



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, July 3, 2022

### Let Freedom Ring in Our Country as a True Beacon of Hope

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” As a country, we espouse these truths. Are these truths partial only to Americans, or do we live these truths in the way we treat others who seek to come to our country in need of protection and for a better life.

“The need for long-term protections for refugees has never been greater. **The world is facing record displacement figures of more than 84 million people forced from their homes with enormous refugee overseas assistance needs.** Of those, there are more than 31 million refugees, 1.5 million of whom are in need of resettlement, but fewer than 1% of refugees will ever be resettled to a third country. In 2021, most new refugees came from five countries: Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. Further, the escalation of conflict in Ukraine has triggered an immediate and steep rise in humanitarian needs with millions of refugees who fled Ukraine since February 2022.

The U.S. resettlement program sustained devastating cuts and in 2021 refugee resettlement in the United States fell to its lowest level since Congress created the modern system in 1980” (*Church World Service, Inc.*, May 2022). “... **the U.S. is on track to resettle only 18,962 refugees in fiscal 2022** - a fraction of the 125,000 ceiling set by President Joe Biden” (Jeff Gammage, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 20, 2022).

“The U.S. must both rebuild and strengthen the resettlement program and mobilize the public resources required to do so. It is critical that the Biden administration offers bold leadership to restore U.S. global leadership in refugee protection, as it promised in the February 2021 Executive Order” (*Church World Service Inc.*, May 2022).

**Action:** Urge Congress and the Biden Administration to welcome refugees. Click <https://bit.ly/100dop182>

“If every human being possesses an inalienable dignity, if all people are my brothers and sisters, and if the world truly belongs to everyone, then it matters little whether my neighbor was born in my country or elsewhere. My own country also shares responsibility for his or her development.... It can offer a generous welcome to those in urgent need, or work to improve living conditions in their native lands by refusing to exploit those countries or to drain them of natural resources, backing corrupt systems that hinder the dignified development of their peoples.” (Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #125)

**When doors are closed to the weary, as they journey to find refuge ~ may we be there to open ~ to welcome our sisters and brothers who need care and protection ~ a place to rest their heads.** (Taken from a prayer from Jesuit Refugee Service/USA)