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FOR THOSE FLEEING THEIR  
OWN COUNTRIES

JUNE

**“Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries”**



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## PRAYER INTENTION REFLECTION

ADDRESS TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING ORGANIZED BY THE  
FRATERNA DOMUS OF SACROFANO<sup>8</sup>

Francis

9 March 2023

[...] Hospitality is an expression of love, of that dynamism of openness that drives us to pay attention to the other, to seek out the best for his or her life (cf. FT, 97-98). On this aspect of love, the fundamental reference is Benedict XVI's first Encyclical, *Deus caritas est* (25 December 2005).

The second passage of *Fratelli tutti* that I propose to you is number 141. I quote in full: “The true worth of the different countries of our world is measured by their ability to think not simply as a country but also as part of the larger human family. This is seen especially in times of crisis. Narrow forms of nationalism are an extreme expression of an inability to grasp the meaning of this gratuitousness. They err in thinking that they can develop on their own, heedless of the ruin of others, that by closing their doors to others they will be better protected. Immigrants are seen as usurpers who have nothing to offer. This leads to the simplistic belief that the poor are dangerous and useless, while the powerful are generous benefactors. Only a social and political culture that readily and ‘gratuitously’ welcomes others will have a future”. We are in the fourth chapter, entitled “A gratuitousness open to others”, where it talks about a “gratuitousness that welcomes” (cf. nos. 139-141). The aspect of gratuitousness is essential to generate fraternity and social friendship. For you, I emphasize the final phrase: “Only a social and political culture that readily and ‘gratuitously’ welcomes others will have a future” (no. 141). Gratuitous welcome. Often, we talk about the contribution that migrants give or can give to the society that welcomes them. This is true and it is important. But the fundamental criterion does not lie in the usefulness of

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<sup>8</sup> See full message:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2023/march/documents/20230309-incontro-fraternadomus.html>

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the person, but in the value in itself that he or she represents. The other deserves to be welcomed not so much for what he has, or what he can give, but for what he is.

**The Pope Video - FEBRUARY 2020:**

<https://thepopevideo.org/hear-the-cries-of-migrants/>

**The Pope Video - November 2016:**

<https://thepopevideo.org/countries-receiving-refugees/>

- September - WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES