



September 14, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This coming week, September 20th - 26th, we join the Church nationally in observing National Migration Week. For almost forty years this has been an annual opportunity to reflect on the current conditions for migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. According to Justice for Immigrants, a campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the forced displacement of people is currently at the highest level since World War II. More than 65 million people are now displaced around the world and over 22 million are refugees.

Migrants are arriving from around the world to St. Louis, many with little to no belongings. They need support for their basic needs and establishing a new home in our community. As Catholics, we are called to welcome the stranger, and support all immigrants arriving in St. Louis regardless of their country of origin. Let us take this opportunity to think about how we can help our brothers and sisters in need who are entering our community with hopes of finding a better life and a new beginning.

St. Francis Community Services, a federated agency of Catholic Charities of St. Louis, has worked with the immigrant community for over 20 years. The legal services office has represented immigrants from over 50 countries. Other immigrant service providers in the St. Louis region specialize in refugee resettlement, so the services that St. Francis provides are complementary in refugee support. You can learn more about the work of St. Francis, donate or offer to volunteer via their website at [sfcstl.org](http://sfcstl.org).

In addition to the support that St. Francis provides to migrants, the following organizations are directly assisting refugees from Afghanistan resettling in the U.S.:

- The International Institute
- Catholic Charities USA
- Catholic Relief Services - Afghanistan
- Oasis Ministries
- Bilingual International Assistant Services (BIAS)
- Welcome Neighbor STL

In recognition of this National Migration Week, I encourage you to learn more about the conditions for migrants in our nation and community at [justiceforimmigrants.org](http://justiceforimmigrants.org) and in the St. Louis Review. I also encourage you to explore the organizations supporting migrants, and how we can heed Pope Francis' call to be a part of a culture of encounter as we welcome, protect, integrate and promote immigrants and refugees in our midst.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Mitchell T. Rozanski*

Most Reverend Mitchell Rozanski  
Archbishop of St. Louis