



JP Alert

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Syrian Refugees



As people across the United States are donating to help Syrian refugees abroad and volunteering to welcome refugees in their communities, **more than half of all governors** have recently announced that they want to stop their states from resettling Syrian refugees.

We are facing a global refugee crisis that requires a global response. 60 million people are displaced, the largest number since World War II. This includes 4 million Syrian refugees and 8 million Syrians who are internally displaced. The global outpouring of public support for Syrian refugees has inspired countries around the world to welcome more refugees, and the U.S. must do our part. The U.S. has

traditionally been a leader in refugee protection and resettlement, and needs to show bold leadership now. CMSM has signed on to a number of [coalition letters](#).

*The House of Representative will vote Thursday on a bill to stop the flow of Syrian refugees to the U.S.

CMSM urges members to call your Senators and Representatives at the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and then contact your [Governor](#). Here is a sample script to use: "I'm a constituent from [City] and I support the resettlement of Syrian refugees. I urge the Senator / Representative / Governor to represent me and other constituents who seek to welcome Syrian refugees."

Here are some helpful points that you may want to mention, but the most important point is your story and why your community wants to welcome Syrian refugees!

- The U.S. government handpicks the refugees who resettle here, and refugees are the most thoroughly vetted people to come to the United States.
- All refugees resettled in the United States undergo rigorous security screenings by the Department of Homeland Security, FBI, Department of Defense and multiple intelligence agencies, including biometric checks, forensic testing, medical screenings and in-person interviews.
- This is not an either/or situation. The United States can continue to welcome refugees while also continuing to ensure an environment of basic safety. We must do both.

Thank you for calling to support our Syrian brothers and sisters and to act for peace.



Syria: Forward to Peace or Back to War?

The President recently announced that U.S. troops will be deployed to Syria. This escalation is another step backward into the abyss of endless war. We've also recently seen Russia enter this conflict, and we witness daily the devastating global refugee crisis. Blowback continues to escalate in Lebanon, France, and the

Russian airliner. If we continue to escalate the violence, then the blowback will continue to escalate. Even if we get to the point of “destroying” an organization, the game of “whack a mole” will likely lead to another similar organization. As the pain, suffering, and economic costs of this war grow, we desperately need to pursue diplomacy and negotiations that lead to a sustainable political solution.

Thankfully, Sec. Kerry is pursuing partial negotiations in Vienna with many of the key state actors. Yet, many women and Syrian civil society leaders are being left out, not to mention key armed actors such as Al-Nusra and ISIS. We need full participation negotiations, if not at this stage, then at a stage very soon after...or else violence and war will continue.

CMSM continues to sign on to letters and do direct meetings with the Administration and Congress.



Cherish All of Creation

CMSM Resolution Implementation

The Norbertines have a regular Friday discussion group on Laudato Si'. Glenmary has negotiated increased renewable energy for their gas/electric. They also have composting and community gardens, an environmental committee, and building projects to be LEED certified. For a fuller list of implementation reports so far [click here](#)

Article: University of Dayton Physicist discusses the issue of divestment vs. investment.

ACTION Steps: Individually or as a parish or community, [sign the Catholic Climate Petition](#) and/or [join the global prayer chain](#) to pray for world leaders at the COP21 summit taking place in early Dec.

Sign up as an individual or group to [attend the Nov. 29 Climate March](#) in your nearest location.



Economic Justice

Pope Francis visits persons without housing in the U.S.:

“I want to be very clear. There is no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing. There are many unjust situations, but we know that God is suffering with us, experiencing them at our side. He does not abandon us.” [Full statement here](#)

Appalachia Immersion Trip Reflection and [Pictures](#)

Fr. Neil Pezzulo, Glenmary and chair of CMSM JP Committee wrote this reflection after the immersion trip. “My motives for heading to the Appalachian Mountains as part of the immersion trip are as complicated as the mountains themselves and the people who call them home. As a missionary who is committed to serving the undeserved rural areas, it was an almost natural or instinctual desire to participate.

As a disciple of Jesus who takes seriously the words of St. Paul; “...How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? I suppose that’s the missionary in me coming out, I felt compelled to participate. I felt compelled to accept the invitation to Come and See.”

For the [full reflection click here](#)

Other News



Justice and Peace Thanksgiving Homily

The CMSM justice and peace committee traveled to Techny, IL to meet with other JPIC's and CMSM members. One of the needs identified was for more homily tips around justice and peace issues. Mark Peters, JPIC with Priests of the Sacred Heart, will be coordinating this effort. Fr. Neil Pezzulo, Glenmary and chair of the CMSM JP Committee has provided this [homily for Thanksgiving as a resource](#) to all of you.

South Sudan Advent Call to Prayer

We invite you to join with the people of South Sudan during this Advent season in praying for peace and reconciliation. May the God of all peace be the gift of this season for all peoples in our world. The Solidarity pastoral team with their South Sudanese colleagues has prepared a [reflection booklet for Advent and Christmas](#). For more details from Solidarity with South Sudan on what's been happening in that country, [click here](#).

Weekly Scripture Reflections via Maryknoll

Find an easy to use set of weekly scripture reflections based on the readings for Mass. Maryknoll missionaries live and work around the world in impoverished and marginalized communities. In these [weekly reflections](#), missionaries share their experiences and insights as they relate to readings for Mass.

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) supports and offers resources for U.S. leaders of Catholic men's religious institutes. CMSM promotes dialogue and collaboration on issues of religious life as well as peace and justice issues with major groups in church and society. There are about 17,000 religious priests and brothers in the United States.

Connect with Us



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