

MIGRATION

THE ROAD TO HOPE

Vol. 3, No. 2, November 2019 | Advent



DISCOVER YOUR NEIGHBOR™

©2019 Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, Inc.

Father Roberto Rodriguez and immigrant Catholics in his parish in the Kyoto Diocese.
(Courtesy of R. Rodriguez/Japan)

OBJECTIVE:

Students will be able to: **EXPLAIN** and give examples of how migration has impacted their lives. **UNDERSTAND** ways our faith calls us to respond in hope to the current realities of migration. **CREATE AND PRESENT** a roadmap and name hopes the students have for the world. **ORGANIZE ACTIONS** to be in solidarity with migrants as well as encourage awareness. **DEMONSTRATE** positive ways to be a sign of hope.

STEP 1: PRAY LITANY OF SAINTS

Visit DiscoverYourNeighbor.org for full prayer service.

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Holy Mary and St. Joseph
St. Michael and all angels
St. Juan Diego
St. Frances Cabrini
St. Oscar Romero
All you holy men, women, and children
Jakelin
Juan
Felipe
Carlos
Mariee
Darlyn
Wilmer
All you holy men, women, and children

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us

STEP 2: MAKE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

READ the *FAITH PERSPECTIVE* and *NEIGHBOR FOCUS* articles as a class/group. **DISCUSS** where you see hope in these stories. What are some of the obstacles faced by each person? Where do you see individuals living in solidarity with others?

CREATE a map by drawing a road that represents your life. On the road list people or events that have given you

hope. **LIST** hopes you have for our world and how you can achieve them. Illustrate possible obstacles to your hopes. Be sure to include ideas of how to overcome these obstacles. **PRESENT** your maps to your class/group. Extension: after presenting your individual roadmaps, create one as a community and journey on the road to hope together.



FAITH PERSPECTIVE

The road to life as a Maryknoll priest was paved with hardship, tragedy, inspiration and hope for Fr. Roberto Rodriguez. Born in El Salvador, he was forced to leave his homeland at age 23, and he became a refugee in the United States. He fled his country running from a violent 12-year civil war. As a boy, he had the desire to be a priest and throughout his life he recalls being drawn to the charism of sharing the Gospel with people of other cultures, especially the poor.

Fr. Roberto is currently a missionary in Ueno, Japan. He and a team of missionary disciples serve the parish of Infant Jesus.

Carmen Muray Ochante is one of the people who works with Fr. Roberto and inspires him in his work. She teaches the children and says, "Most children at this parish are migrant children from Peru, Brazil, Vietnam, Bolivia, Kenya and the Philippines. They are learning that we are all brothers and sisters." Carmen's daughter Rosa explains that the parish is so grateful to have Fr. Roberto as their pastor because he understands the migrants as well as their experiences and speaks their language. Rosa says, "We are a multicultural church. We come from different countries, but we form only one body of Christ."

NEIGHBOR FOCUS

Forming a cross by lying on the floor of the U.S. Capitol Building on Catholic Day of Action, Dan Moriarty of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns joined more than 70 Catholic leaders in a prayer vigil and nonviolent civil disobedience in an effort to put pressure on Congress and the presidential administration to end the immoral and inhumane practice of detaining immigrant children.

Dan held the picture of Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez.

He said, "Being a father myself, I was moved when I saw the picture of Carlos. He reminded me of my own son. The focus of my prayers as I lay on the floor was for the 16-year-old boy from Guatemala who died in U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody in May." Carlos' family called him Goyito. They say he loved soccer, piano, and music. He came to the U.S. to help his eight siblings, one with special needs. He died of the flu after being in the detention center for seven days.

STEP 3: EXPLORE SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION

READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 40:29-31

LIFE OF JESUS: Matthew 25:31-45

CHRISTIAN LIVING: Romans 12:9-21

REFLECT: How could you apply these Scripture passages to the current reality of migration in our country and the world?

SHARE WITH A PARTNER: Where and how would you like to be a sign of hope for the world? How can we rely on God's strength when we feel weak?

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY?

The Catholic Catechism instructs the faithful that good government has the duty to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. Persons have the right to immigrate and thus government must accommodate this right to the greatest extent possible, especially the financially blessed nations: "The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him." Catholic Catechism, 2241

STEP 4: TAKE ACTION

WALK A MILE IN THEIR SHOES

ESTIMATE how many miles you walk a day. The average person seeking asylum in the U.S. has walked 1,000 to 2,000 miles, doing so in approximately 28 days with 2,000 steps in each mile. In solidarity with them, **PLAN** a walkathon or set a goal for your group to walk 2,000 miles this Advent season. **INVITE** others to join you by walking with you or sponsoring you with a donation that can be made to help people on our border with basic necessities.

As you **WALK**, be mindful and **PRAY** for those seeking asylum. One visible way to show solidarity is by wearing purple shoelaces (purple being the color of Advent) or choose your own color if you don't want to wear purple. Migrants leaving detention centers are all missing shoelaces because they are taken from them when they enter. You can also **CARRY** the pictures of the children who have died, or a candle.

Go to DiscoverYourNeighbor.org for links of places where you can donate any funds collected.

RAISE YOUR VOICE

ORGANIZE your own peaceful Day of Action. **COORDINATE** it with your walkathon. Issue press releases letting the local media know what you are doing. Use social media to invite folks to walk in hope with you. **WRITE** a blog or a story in your school or church newsletter telling the story of the children lost and those still being detained.

BE A GLOBAL NEIGHBOR

Around the world Maryknoll serves as the hearts and hands of the U.S. Catholic Church. Compassion for everyone is the core of all of our ministries. We model the mercy of Jesus when we feed the hungry, heal the sick and care for the outcast. Visit MaryknollSociety.org to see how you can support the mission of Fr. Roberto and all the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers.



Image by MAMADOU TRAORE from Pixabay

ENGAGE YOUR FAMILY

WATCH the video *Unaccompanied Children* from the U.S. Catholic bishops on migration and unaccompanied children. **DISCUSS** ways in which your family can engage in actions this Advent to be in solidarity with these children. Consider contacting Catholic Charities in your town to research if you have any children in your school or neighborhood whom you could welcome and support, and pray each week as a family for the intentions of these children.