

LEARN

November/December 2017: Share the Journey

On September 27, 2017, in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis kicked off a two-year campaign called "Share the Journey." This campaign is being led by Caritas Internationalis, a global confederation of 165 national development agencies. All Catholics and Catholic communities are being asked to participate in prayer, reflection, learning, and encounter with others. This month, we'd like to introduce you to the campaign.

What is the Share the Journey Campaign?

Share the Journey has at its heart the **vision of a united global human family**. The focus is on our joint journey as people on the move in departure, transit, and host communities. The public awareness campaign promotes opportunities and spaces for migrants and communities to come together and share stories and experiences with the aim of strengthening the bonds between them.

Why is Caritas running this Campaign?

Pope Francis has made numerous appeals to promote the culture of encounter in an effort to combat the culture of indifference in the world today. It means seeing through the eyes of others rather than turning a blind eye.

"Not just to see but to look. Not just to hear but to listen. Not just to meet and pass by, but to stop.
And don't just say 'what a shame, poor people,' but allow ourselves to be moved by pity."

Pope Francis

Who is involved?

Caritas is the charitable arm of the Catholic Church and its confederation works at the diocesan, national, regional, and international level on issues such as poverty, migration, climate change, hunger, health, and emergencies. All Caritas member organizations are invited to promote the campaign at local levels. Bishops are encouraged to share this information with their parishes.

Why should I follow the campaign?

If you are passionate about migration and interested in what's happening in our world, then this is a campaign where you can make a difference at all levels. This is an opportunity to share something of yourself and offer it up in friendship in exchange for friendship and a journey of discovery.

Pope Francis and the Culture of Encounter

Pope Francis has spoken of a 'culture of encounter' as a common goal, encouraging people to be fearless in the ways they look beyond themselves to the needs of others, "Faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others," he has said.

Christ is constantly reaching out to us. But an encounter only happens when that invitation is acknowledged and responded to. By encountering Christ, we can then encounter others. This means **reaching out, building friendships beyond our circle** and meeting people on the peripheries, the most poor and vulnerable, migrants and refugees.

What does encounter mean for Share the Journey?

Caritas wants to create opportunities for encounters to take place between migrants and local communities. By giving them a space to tell their stories, we want to make migrants' voices heard. We want everyone with a migration experience to share it – from migrants themselves, to people who live in communities where migrants leave from, pass through or arrive and settle.

Caritas firmly believes that encounters not only contribute to changing the debate around migration, but also successfully break down fear, racism and xenophobia. We hope to lay the foundations for greater empathy on both sides.

What can I do now to Share the Journey?

- Pray for open hearts and welcoming communities for migrants and refugees everywhere
- Reach out to neighbors, colleagues, and co-workers who may be different than you. Create an encounter of understanding. Listen to their story.
- Advocate to the government on issues affecting immigration laws.

***** WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON "10,000 LETTERS FOR DREAMERS" COMING IN EARLY DECEMBER TO ST. SUSANNA! *****

- Share a "Welcome Gesture" picture on social media



Did you know that if 20 million people reached out to join hands they would encircle our world? Join hands with Caritas and Pope Francis to reach out around the world in support of migrants everywhere.

Show your support and understanding of migration's challenges with a "Reach Out" photo. Simply post it on social media with the #sharejourney hashtag.

If you can, take your Reach Out photo at a border, a port, airport or at a Caritas project. A Reach Out photo in front of a national landmark or where your elected representatives sit will remind your government of its responsibility to protect migrants and refugees.

Suggested text to use on social media:

I reach out to show my support for migrants from around the world. journey.caritas.org
#sharejourney #reachout

Source for all information: journey.caritas.org