

A Prayer for Refugees

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Today, as we celebrate Father's Day during this joint Year of Saint Joseph and Year of the Family, it is only fitting that we remember the Holy Family of Nazareth during their time of exile as we pray for the many families around the world currently experiencing life as refugees.

Matthew 2:13-15, The Escape to Egypt

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Prayer of Pope Francis

Father, you entrusted to Saint Joseph what you held most precious: the child Jesus and his mother, in order to protect them from the dangers and threats of the wicked.

Grant that we may experience his protection and help. May he, who shared in the sufferings of those who flee from the hatred of the powerful, console and protect all our brothers and sisters driven by war, poverty, and necessity to leave their homes and their lands to set out as refugees for safer places. Help them, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to find the strength to persevere, give them comfort in sorrows and courage amid their trials.

Grant to those who welcome them some of the tender love of this just and wise father, who loved Jesus as a true son and sustained Mary at every step of the way. May he, who earned his bread by the work of his hands, watch over those who have seen everything in life taken away and obtain for them the dignity of a job and the serenity of a home.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, whom Saint Joseph saved by fleeing to Egypt, and trusting in the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom he loved as a faithful husband in accordance with your will.

Amen.

Adapted from Pope Francis' prayer on 13 May 2020, the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima, Saint John Lateran, Rome.