

Family of Holy Cross Statement on the Syrian Refugee Crisis
Énoncé de la Famille Sainte-Croix sur la crise des réfugiés syriens
Declaración de la Familia de Santa Cruz sobre la crisis de los refugiados sirios

We, the leadership of the four Holy Cross congregations, meeting in Rome, Italy, are acutely aware of the plight of our Syrian sisters and brothers. We are shocked and saddened by the violence being perpetrated against innocent men, women, and children, and by the international community's failures to respond effectively to this ongoing tragedy. In anticipation of the Year of Mercy, 2016, we join with Pope Francis in proclaiming that, "The experience of mercy becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us."

We therefore come together in a spirit of unity to call on:

- A. all parties involved in the conflict to facilitate unhindered access throughout Syria to humanitarian workers and relief supplies;
- B. all governments to provide aid in the form of funds, personnel and expertise to neighboring countries that are hosting large numbers of refugees;
- C. countries that have the capacity to accept refugees to increase the number they are accepting, simplify the resettlement process, and provide the full protections of international refugee and asylum law;
- D. all nations to support the United Nations resolutions that address the violence in Syria and the need for humanitarian aid.

While recognizing the complexity of this situation, we do not accept that war is a solution. We call on the United Nations to work toward a peaceful resolution to this conflict and other major conflicts throughout the world. As Holy Cross religious we are inspired by the words and example of our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, who called on us to "prepare the world for better times than our own." We stand together in solidarity with persons of good will who are moved by compassion and seek fullness of life for all of God's people.

Marianites of Holy Cross
Congregation of Holy Cross
Sisters of Holy Cross
Sisters of the Holy Cross

Rome, Italy, 7 October 2015

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