December 11, 2016 – Advent 3(A): Reflect on the Season with Episcopal Migration Ministries

During Advent, we are reminded of God’s abundant love in the mystery of the Incarnation - that God came to earth and lived among us. We remember also that this Jesus, this One we call Lord, Messiah, and Emmanuel began his life as a refugee, fleeing Egypt when King Herod began his murderous Massacre of the Holy Innocents.

Even as we approach the celebration of Christmas, we must remember the somber reality of today’s refugees. Our world faces the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II with more than 65.3 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people worldwide – the highest level ever recorded. Of the 65.3 million displaced, 21.3 million are refugees, over half of whom are children.

For more than 75 years, the Episcopal Church has welcomed and supported refugees in the United States. We trace our heritage back to 1938, when the Diocese of Southern Ohio published this iconic poster, calling the Church to mission with refugees. Today, refugee resettlement continues in The Episcopal Church through
Episcopal Migration Ministries. Working in partnership with faith communities and local governments, non-government organizations (NGOs), and a network of 30 affiliate offices, Episcopal Migration Ministries provides safe passage, vital services, hospitality, and friendship for thousands of refugee families resettling in the U.S. every year.

Here are a few ways you can join Episcopal Migration Ministries this Advent in their work to support and welcome refugees:

- **Advent Reflections:** Episcopal Migration Ministries is publishing weekly Advent Reflection videos from the Director, The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson. The videos are posted here: https://vimeo.com/emmrefugees.
- **Join the Campaign:** Be a part of the #SupportRefugees campaign by taking an #Unselfie
  - Customize your #UNselfie sign by writing how or why you #SupportRefugees
  - Post your #UNselfie to Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter to share with your friends and family. Be sure to tag @EmmRefugees.
  - Email a copy of your #Unselfie to kmartin@episcopalchurch.org to have your support shared on the official Episcopal Migration Ministries Facebook page.
- **Donate:** Every donation, no matter what size, provides necessary support and resources for the important life-saving ministry. You can make a donation by check or online. Visit www.episcopalmigrationministries.org, select "How You Can Help" from the menu and choose "Donate Now" to make a contribution to the life-saving work of refugee resettlement.

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