

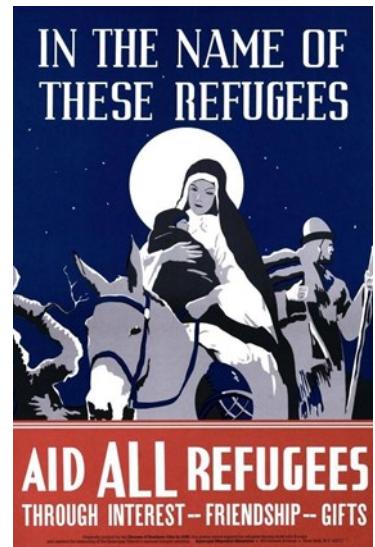


Reflect on the Season with Episcopal Migration Ministries

On November 27, Christians around the world will mark the beginning of the season of Advent, a time of reflection and expectation as we await the birth of Jesus. During Advent, we are reminded of God's abundant love in the mystery of the Incarnation - that God came to earth and lived among us – *Emmanu-el*, Lord with Us. We remember also that this Jesus, this One we call Lord, Messiah, and Emmanuel began his life as a refugee. When King Herod learned of Jesus' birth and began his murderous Massacre of the Holy Innocents, Mary and Joseph were forced to flee to Egypt with the infant Jesus.

Even as we approach the celebration of Christmas, we must remember the somber reality of today's refugees. Our world faces the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II with more than 65.3 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people worldwide – the highest level ever recorded. Of the 65.3 million displaced, 21.3 million are refugees, over half of whom are children.

For more than 75 years, the Episcopal Church has welcomed and supported refugees in the United States. We trace our heritage back to 1938, when the Diocese of Southern Ohio published this iconic poster, calling the Church to this mission: "In the name of these refugees, aid all refugees." Today, refugee resettlement work continues in The Episcopal Church through Episcopal Migration Ministries. Working in partnership with Episcopal and other faith communities as well as with local governments, non-government organizations (NGOs) and a network of 30 affiliate offices, Episcopal Migration Ministries provides safe passage, vital services, hospitality, and friendship for thousands of refugee families resettling in the U.S. every year.



Refugee resettlement and welcome have long been ways that we, as Episcopalians, live out our Baptismal Covenant. We invite you to join us in reflection on the season of Advent on this ministry: how is God calling you to "aid all refugees" in the name of the Holy One?

- **Advent Reflections:** Starting Monday, November 28, we will publish weekly videos from our Director, The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson. We invite you into the journey of Advent with us, as we reflect on the meaning of the season and the ministry of resettlement and welcome. You can find the videos at <https://vimeo.com/emmrefugee>
- **Join the #SupportRefugees campaign** by taking an #Unselfie
 - Customize your #UNselfie sign by writing how or why you #SupportRefugees
 - Post your #UNselfie to Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter to share with your friends and family
 - Email a copy of your #Unselfie to kmartin@episcopalchurch.org to have your support shared on the official Episcopal Migration Ministries Facebook page. (Optional)
 - Tag [@EMMRefugees](#) and use the hashtags #EMM and #SupportRefugees in your post.
- **Donate.** Every donation, no matter what size, provides necessary support and resources for the important ministry of providing a safe haven to those fleeing lives of persecution and violence. During this season of thanksgiving and celebration, we invite you to join in support of the ministry of refugee resettlement and welcome.



You can make a donation by check or online. To donate online, visit www.episcopalmigrationministries.org, select "How You Can Help" from the menu and choose "Donate Now" to make a contribution to the life-saving work of refugee resettlement.