Office of the President

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Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President

December 27, 2021

Mr. William Canny
Executive Director
MRS
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20017

Dear Bill,

I wanted to write to you expressing my gratitude to you and to all those you have assembled in service to refugees from Afghanistan.

The day-to-day work of MRS is already a great blessing to migrants, refugees, our nation, and the Church. It is a compelling and continuous witness to the love of Christ, done with great humility and little fanfare. Please know how grateful the bishops are for all that work. But the recent effort to resettle Afghani refugees is truly exceptional.

I understand that you and your team have been working even harder than usual, including much time away from your families. I know as well that this effort has required special creativity and resourcefulness. The need came upon us fast, and the systems we have in place to address it have been weakened in recent years. This has required a whole-Church effort, drawing not only on your talented MRS staff, but on staff from other Catholic organizations, individual volunteers, and even local parishes.

It has been a great challenge, but your response is already bearing great fruit. You and your team have helped to spare thousands from great suffering and even death, and to offer them the hope that comes with a new life here. All of you have truly been a blessing to them.

So, on behalf of my brother bishops, I wanted to express our deep gratitude to you and your team for your willingness to rise to this challenge in the name of Christ. I pray that our Blessed Mother may continue to intercede on your behalf, as you continue to accompany so beautifully so many who suffer so greatly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+José H. Gomez

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