



Lord, when did we see you hungry

MATTHEW 25:37

Migration and Refugee Services Catechetical Sunday Video Contribution

Series Title: Pastoral and Theological Approaches to Migration

Theme: Encounter

Primary Audience: Parish Catechist

1. Fr Dan Groody (University of Notre Dame): <https://youtu.be/2nmvAVu1oB8>

In Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus provides us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. This model is more commonly referred to as the corporal works of mercy, which "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs." They include our obligations to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and welcome the stranger. In this video, Fr. Dan Groody of the University of Notre Dame provides an overview of the theology of migration, which highlights some of the ways that we can understand the migration experience in light of the Gospel and Catholic social teaching."

Discussion Questions:

1. In his reflection on the theology of migration, Fr. Dan Groody affirms that "God, in Jesus Christ, so loved the world, that he migrated from his homeland into the sinful and broken territory of our human existence. He died on the Cross to reconcile us to God so that we can migrate back to our spiritual homeland, and ultimately become naturalized citizens again in his Kingdom." How does this reflection on migration help to expand our viewpoint of human mobility based on a purely socio-political issue to embody a theological and spiritual dimension that highlights communion and reconciliation?
2. Fr. Goody outlines a theology of migration comprised of four principles: Migration as Imago Dei – the image of God; Verbum Dei – the word of God; Missio Dei – the mission of God;



and Visio Dei – the vision of God. How can each of these perspectives – taken individually or as a whole - contribute to reframing how we think and respond to challenges surrounding the global migration crisis?

3. In Fr. Groody’s encounters with immigrants and refugees around the world, he has encountered “migrants wanting to cross over the problem/person divide”. Per As such, migrants desire to be viewed not as a nuisance deserving of discrimination or disposal, but as a fellow human being imbued with God-given dignity. How can we encourage the faithful to affirm this truth when encountering migrants in their midst and in seeking ways to work towards a more fair and humane society?

2. Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala (Archdiocese of Washington):

<https://youtu.be/L17ocGuwZlg>

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Discussion Questions:

1. There are often multiple reasons why an individual or family may find it too difficult or dangerous to remain in their country of origin. The decision to leave can be complex, heartbreaking, and involve a combination of factors that can include the threat of persecution and/or an absence of educational or employment opportunities necessary for survival. How does Bishop Menjivar's personal journey reflect this complex reality? After he applied for political asylum, how did the Church in the United States help the Bishop fulfill his vocation to join the priesthood, giving him the opportunity to develop his God given gifts and talents in service to others?
2. Most Reverend Menjivar points to the entire gospel as a story of human mobility, beginning with the parents of Jesus who fled their homeland to find safe refuge for their Son. How does the experience of the Holy Family, forced to leave everything familiar to them for the unfamiliar land of Egypt, help us to see Christ in the men, women, and children who leave their homes in search of security? How does it guide us in responding with “love, care, compassion and tenderness”?

Bishop Mark Seitz (Diocese of El Paso):

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/v7gk4lei05yn0kdiag18v/Bp.-Mark-Seitz-Encountering-Christ-at-the-Border.mp4?rlkey=ontimv9vrpho1gotx5o0kka78&e=1&st=ae4mhsmk&dl=0>

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Discussion Questions:

1. Bishop Seitz introduces the idea of encounter as a fundamental step to broadening our understanding of the migrant experience. Why is it important to meet the real people "behind the lens"? How can these human interactions help to debunk myths and better prepare us as followers of Christ to seek border policy solutions that lead to more orderly, safe, and effective flows of immigrants?
2. Bishop Seitz provides examples of how the media often limits its coverage to "snippets of reality" regarding the situation at the border and beyond. Have you or the parishioners with whom you work observed similar types of media coverage? How can we move beyond the media's limited camera lens and seek a fuller truth?
3. How could you and your parish offer opportunities of meaningful encounter to improve understanding? Ideas range from hosting migrants for public speaking events, shared meals, or festivals; organizing immersion trips sponsored by social service organizations located on the border; and volunteering with a local Catholic Charities agency or other organization serving immigrants and refugees in your local community.