



Good Practices about Intercultural Migrant Ministry

1. Acknowledging and Overcoming Fear

→ Initiative: Share the Journey

Actors: Caritas Internationalis

Location: Worldwide

Further info: <https://www.caritas.org/four-years-of-sharing-the-journey/>

Description: The Share the Journey campaign promotes the “culture of encounter” called for by Pope Francis, aiming to build stronger communities. Caritas mobilised its organisations in over 160 countries to look at the causes of migration, to bust myths about migrants, and to bring migrants and communities closer together. The campaign created spaces and opportunities for migrants and refugees to come together with local communities, promoting the culture of encounter and mutual understanding. The project supported 130 initiatives in a global campaign involving the 162 nation Caritas agencies belonging to its confederation all over the world.



→ Initiative: The Real Migration Gallery

Actors: Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town (SCCT)

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

Further info: [Real Migration Gallery | Scalabrini](#)

Description: Harmful and dehumanising narratives on migration in media contribute to perpetuating a negative perception of migrants in society. The Real Migration Gallery was put together by the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, with the aim of moving away from the predominantly negative imagery that typically accompanies migration-related stories by sharing realistic photos of people with migrant, refugee, or asylum status. All the photos have been shot pro bono by photographers who wanted to contribute to this cause. Journalists and editors are welcome to use these royalty-free images in their stories to help us reframe narratives on migration. Changing the narrative on migration in the media can be a powerful tool to ensuring the equality and human rights of migrants.



→ Initiative: “Non mi chiamo rifugiato”

Actors: Centro Astalli; Vatican Radio-Vatican News

Location: Italy

Further info: [Al via la seconda serie di "Non mi chiamo rifugiato"](#)

Description: “Non mi chiamo rifugiato” (“My name is not refugee”) is an editorial project, on both radio and web, designed to raise the awareness of listeners and readers about the situation of refugees in Italy and their stories of exile. The project features refugees – coming from Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Afghanistan, and Somalia – who have been welcomed in Italy by the Centro Astalli. The refugees share their life stories and the experience of forced migration as they fled their country. Each story is contextualised from a historical, political, and social point of view in order to accompany the person’s life over time, identifying personally with what he or she has gone through. In this way, the refugee is no longer treated as simply a number or a statistic: he or she is no longer nameless but returns to being a person filled with experiences, dreams, fears, and life plans.



2. Promoting Encounter

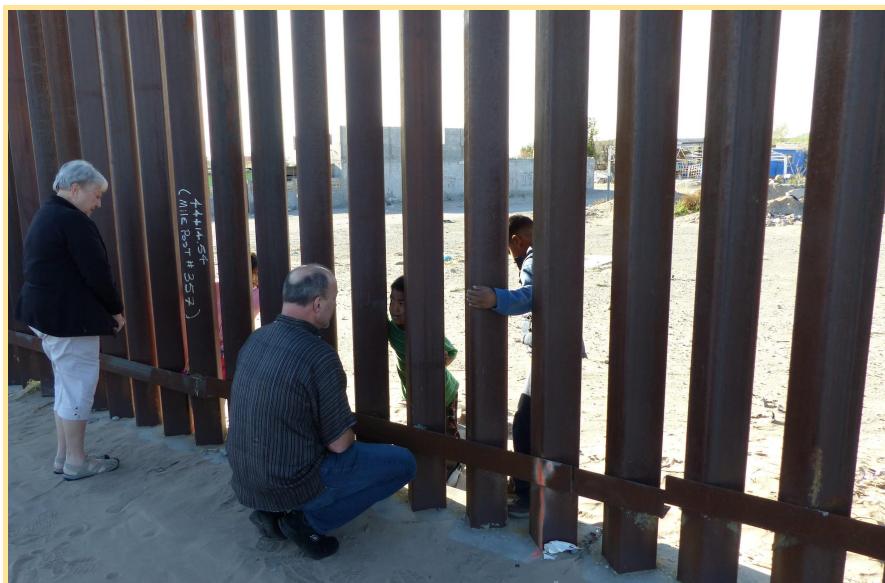
→ Initiative: The Encuentro Project

Actors: Jesuits El Paso; Marist Brothers; the Hope Border Institute

Location: El Paso, Texas

Further info: [The Encuentro Project](#)

Description: The Encuentro Project, which opened its doors in December 2018, offers programming and lodging for border immersion experiences for groups from high schools, universities, and parishes. The project aims to help participants to gain greater understanding of the complex history and current realities of migration in the border community and to challenge the borders within their own communities that marginalise immigrants and refugees. Each experience typically includes: direct work or encounter experience with asylum seekers, migrants, or refugees; education in Catholic Social Teaching on migration; analysis of the push-pull factors causing migration from Central America and Mexico into the US; opportunities for deepening understanding of border/migrant realities; and evening reflection and prayer. The Encuentro Project hopes to give many more people the opportunity to have the kind of encounters with migrants that will move them from indifference and inaction to genuine compassion and understanding.



→ Initiative: Youth Training Programme

Actors: JRS

Location: Cameroon

Further info: [Cameroon: Local youths and refugees build a common future](#)

Description: The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Cameroon is offering an eight-month professional training course, along with dormitory accommodations, for young refugees and Cameroonians in five different centres. The project promotes reconciliation and social cohesion with the aim of ending discrimination against Central African refugees in the country, building bridges between communities, and providing opportunities for young people who want to build a better future. Approximately 70% of the students are refugees, while 30% come from the host community; this creates opportunities for cultural exchanges, hospitality, solidarity, and fellowship. The students also participate in theatre, cinema, and peace building activities. Since the programme started in 2018, roughly 470 students have taken advantage of the various courses that are offered, including courses geared to teach skills in industries such as the hotel business, hair and beauty, administration, and healthcare.



→ Initiative: Caminos de Convivencia y Cohesión Social

Actor: Comillas; IUEM; SJM

Location: Spain

Further info: [Guía De Integración: Caminos De Convivencia](#)

Description: The guide Caminos de Convivencia y Cohesión Social (“Roads of Coexistence and Social Cohesion”), offers keys for a correct intercultural integration in local contexts. The drafting of the document was jointly spearheaded by the State Secretariat for Migration of Spain and the University Institute of Migration Studies (IUEM) of the Pontifical University of Comillas, with the collaboration of UNIJES and the Jesuit Service to Migrants (SJM Spain). The guide seeks to define and promote, together with other actors, an intercultural agenda of local integration that summarises the two current challenges: precarious socio-economic integration; and ethnic prejudice against immigrants. The document is intended to be a useful tool for contributing to the definition and development of public policies and action programmes in the coming years. Starting from the recognition of the reality of diversity in our society and its value, the guide aims to contribute to the implementation of policies of social cohesion and mobility, as well as intercultural contact and encounter paths that foster coexistence and the building of wide, diverse, and integrated communities.



3. Listening and Being Compassionate

→ Initiative: Parish Community Received Refugee Family

Actors: Parish of São Pedro da Cova, Diocese of Porto

Location: Porto, Portugal

Further info: [Comunidade paroquial acolheu família de refugiados](#)

Description: The parish community of São Pedro da Cova, in the diocese of Porto, has welcomed a family of refugees. Thanks in part to the assistance of the High Commissioner for Refugees, and after a very complex and time-consuming bureaucratic process, the parish was able to welcome an Afghan family of seven, who arrived by plane through Turkey. The pastor of the parish, Father Fernando Rosas, considers the experience very positive: "People are very kind to them, bringing them freshly picked fruit; it was a great experience that makes this parish community live the Gospel through these brothers who have arrived." Education, especially for children, has proved to be one of the most effective means of inclusion. While the adults, who had previously worked in a sewing factory, were equipped with a sewing machine and were able to make and sell their products within the parish community.



→ Initiative: Abundant and Better Life Abroad

Actor: Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People

Location: Singapore

Further info: [AbBA: Abundant and Better Life Abroad](#)

Description: Abundant and Better Life Abroad (AbBA) is a four-part formation series for migrants aspiring to an enriching and fulfilling life in Singapore, organised by the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI) in collaboration with the Couples for Christ Movement (CFC). The programme helps the participants to reach insights through experiential learning, while being guided by a supportive community. The local community of Couples for Christ is mostly composed of migrants, enabling a migrant community could support fellow migrants. The four-week programme focuses on 4 key aspects: valuing oneself, valuing others, valuing work, and valuing community. The first edition of AbBA was held in 2018, and was very well received by the migrants. Even though the CFC personnel were mainly professionals with corporate backgrounds, there was no disparity between the facilitators and the participants. Reunion sessions were also conducted to check-in with participants, and remind them that they are not alone in their struggles.



→ Initiative: Outreach Ministry to Migrant Workers

Actor: St. Peter Church in Vergennes and St. Ambrose Church in Bristol

Location: Vermont, United States

Further info: [Migrant Outreach Team's ministry](#)

Description: Following the Diocesan Synod in Burlington, Vermont, members of St. Peter Church in Vergennes and St. Ambrose Church in Bristol – both served by Father Yvon Royer as pastor – decided to make the Synod's call for parishes to be more involved in evangelization concrete through service to local migrant workers. Therefore, St. Peter parishioners formed the Migrant Outreach Team to meet with the workers, learn about their needs, and determine how parishioners could help. Meanwhile, Father Royer learned the prayer of absolution in Spanish so he could give absolution after hearing the workers' confessions with the help of an online translation programme. Twenty-seven parishioners took Spanish classes in the parish hall and some of them began driving workers to daily liturgy. They also provided the workers with boots, jackets, clothing, and even air conditioning.



4. Living our Catholicity

→ Initiative: Workshop for Diocesan Coordinators of Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees

Actors: Southern Africa Catholic Bishops Conference

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Further info: [Workshop for Diocesan Coordinators](#)

Description: The project was coordinated by Sr. Maria de Lurdes Lodi Rissini, National Director of Caritas South Africa and Coordinator of the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops Conference's (SACBC) Migrants and Refugees Office, bringing together Diocesan Coordinators from across South Africa. Aimed at promoting a coordinated and sustainable response to migrants and refugees, the workshop focused on informing and empowering the Diocesan Coordinators and, through them, both the Dioceses and Parishes. The primary objective was to build capacity and to facilitate the establishment of Refugee and Migrant Offices in each of the SACBC's 29 ecclesiastical territories. Sr. Rissini actively involved the participants in the planning and development of proactive measures to address the plight of migrants and refugees.



→ Initiative: Jubileo de los Migrantes

Actors: Archidiócesis de Burgos

Location: Burgos, Spain

Further info: [Migrantes celebran su Jubileo](#)

Description: On the day when the World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated worldwide, foreigners living in the province of Burgos, Spain, celebrate their Jubilee in the Cathedral, on the occasion of the Jubilee Year of the Archdiocese of Burgos. The Delegation for the Pastoral Care of Migration convoked dozens of foreign residents, inviting them to bring typical costumes and flags of their places of origin. Some recited poems and others sang traditional songs. The day ended with the celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral. The liturgy was presided over by Archbishop Mario Iceta, who thanked the Delegation for the Pastoral Care of Migration for the work done and the many agents who collaborate in welcoming and integrating the migrant population on a voluntary basis.



→ Initiative: Care For Our Migrant Brothers And Sisters

Actors: Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People

Location: Singapore

Further info: [Care For Our Migrant Brothers And Sisters](#)

Description: As a member organisation of Caritas Singapore, the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI) has been looking after the pastoral needs of migrants in Singapore since 1998. Its ministry aims to help migrants in Singapore to meet their emotional and spiritual needs, and it does so through case management, skills development, community outreach, and formation training. Furthermore, ACMI's Board of Directors includes first generation migrants. Having been strangers once themselves, they can understand, identify, and empathise with their fellow migrants. Moreover, as practising Catholics, they are eager to contribute towards pastoral care and outreach. The ACMI has partnered with different parishes in Singapore to design programmes customised to meet the specific needs of migrants' communities in each parish.



5. Understanding Migrants as a Blessing

→ Initiative: Pastoral Plan

Actor: Delegación Diocesana de Migraciones Getafe

Location: Getafe, Spain

Further info: [Delegación Diocesana de Migraciones - Plan Pastoral](#)

Description: The Diocese of Getafe, to the south of Madrid, has developed a pastoral plan of the Diocesan Delegation of Migration that seeks to strengthen the inclusion processes of migrants and their accompaniment within the local and parish community, at all levels. The project includes actions on three fronts: working with migrants to their integration in the Church and in society; working with the community towards the culture of hospitality; and working with society in general to promote acceptance. On the social front, it aims to strengthen social cohesion between citizens and foreigners. While at the pastoral level, the project responds to the need to actively involve migrants in the pastoral and spiritual life of parishes and communities. To this end, it provides training on issues related to migration and intercultural coexistence, meetings with foreign populations, interreligious celebrations, etc.



→ Initiative: Chiesa dalle Genti

Actors: Archdiocese of Milan

Location: Milan, Italy

Further info: [La Chiesa dalle genti, fedele alla sua identità ambrosiana](#)

Description: The Archdiocese of Milan led a Diocesan Synod on the theme “The Church of Peoples, Responsibilities, and Perspectives: Diocesan Lines for Pastoral Care.” The initiative of Archbishop Mario Delfini stems from the Archdiocese’s challenges in renewing its identity, at once Catholic and Ambrosian, missionary and prophetic, in a climate deeply marked by the phenomenon of migration. Thanks to the Synod, the Archdiocese has developed tools to perceive and live out with greater depth the current situation of significant social and cultural transformation. Some of the new pathways set forth by the experience of the Synod are: the establishment of the Archdiocesan Council for the Church by the Peoples; the expansion of the mission of the Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants; and the identification of the strategic role of the deaneries as an expression of the multiform face of the Ambrosian Church. The result is a range of guidelines and norms for a “Church of Peoples” that embrace multiple areas, from liturgy to charity, from ecumenical and interreligious dialogue to culture and the “political challenges.”



→ Initiative: Pastoral Migratoria

Actor: Archdiocese of Chicago

Location: Chicago, United States

Further info: [Immigrant Social Ministries - Parish Vitality and Mission](#)

Description: Pastoral Migratoria is an immigrant-led, lay leadership ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago for service, justice, and accompaniment actions in parish communities with large immigrant populations. It has formed and commissioned over 200 Hispanic lay leaders in 40 Hispanic parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago, and its outgrowth sister ministry to the Polish community called Polish Immigrant-to-Immigrant Ministry has formed and commissioned more than 50 Polish leaders in 10 Polish parishes. Once commissioned, lay leaders respond to the needs of their communities by organising workshops and distributing materials and resources through their parishes. Pastoral Migratoria also connects and accompanies families to pastoral care, emergency social services, legal resources, and other supportive services, and joins with native-born parish congregations, religious, priests, and interfaith groups to work in unity for comprehensive immigration reform and the humane treatment of migrants and refugees and to promote global solidarity.



6. Fulfilling the Evangelising Mission

→ Initiative: We are All Brothers

Actors: Franciscan Father Mario Hadchiti

Location: Jerusalem, Israel

Further info: ['We are all brothers,' Franciscan in Jericho says of iftar gifts](#)

Description: Franciscan Father Mario Hadchiti of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Jericho, West Bank, hands out small bags of dates and water to Muslim neighbours who pass by at the end of the daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan. People are very happy with his gesture. They respect and appreciate it. "For me this is a gesture of love. I am convinced that unity, that community, that people come together not only from our words, but by doing something for unity, by action," said Father Hadchiti. As a Franciscan, Father Hadchiti got inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, which sees the world as a home for everyone, and invites to make gestures of love towards all our neighbours.



→ Initiative: Because of Jesus and the Gospel, which Church in Morocco

Actors: Cardinal Cristóbal López Romero; Archbishop of Rabat

Location: Morocco

Further info: [A Church of encounter and dialogue](#)

Description: The Cardinal-Archbishop of Rabat has launched a Diocesan Synod, on the theme “Because of Jesus and the Gospel, which Church in Morocco,” to encourage the small Catholic community in Morocco to more fully live out its mission of “encounter and dialogue.” In this sense, the Cardinal explained, there is a dimension of Islamic-Christian dialogue, in which “everyone can and must participate. It is practiced and lived everywhere, always and in every way. This basic dimension of dialogue does not exclude or take away the importance of the others. To live dialogue on a daily basis, the Christian must know and feel himself as the 'sacrament of encounter.'” Cardinal López Romero, of Spanish origin, concluded that, “The model of dialogue that we propose and offer can only be God Himself: although He is God, He enters into a dialogue of love with humanity.”



→ Initiative: Hospitalarios

Actors: Migra Studium

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Further info: [Queremos ofrecer más hospitalidad](#)

Description: Hospitalarios is a project of the Migra Studium Foundation, carried out by the Jesuit Migrant Service of Barcelona, Spain. The project provides lodging for refugees and migrants in private homes. This initiative is made possible thanks to families and households wishing to welcome a migrant, asylum-seeker, or refugee for up to 4 months into their home. During this time, the host shares the daily life of the family, while following a work plan with Migra Studium (including legal and administrative advice, job training, and language classes), and takes steps to stabilise their situation and continue their life project. Hospitalarios was launched in 2017, and since then more than 70 migrants have been able to share in the day-to-day life of these homes, where they are able to learn both Spanish and Catalan, expand their network of relationships, and share their hosts' experiences and knowledge on a daily basis.



7. Cooperating towards Communion

→ Initiative: Salesian Social Platforms

Actors: Salesian Missions

Location: Spain

Further info: [Spain - Salesian Missions](#)

Description: A new programme has been developed in Madrid and Seville by the Pinardi Federation of Salesian Social Platforms and the Don Bosco Foundation. The programme, which has been funded by the Ministry of Employment and Social Security through the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund, is aimed at assisting young refugees between the ages of 18 and 26. The new programme provides a complete service team to help young refugees integrate into their new community. The programme provides shelter, nutrition, education, and skills training, as well as other wrap-around services the youth might need as they settle into their new homes. Furthermore, the Salesian Social Platforms are encouraging local people to become the first refuge for people who come to the country in search of protection. To this end, they launched the message: "My voice does not spread lies or hoaxes, it does not share prejudices or join in xenophobic discourses. Even my voice is a refuge."



→ Initiative: The International Strategic Conference on Migrants and Refugees

Actors: Jesuits Justice and Ecology Network (JENA)

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Further info: [International Strategic Conference on Migrants and Refugees](#)

Description: The International Strategic Conference on Migrants and Refugees, organised by the Jesuits Justice and Ecology Network (JENA) “to look for an integrated response to vulnerable migrants in and out of Africa,” took place in Nairobi from January 20-22, 2020. The conference brought together social centres, the Jesuit Refugee Service, universities, Lead Magis (youth network), Church institutions, and partners in mission from across the globe. The objectives of the conference were to complete a mapping of the Jesuit ministry to vulnerable migrants in Africa, to develop strategies for the coordination of the Jesuit Migrants and Refugees ministries in Africa, and to develop strategies for international institutional collaboration among the Jesuit ministries in Africa and Europe. A mapping exercise among the participants was followed by group discussions, which brought participants to a space of collaboration. The conference identified six clusters of collaboration, as well as defined a simple network structure for tracking the results of the conference.



→ Initiative: Solidarity in the promotion of human dignity in the light of *Fratelli tutti*

Actors: SECAM; CCEE

Location: Virtually

Further info: [Solidarity and promotion of brotherliness](#)

Description: Bishops from Africa and Europe met together for a two-day seminar to reflect in the light of Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*. In the joint message published after their gathering, the Bishops encourage the promotion of cultural, interreligious, and ecumenical dialogue: "As bishops and pastors, we reaffirm our communion and collegiality and commit ourselves to work to promote human dignity, fraternity and solidarity, which are at the heart of human life and peaceful coexistence." The Bishops likewise called on political leaders, state authorities, and bodies such as the African Union, the European Union, and the United Nations, "to ensure the practical implementation of laws and protocols that enhance solidarity and promote human dignity."

