

SALT *and* LIGHT

Welcoming the Refugee and Migrant (*Excerpt*)

Fear of the stranger and a desire to protect one's own family or community from the unknown are ingrained in human behavior. Yet these are just a few of the responses that human beings are capable of. From ancient times till today there is also the impulse to extend hospitality and protection to those who are displaced, homeless or in great need.

The Catholic Church is consistent and forthright in support of migrants and refugees, calling all the faithful to welcome and protect them. This support is not the result of a political ideology or agenda, and the Church affirms the right of any country to protect its borders. Yet the deepest traditions and teachings of Judaism and Christianity encourage us to overcome our fears and aid the poor, the homeless and the stranger.

This article is an excerpt from the brochure, "Our Faith Teaches: Welcoming the Refugee and Migrant" (Washington, DC: CNS-USCCB, 2017), now available for purchase on the USCCB Store website. To order printed brochures (pack of 50), go to store.USCCB.org, and search publication number 7-579 or go directly to the product page at this link: <http://bit.ly/2gZF8v8>.



“Welcoming the stranger is thus intrinsic to the nature of the Church itself and bears witness to its fidelity to the Gospel.”

- Instruction on Pastoral Care of Migrants, 2004