

Acting as Christians

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TELL US?

Introduction

Introduction:

Migrations challenge the Church



- Popes messages at **World Day of Migrants and Refugees...** since 1914...
- Reality to face since **XIX century** onwards...
- **Accompaniment of migrants**
- **New challenges** to church
- Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People

5 levels @ every action.



- Sharing life
- Service and accompaniment
- Study and reflection
- Raising awareness and training
- Advocacy

The Church Invite us.....

Church Invite us to..... 3 actions



- **Welcome:** hosting, serving & sharing daily life.
- **Accompany:** migratory transit, process of integration, spiritual pilgrimage listening, giving guidance and training.
- **Advocate:** in order to provide assistance in humanitarian emergencies at transit, combating new forms of slavery, fighting the culture of denial in the host societies, lobbying for migration policies and regulations.

(Raising awareness, study, research, reflection...)

Actions have to be...



- **Meaningful / Significant**
- **Prophetic**

Biblical ground

Host services by Church-based organizations

Welcome

- **Significant**

- Respond to human needs
- Testimony to a better humanity
- Work with others
- Limited/ Relevant

Not replacing administration or the society

- **Prophetic**

- Hospitality to people with no coverage/ limited rights
- Facing social rejection or Legal consequences

Basis of social awareness and Public Impact

Accompany

Process over years To be full members

- Integration into the new society
- Integration of the whole society
- **Significant:**
 - Creation of spaces for meeting, dialogue, living together...
 - Signs of a new and better society
- **Prophetic**
 - Many Small, discreet prophetic actions...
- **Spiritual accompaniment**

*Integrate fraternally respecting differences
becomes a model for the society, a prophetic sign*

Advocate



- **Defend** from all dangers on their way & at the host society
- Help to **organize** migrants & refugees themselves to claim for their rights...
- That the **laws & regulations** give a framework for protection
- That the **administration** grants effective **protection**
- **Significant & prophetic:**
 - Moral authority to speak out and call
 - Research, raising awareness, institutional dialogue, public debate...

Conclusions

The Church...



- Encourages to **act**

Welcoming, accompanying and defending people in their transit/integration processes

- Reminds ethical and **theological dimension of actions**

*Hosting, supporting and protecting migrants and refugees- **the Lord himself is present***

- **Specific calls to action:** *Respond to the signs of the times revealed in human history, interpreted in the light of faith.*

Pope's messages

World Day of Migrants and Refugees



Does not give specific orders, but

Invite us to

- Reflection
- Act
- Play our role
- And Take action