



Excerpts from Pope
Francis' message for
World Day of Migrants
and Refugees 2014

***MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES:
TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD.***

Migrations often reveal failures and shortcomings on the part of States and the international community.

- *For our failures to be a welcoming destination for immigrants, we pray to the Lord.*
- **Lord, have mercy.**





- Migrations also point to the aspiration of humanity to enjoy a unity marked by respect for differences.
- *For our failures to respect differences in races, cultures, and faiths, we pray to the Lord.*
- **Lord, have mercy.**

Migrations require

attitudes of acceptance and hospitality which enable an equitable sharing of the world's goods.

- ⦿ *For our greediness in amassing and using the world's goods, especially precious minerals and fossil fuels, we pray to the Lord.*
- ⦿ **Lord, have mercy.**

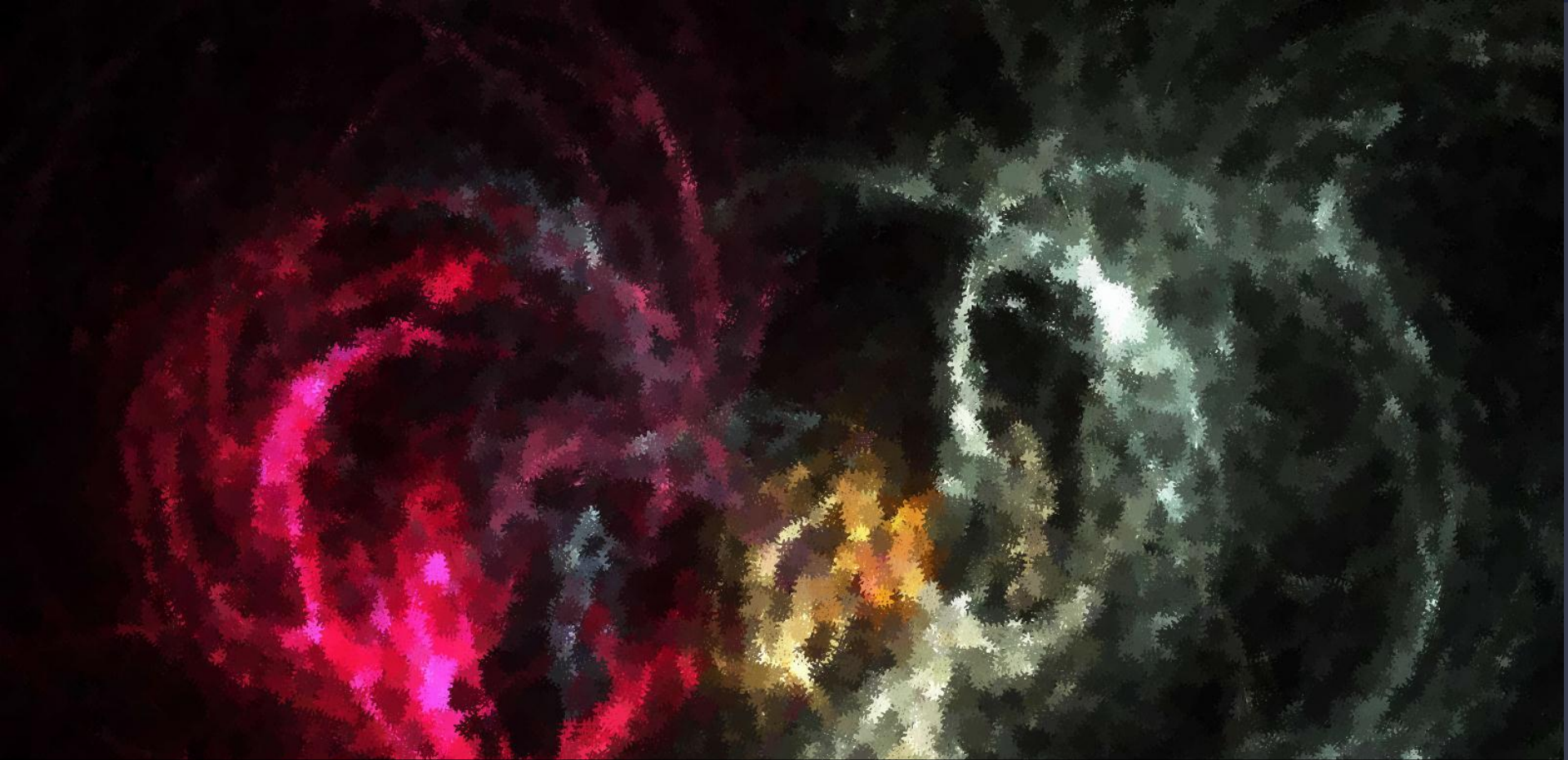


Migrations require

the protection and the advancement of the dignity and centrality of each human being.

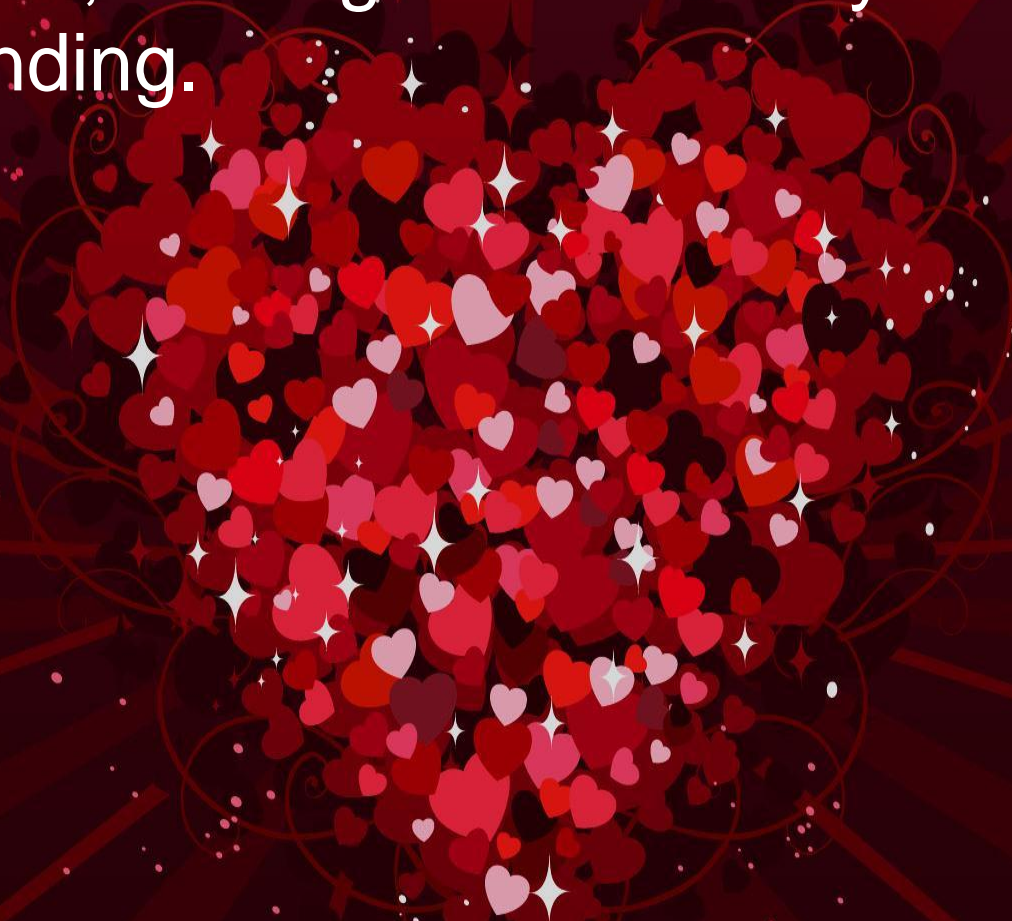
- ⦿ *For those times when we have turned a blind eye to the abuse of the dignity of others, we pray to the Lord.*
- ⦿ **Lord, have mercy.**





- From the Christian standpoint, the reality of migration, like other human realities, points to the tension between the beauty of creation, marked by Grace and the Redemption, and the mystery of sin.

◎ The beauty of Creation is seen in solidarity, acceptance, and signs of fraternity and understanding.



◎ *That we may see others as our true sisters and brothers, we pray to the Lord.*

◎ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The mystery of sin is seen in rejection, discrimination, trafficking and exploitation, suffering and death.



- *That we may be delivered from evil, we pray to the Lord.*
- **Lord, hear our prayer.**

What is involved in the creation of “a better world”?

- ⦿ an authentic and integral development,
- ⦿ efforts to provide dignified living conditions for everyone,
- ⦿ finding just responses to the needs of individuals and families,
- ⦿ ensuring that God’s gift of creation is respected, safeguarded and cultivated.



May we be involved in the creation of a better world, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

What is involved in the creation of “a better world”?

- securing a sure food supply,
- cures for diseases and steady employment...
- exercising greater personal responsibility;
- to do more, to learn more, and have more, in order to be more



May we be involved in the creation of a better world, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.



A better world will come about only...

- ⦿ if attention is first paid to individuals;





A better world will come about
only...

- if human promotion is integral, taking account of every dimension of the person, including the spiritual;

A photograph showing a person's hands gripping vertical metal bars, likely in a prison cell. The person is wearing a dark, long-sleeved garment. The background is dark and out of focus.

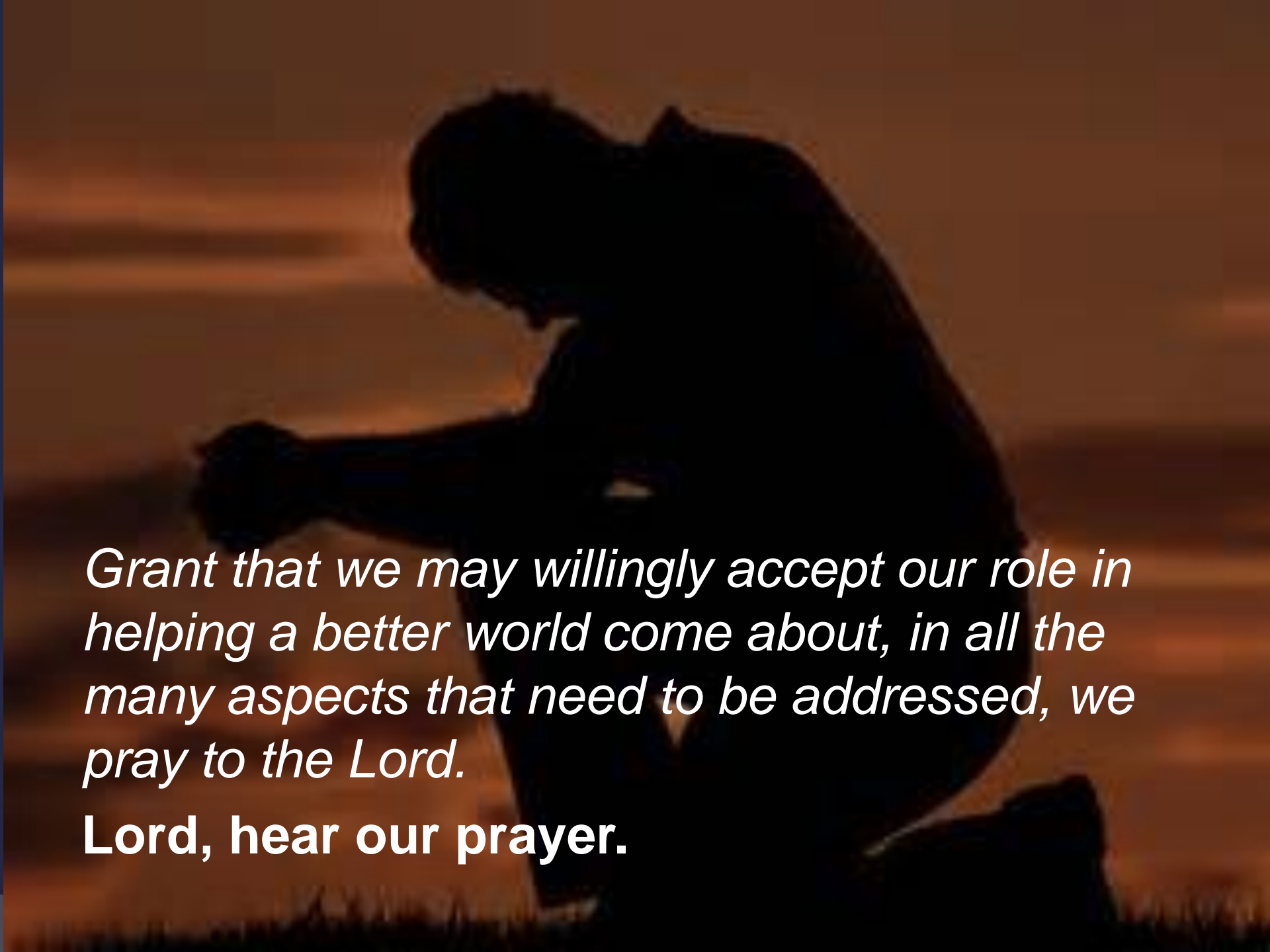
A better world will come about
only...

- ⦿ if no one is neglected, including the poor, the sick, prisoners, the needy and the stranger (cf. *Mt 25:31-46*);

A better world will come about only...

- ⦿ if we can prove capable of leaving behind a throwaway culture and embracing one of encounter and acceptance.



A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer, set against a warm, orange-hued sunset background. The person's hands are clasped in front of them, and their head is bowed. The overall mood is one of solemnity and devotion.

Grant that we may willingly accept our role in helping a better world come about, in all the many aspects that need to be addressed, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.



As the Church accompanies migrants and refugees on their journey, she seeks to understand the causes of migration, but she also works to overcome its negative effects, and to maximize its positive influence on the communities of origin, transit and destination.



May we be inspired to see and acknowledge the positive effects of immigration in our efforts for immigration reform, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.



Fleeing from situations of extreme poverty or persecution in the hope of a better future, or simply to save their own lives, millions of persons choose to migrate. Despite their hopes and expectations, they often encounter mistrust, rejection and exclusion, to say nothing of tragedies and disasters which offend their human dignity.

Working together for a better world requires that countries help one another, in a spirit of willingness and trust, without raising insurmountable barriers.



- ① *Help us overcome our inertia in confronting the political and legal systems which allow death to prevail in our deserts, we pray to the Lord.*
- ① **Lord, hear our prayer.**

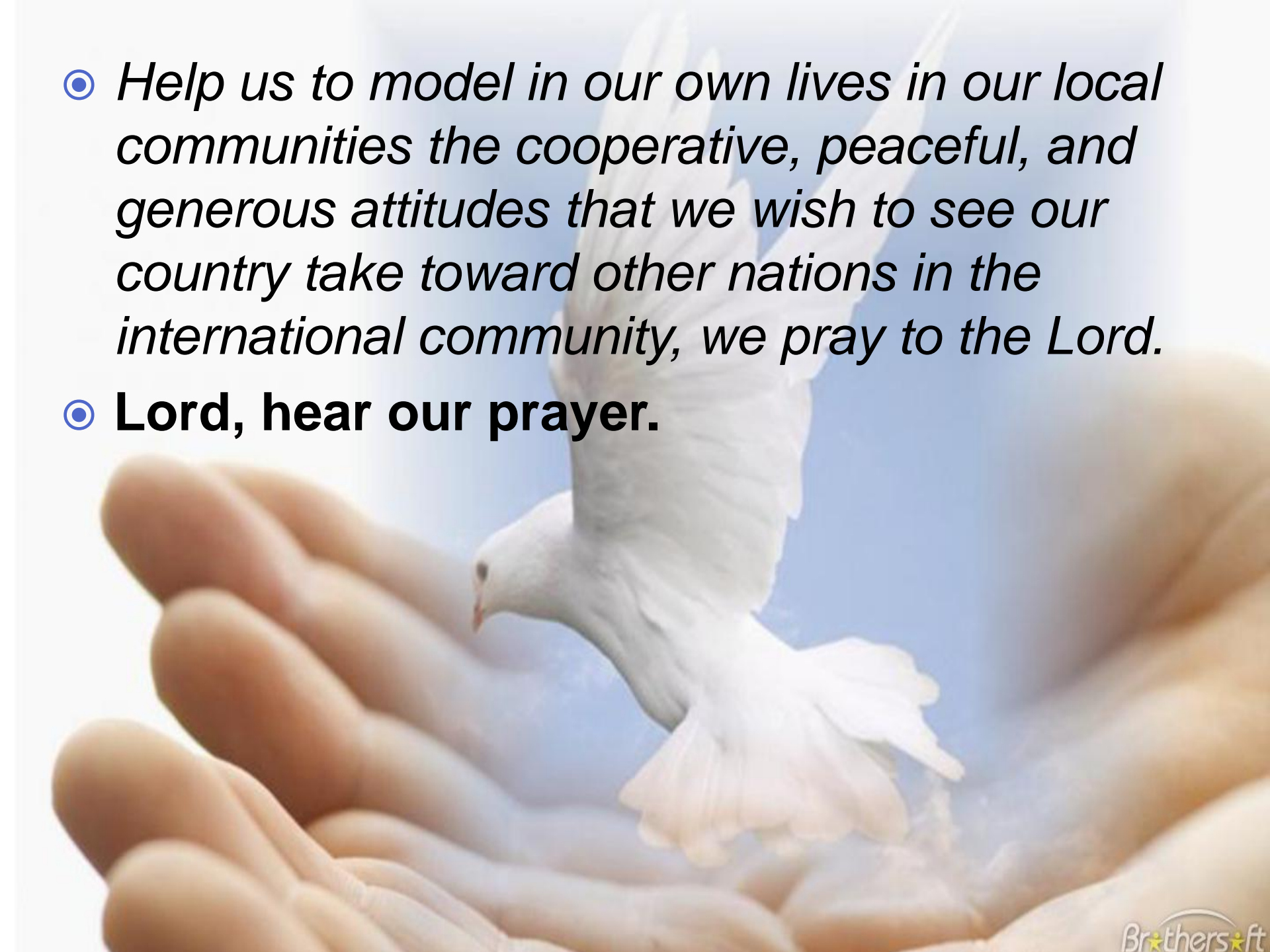


- No country can singlehandedly face the difficulties associated with this phenomenon, which is now so widespread that it affects every continent in the twofold movement of immigration and emigration.





- It must also be emphasized that such cooperation begins with the efforts of each country to create better economic and social conditions at home, so that emigration will not be the only option left for those who seek peace, justice, security and full respect of their human dignity.

- 
- A white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, flying over a pair of hands that are cupped together. The background is a soft, light blue sky. The dove is positioned in the center of the frame, with its head facing left. The hands are positioned below the dove, with fingers slightly curled. The overall image conveys a sense of peace, hope, and prayer.
- *Help us to model in our own lives in our local communities the cooperative, peaceful, and generous attitudes that we wish to see our country take toward other nations in the international community, we pray to the Lord.*
 - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

BLAME THEM FOR EVERYTHING



IMMIGRANTS

**COMING TO TAKE YOUR JOBS AND WIVES
TO DESTROY YOUR WAY OF LIFE AND SPOIL YOUR KIDS
TO GIVE YOU DISEASES AND CREATE EVIL IN GENERAL
THEY WILL DO IT AND EVERYTHING ELSE AS WELL
DIRTY REFUGEES FROM**

HELL

- Not infrequently, the arrival of migrants, displaced persons, asylum-seekers and refugees gives rise to suspicion and hostility.

BLAME THEM FOR EVERYTHING



IMMIGRANTS

**COMING TO TAKE YOUR JOBS AND WIVES
TO DESTROY YOUR WAY OF LIFE AND SPOIL YOUR KIDS
TO GIVE YOU DISEASES AND CREATE EVIL IN GENERAL
THEY WILL DO IT AND EVERYTHING ELSE AS WELL
DIRTY REFUGEES FROM**

HELL

- There is a fear that society will become less secure, that identity and culture will be lost, that competition for jobs will become stiffer and even that criminal activity will increase.

BLAME THEM FOR EVERYTHING



IMMIGRANTS

**COMING TO TAKE YOUR JOBS AND WIVES
TO DESTROY YOUR WAY OF LIFE AND SPOIL YOUR KIDS
TO GIVE YOU DISEASES AND CREATE EVIL IN GENERAL.
THEY WILL DO IT AND EVERYTHING ELSE AS WELL.
DIRTY REFUGEES FROM**

HELL

- *Calm our fears and help us see the good in others. Give us the courage to speak up when immigrants are misjudged, we pray to the Lord.*
- **Lord, hear our prayer.**



The communications media have a role of great responsibility in this regard: it is up to them, in fact, to break down stereotypes and to offer correct information in reporting the errors of a few as well as the honesty, rectitude and goodness of the majority.



Help us be discriminating in our choices of media sources. Make us lovers of the truth, especially of the truth of your Word, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I (Pope Francis) think of how even the Holy Family of Nazareth experienced initial rejection: Mary “gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (*Lk 2:7*).





Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew what it meant to leave their own country and become migrants: threatened by Herod's lust for power, they were forced to take flight and seek refuge in Egypt (cf. *Mt* 2:13-14).



But the maternal heart of Mary and the compassionate heart of Joseph, the Protector of the Holy Family, never doubted that God would always be with them.

- ⦿ *Through their intercession, may that same firm certainty dwell in the heart of every migrant and refugee.*
- ⦿ **Lord, hear our prayer.**



- ◎ Every human being is a child of God! He or she bears the image of Christ!
- ◎ They are an occasion that Providence gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community.



- ◉ *May we delight in the abundant opportunities given us to help God's kingdom come in this world at this time, we pray to the Lord.*
- ◉ **Lord, hear our plea and answer us with your help. Amen.**

- ⦿ Created by Sister Jeanne Marie Toriskie, OSF, Ph.D.
- ⦿ Gift of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
- ⦿ September 25, 2013