

**World Day of  
Migrants and  
Refugees**

**29•IX•2024**



# **God walks with His People**

**Suggestions for a step-by-step  
itinerary to do together toward  
World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2024**

Subsidy edited by the

DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING  
INTEGRAL  
HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT



To read **Pope Francis' message for  
World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024**,  
from which this subsidy is taken,  
and download additional background material,  
frame the QR code



# *"God walks with His People"*

## Introduction

Since the beginning of his magisterium, Pope Francis has always encouraged all people of good will to "create spaces of encounter" with fellow migrants and refugees, because it is only through encounter that prejudices are broken down, only by looking into the eyes of others, by listening to their story, that we encounter Jesus through them.

For this World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), Pope Francis has chosen **"God Walks with His People"** as the title for his message, to remind us that all of us, God's people, are migrants on this earth, on the way to the "true homeland," and that the God who walks with us we can also be found in our brothers and sisters, especially in the most vulnerable.

Therefore, in view of the celebrations for WDMR2024, we would like to suggest to all men and women "of good will" to organize a **step-by-step itinerary** on the theme "God walks with His People." The initiative can be organized in the form of a **meditative walk**, in which we concretely walk together and stop at pre-established points to meditate on certain passages of the Sacred Scriptures and the message, or in a **symbolic form**, such as a vigil, or a moment of reflection that has these stages as a common thread. The stages of the itinerary should not be organized FOR our migrant brothers and sisters, but WITH them, involving them whenever possible in the animation of these moments.

Below we offer some ideas, taken from the message, from which to organize the stages of this journey together, but then we leave it to the availability and creativity of each local reality to better define these moments.



## This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features ten sets of horizontal blue dashed lines spaced evenly down the page. Each set consists of three parallel dashed lines, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no margins or additional markings.



# 1<sup>st</sup> stage: Towards the true homeland

## 1<sup>st</sup> reader:

«Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ» (Phil 3:20).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> reader:

"The People of God [is] journeying through history on pilgrimage, **"migrating"**, we could say, **toward the Kingdom of Heaven**<sup>1</sup>. The biblical narrative of Exodus, depicting the Israelites on their way to the promised land, naturally comes to mind: a long journey from slavery to freedom [...].

Likewise, it is possible to see in the migrants of our time, as in those of every age, **a living image of God's people on their way** to the eternal homeland."

*Pope Francis, Message for WDMR2024*

- **Testimony** of a local person who has lived or has seen his or her children live **a migration or biographical period of precariousness, exodus, desert**. Presentation of a local project of accompaniment of vulnerable people, or those in situations of transition  
and/or
- **Prayer together**, or song/animation  
and/or
- Brief moment of guided sharing on the **recognition of the common and anthropological dimension of itinerancy**. As they say: we are all in transit; we are all in the same boat.

---

1 cf. *Lumen gentium*, 49



[illegible]

## 2<sup>nd</sup> stage: *God walks with us*

### 1<sup>st</sup> reader:

«*The Lord your God goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you*» (Deut 31:6).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> reader:

"The fundamental reality of the Exodus, of every exodus, is that God precedes and accompanies his people and all his children in every time and place. [...]

**Many migrants experience God as their traveling companion, guide and anchor of salvation.** They entrust themselves to him before setting out and seek him in times of need. In him, they find consolation in moments of discouragement. Thanks to him, there are good Samaritans along the way. In prayer, they confide their hopes to him."

*Pope Francis, Message for WDMR2024*

- **Testimony** faith of a migrant: **how do I recognize that God was with me/with us**  
and/or
- **Presentation of a local project** to accompany migrants/refugees/vulnerable people  
and/or
- **Prayer together**, or song/animation  
and/or
- Brief moment of guided sharing on the **recognition of of God's presence at our side**, "I am not alone".



[illegible]



# 3<sup>rd</sup> stage: *God walks Within us*

## 1<sup>st</sup> reader:

«*I have moved from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling*»  
(1 Cr 17:5).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> reader:

"The tent is a form of presence especially dear to the Lord. During David's reign, **God chose to dwell in a tent, not a temple, so that he could walk with his people.** [...]

God not only walks with his people, but also within them, in the sense that **he identifies himself with men and women on their journey through history**, particularly with the least, the poor and the marginalized. In this we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation."

*Pope Francis, Message for WDMR2024*

- **Testimony** of a migrant and/or Presentation of a local project accompanying migrants/refugees/vulnerable people  
and/or
- **Prayer together**, or song/animation  
and/or
- Brief moment of guided sharing on **how we too can become "tents" for the Lord**, "I too can be an instrument of God who wants to be close to my migrant brother".



[illegible]

# 4<sup>th</sup> stage: *I was a stranger and you welcomed me*

## 1<sup>st</sup> reader:

«Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me» (Mt 25:40).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> reader:

"The encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, "is also an encounter with Christ. He himself said so. It is he who knocks on our door, hungry, thirsty, an outsider, naked, sick and imprisoned, asking to be met and assisted"<sup>1</sup> [...] **Every encounter along the way represents an opportunity to meet the Lord**; it is an occasion charged with salvation, because Jesus is present in the sister or brother in need of our help. In this sense, the poor save us, because they enable us to encounter the face of the Lord<sup>2</sup>."

*Pope Francis, Message for WDMR2024*

- **Testimony** of a host/worker/witness. Presentation of a local project of accompaniment of migrants/refugees/vulnerable people  
and/or
- **Prayer together**, or song/animation  
and/or
- Brief moment of guided sharing on the **saving encounter with the other, "my neighbor becomes for me an opportunity to meet the Lord"**.

---

<sup>1</sup> Homily, *Mass with Participants in the "Free from Fear" Meeting*, Sacrofano, 15 February 2019

<sup>2</sup> cf. *Message for the Third World Day of the Poor*, 17 November 2019

# Prayer

## from Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024

God, Almighty Father,  
we are your pilgrim Church  
journeying towards the Kingdom of heaven.  
We live in our homeland,  
but as if we were foreigners.  
Every foreign place is our home,  
yet every native land is foreign to us.  
Though we live on earth,  
our true citizenship is in heaven.  
Do not let us become possessive  
of the portion of the world  
you have given us as a temporary home.  
Help us to keep walking,  
together with our migrant brothers and sisters,  
toward the eternal dwelling you have prepared for us.  
Open our eyes and our hearts  
so that every encounter with those in need  
becomes an encounter with Jesus, your Son and our Lord.  
Amen.

*Pope Francis*

World Day of  
Migrants and  
Refugees  
29-IX-2024



"God walks with His People"