

CLOSING PRAYER:

Invite members of the BEC to say the concluding prayer

CLOSING HYMN:

Listen Lord

Listen to your people Lord
Lowly though we may be
We're lifting up hungry hearts
And a child's trusting plea
You want us to live in love
You want us to share
Then help us love our sisters
Lord, and care, and care

Too long have we closed our eyes
Now we understand
No burden's too much for man
When a friend gives him a hand
We want to be Christian, Lord
We want to be true
Then help us love our brothers
Lord, like you, like you

**Sing or recite the hymn meditatively,
or select another appropriate hymn*



BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE SEPT 2018

B&C Reflection

HOPE: **RESPECTING OTHERS,
BEFRIENDING THE WORLD
IN CHRIST**

FOCUS: MISSION

EVENT: MIGRANT SUNDAY

INTRODUCTION:

The focus for this month's reflection is the issue of migrants and refugees. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees is **"Welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating migrants and refugees."** As Christians, "we have the unique opportunity to advocate and support the concrete actions [to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate our migrant and refugee neighbours]," and to share this message with all, especially our political and social leaders.



OPENING PRAYER:

Invite a member of the BEC to say the opening prayer.

OPENING HYMN:

Love it was that Made Us

Love it was that made us
And it was love that saved us
Love was God's plan,
when He made man
God's Divine Nature is Love.
Born of God's love we must love Him
That's why He made us to love Him.
But only when we love all men
Can we partake of God's love.

1. Love is a wonderful thing
Joy in our hearts it will bring,
Where there's true love there is God,
And where there's God there is Love.
2. Christ said: Love must be a sign
By which men will know you are mine,
A new commandment I give,
Each other love as I did

DIALOGUE:

In his message for 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis states that throughout the first years of his pontificate, he has repeatedly expressed his particular concern for the sad situation of many migrants and refugees fleeing from war, persecution, natural disasters and poverty. As a result, the Pope instituted the new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development to express the Church's concern for migrants, displaced people, refugees and victims of human trafficking. According to the Pope, this solidarity must be concretely expressed at every stage of the migratory experience – from departure through journey to arrival and return." In this regard, the pope proposes that the Church's response can be summarised in four verbs: **to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate**"

To welcome - above all, means offering migrants and refugees to opportunities to enter destination countries safely and legally. These include: to increase and simplify the process for granting humanitarian visas and for reunifying families, for more countries to adopt private and community sponsorship programmes, and open humanitarian corridors for vulnerable refugees, grant special temporary visas to people fleeing conflicts in neighbouring countries, etc.

To protect – may be understood as a series of steps intended to defend the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees, independent of their legal status. Such protection begins in the country of origin, and consists in offering reliable and verified information before departure, and in providing safety from illegal recruitment practices.

To promote - essentially means a determined effort to ensure that all migrants and refugees – as well as the communities which welcome them – are empowered to achieve their potential as human beings, in all the dimensions which constitute the humanity intended by the Creator.

To integrate - concerns the opportunities for intercultural enrichment brought about by the presence of migrants and refugees. Integration is not "an assimilation that leads migrants to suppress or to forget their own cultural identity. Rather, contact with others leads to discovering their 'secret', to being open to them in order to welcome their valid aspects and thus contribute to knowing each one better.



Questions for discussion

- What do you feel is the general perception of Malaysian Catholics with regards to migrants and refugees in the country and in the Church?
- Do you feel that migrants are welcomed in our parishes? If yes, how? If no, why not?

Full text of the Pope's message: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2017-11/pope-message-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees.html>

DISCERNMENT:

Leviticus 19:34

You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Reflection:

- We shall reread the text and then remain in silence listening to God speaking to us in our hearts.
- We share on any word or phrase in the text that touched us.
- How can we remain true to our Christian calling when we deal with the conversations on the one hand and the liberals on the other?

Deeds:

- How do you think your BEC can best help to welcome, to protect, to promote and integrate migrants and refugees in the:
 - BEC
 - Parish
 - Community