



**Share the
Journey** ☀
#sharejourney

Dear Caritas Friends,

I am very happy to be the bearer of good news: Pope Francis will launch our Share the Journey campaign to the world on 27th September 2017.

We invite all of your parish, diocesan and national organisations to accompany Pope Francis by launching our global campaign in your countries on this same day.

The aim of our campaign is to promote the culture of encounter in communities where migrants and refugees leave and return to, where they travel through and where they choose to make their homes.

One of the most important questions we can ask ourselves as individuals, communities and countries at this time of mass movements of people and global doubt is “do I allow fear to prevail in my heart, or do I allow hope to reign?”

Through Share the Journey we hope to dispel fear and understand why so many people are leaving their homes at this time in history. We also want to inspire communities to build relationships with refugees and migrants. We want to shine a light and lead the way. Migration is a very old story but our campaign aims to help communities see it with new eyes and an open heart.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis wrote, “All it takes is one good person to restore hope!” Imagine if it’s not just one person, but a whole organisation. And what if, rather than one organisation, 165 organisations are joined together with their arms and hearts open across the globe, forming a human chain of love and mercy?

Caritas Internationalis has a destiny of communion and love and we are repeatedly called back to this. We decided together we must invest our united efforts in a global campaign at the 2015 General Assembly. It is only as a united confederation of organisations that we have a real power to change things. In the words of Pope Francis, “When there is an “us”, a revolution begins.”

Our campaign gives us an opportunity to remind ourselves and others of certain truths. The Church is called to exercise the hospitality of God towards migrants and refugees. But we must remember that not one person or country is a host. It is time for all of us to recover the profound biblical insight that God is the host. We must also remember that it is Christ we are welcoming when we open our hearts to migrants and refugees.

The migrants and refugees in our world today are calling us on a journey. In the name of Caritas Internationalis, I invite you all to join the Share the Journey campaign so that through the culture of encounter we will find the road to peace.

With all good wishes and God's abundant blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+ Luis Antonio G. Card. Tagle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

His Em. Luis Antonio G. Card. Tagle
President
Caritas Internationalis