

XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

**MOMENT OF PRAYER
FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

PRESIDED BY THE HOLY FATHER

FRANCIS



SAINT PETER SQUARE, October 19, 2023

The Introductory Rites

The Holy Father:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

Peace be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

The reader:

We gathered this evening in St. Peter's Square, near the 'Angels Unawares' monument, to pray for all those who have lost their lives along the various migration routes, for their families, for those who have survived, and for all refugees and migrants who are still on their way.

Prayer

The Holy Father:

Let us pray

O Lord, to whom no one is a stranger
and from whose help no one is ever distant,
look with compassion on refugees and exiles,
on segregated persons and on lost children;
restore them, we pray, to a homeland,
and give us a kind heart for the needy and for strangers.

Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

Gospel

The priest:

Listen to the words of the Holy Gospel according to Luke

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert him, stood up and said to him, "Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

He replied, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But the man was anxious to justify himself, and said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

Jesus replied, "A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jerico and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him.

The next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said "and on my way back I will make good and extra expense you have."

Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?" "The one who took pity on him" he replied. Jesus said to him, "Go, and do the same yourself".

Reflection

Silence for personal prayer

Prayer of the Faithful

The Holy Father:

Brothers and sisters,
every day of our lives is a grace from the Lord,
an opportunity placed in our hands
to do good and build the kingdom of God.
Let us invoke the Father who is in heaven
that he may grant each one of us today
to walk in his ways.

The reader:

Let us pray together and say: Hear us, O Lord!

R/. Hear us, O Lord!

1. For the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

May listening to the sign of the times also be a moment of sincere reflection and confrontation on the question of migration, in a spirit of solidarity and unity of purpose.

Let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Hear us, O Lord!

2. For the holy Church.

That the Church may remain faithful to her mission as Good Samaritan, a field hospital for all migrant and refugee brothers and sisters, lovingly accompanying those who are on the way and generously welcoming those who arrive.

Let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Hear us, O Lord!

3. For the victims of migratory routes.

For all those who have lost their lives due to migration and for their families, may their sacrifice and pain serve as a reminder to never close our eyes and hearts in the face of human drama.

Let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Hear us, O Lord!

4. For refugees and migrants.

So that refugees and migrants no longer have to embark on dangerous journeys and encounter closed doors, but safe roads and welcoming communities.

Let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Hear us, O Lord!

5. For peace.

Where there are conflicts, may weapons be silenced to make space for dialogue and reconciliation. So that we all become 'artisans' of peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Hear us, O Lord!

The Holy Father:

O Lord, hear our prayers,
make us rich in humanity towards every stranger
and generous in caring for the marginalized,
so that one day we may all be together
in the land of the living.

Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen

Our Father

The Holy Father:

Guided by the Spirit of Jesus and enlightened by the wisdom of the Gospel, we dare to say:

The Holy Father and the assembly:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

The Concluding Rites

The Holy Father:

The Lord be with you.

R/. Amen.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

R/. Amen.

May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy.

R/. Amen.

May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace.

R/. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father ✚
and Son ✚ and Holy ✚ Spirit, come down on you and remain
with you for ever.

R/. Amen.