PERSPECTIVE

“We all depend on others to welcome and care for us. When I first arrived as a missionary in Tanzania, I was indeed a stranger in a strange land (Exod.2:22). I needed my new neighbors to help me learn their language, culture, and ways of life. I may have had a different skin color and spoken a different language, but people warmly welcomed me.

“Every day throughout the world people are forced to leave their homes to search for a more secure and peaceful life for their

families and loved ones. How are we to respond? In Chapter 25 of St. Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus teaches us the way. He says, ‘I was a stranger and you welcomed me.’ In other words, when we are strangers in a strange land, we can find strength knowing that Jesus walks with us. When we reach out in compassion to people who look to us for safety, freedom, and friendship, we are in fact reaching out in love to the God who loves us.”

- Fr. Robert Jalbert, M.M.

NEIGHBOR FOCUS – UNITED STATES

When Elvis Garcia Callejas was 15 years old, he fled violence in his home country of Honduras and journeyed alone to the United States. He spent one year in a detention center in El Paso, Texas. “I didn’t have family here, or anyone to receive me,” he recalls.

Eventually, he was adopted by the Tobins, a Catholic family from Chicago, and with their support he received an education. As an adult he wanted to help young people like himself who had immigrated. Remembering how playing soccer had helped him

adjust to his new country, he founded a soccer team in New York for recently arrived immigrant and refugee youth.

“Many of these kids found themselves forced to leave their country or die,” he explains. “Soccer is something these kids understand, in a country where nothing else looks familiar. On the field they can forget about the problems they’re going through. They can be themselves without being judged.”

STEP 3: EXPLORE SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION

READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

6TH GRADE: Leviticus 19: 33-34, Deuteronomy 10:17-19

7TH GRADE: Luke 10:25-37

8TH GRADE: Ephesians 2:13-20

REFLECT: Based on this reading, who is your neighbor? How does God want you to treat that person? Why does God want us to welcome someone we view as a stranger?

BRAINSTORM TOGETHER: Who in your school, community, country, and our world is treated as a stranger? Pray for them together. *Explore additional Scripture reflections at DiscoverYourNeighbor.org*

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY?

Solidarity is one of the themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Solidarity inspires us to recognize that we all belong to one human family and depend on that family to live healthy, meaningful lives. Regardless of differences in what we look like or where we come from, we are all sisters and brothers: we are all God’s children.

The Gospel calls us to create a society in which all people are cared for and loved. One way to live in solidarity is by considering what others need, and not simply what we want. In CST, this is known as the “common good.”

Want to know more? Visit DiscoverYourNeighbor.org to read Pope Francis’ 2018 Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

STEP 4: TAKE ACTION

TELL THEIR STORIES

Pope Francis reminds us that, “Migrants are persons, with their own names, stories, and families” (January 9, 2017). During the season of Advent, as we remember the migration story of the Holy Family, we must also listen to, share, and learn from the migration stories of today.

RESEARCH the story of a family member, neighbor, or someone in the news who has migrated to your community or country. Record this person’s name, where they came from, and when and why they came. Include a photo.

CREATE A MIGRATION MAP as a class, placing the pictures and details about the people you researched next to their countries of origin. Share what you learned with the class.

DISCUSS: What surprised or interested you about the stories you heard? What similarities and differences did you notice? How can we continue to learn and share stories of migration? What can we do to make people feel welcome?

RAISE YOUR VOICE

Start a *Love Your Neighbor Campaign!* Review your class list of ways to make people feel welcome. Each week, put a sticker beside one that you will commit to doing. Share what you are doing on Instagram [@DiscoverYourNeighbor](https://www.instagram.com/DiscoverYourNeighbor).

BE A GLOBAL NEIGHBOR

Did you know that people migrate to countries all over the world, not just the United States? In Taiwan, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers work to provide shelter, language classes, and job training to migrant workers and their families. Visit [DiscoverYourNeighbor.org](https://www.discoveryourneighbor.org) to learn how to support these efforts as a family, classroom, school, or parish.

ENGAGE YOUR FAMILY

Share the migration story that you researched with your family. Are there other stories of migration in your family? What are some reasons why people migrate?

As a family decide how you will be more welcoming and reach out to those you consider a stranger. Visit [DiscoverYourNeighbor.org](https://www.discoveryourneighbor.org) for suggestions.

EXTENSION: Read Matthew 2:13-15. Talk about what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to decide to flee to Egypt for safety.

