

JPIC Notes

Whoever, Wherever, Whenever Everyone has a Right to Seek Safety World Refugee Day 2022

Refugees are among the most vulnerable people in the world.

June 20 has been designated by the United Nations to honor refugees around the globe who have the strength and courage to flee their home due to conflict, natural disasters or human rights violations.

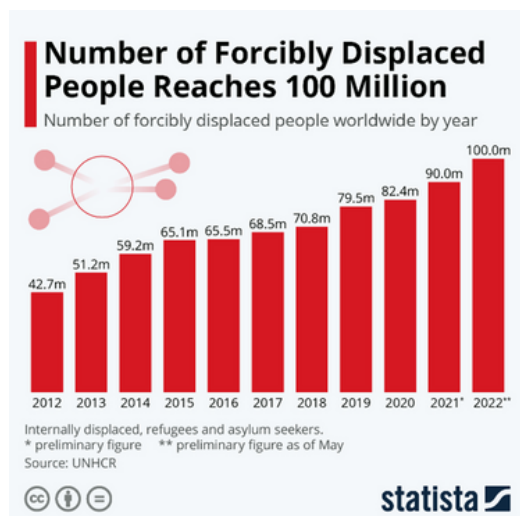
Whoever they are, people forced to flee should be treated with dignity. Anyone can seek protection, regardless of who they are or what they believe.

Wherever they come from, people forced to flee should be welcomed. Refugees come from all over the globe by plane, boat, or travel on foot.

Whenever people are forced to flee, they have a right to be protected. Whatever the threat – war, violence, persecution – everyone deserves protection. Everyone has a right to be safe.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR):

- as of April 2022, more than 100 million people are now displaced- this is 1% of the world's population
- 2/3 of people displaced come from Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar
- 50 % of the world's refugees are children (0-17 years)
- Developing countries host more than 85% of the world's refugees



“Let us all strive to ensure that such tragedies can never happen again.”

-Pope Francis

The Catholic Church consistently calls for the protection of all life.

The Church has also been a consistent voice for the promotion of peace at home and around the world.

In 1994, the U.S. Bishops issued a pastoral message, *Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action*. In this document, they stated,

“We have an obligation to respond.

Violence – in our homes, our schools and streets, our nation and our world – is destroying the lives, dignity and hopes of millions of our sisters and brothers.”

They supported the Assault Weapons Ban initially passed in 1994 and they continued to support it even when it expired in 2004.

They have also supported many reasonable measures to address the problem of gun violence including universal background checks for all gun purchases, and limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition.

If you feel called, join the USCCB in their action against Gun Violence here.

Here is their June 3rd letter to Congress.

Choosing the Path of Peace:

Kane Deren, Ph D.
from Education for Justice

**We pray in the spirit of the Psalms:
We are in distress, we are in anguish.**

Our tears are bitter as once again

The lives you have created

Are disrespected, destroyed,

Because of fear, of hate, of refusal

To see the others as part of oneself,

Because weapons are more common

Than compassion, than solidarity.

We pray for the dead,

For their families and friends in grief.

We pray for the living,

May the healing begin,

For the wounded,

For all those in the frantic crowd,

For the local communities,

For this nation,

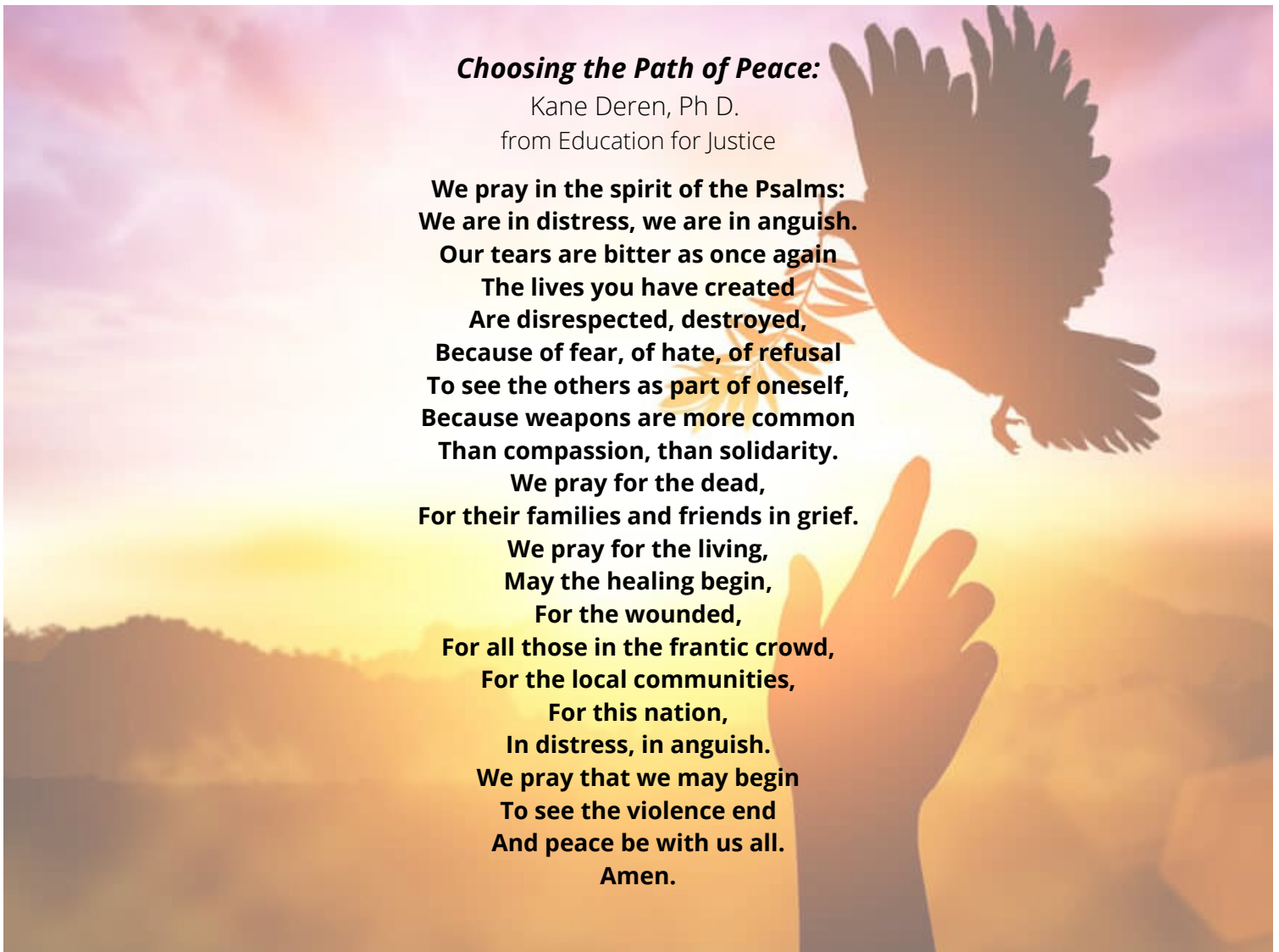
In distress, in anguish.

We pray that we may begin

To see the violence end

And peace be with us all.

Amen.



"Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today." ~[Juneteenth.com](https://www.juneteenth.com)

The National Museum of African American History & Culture has a dedicated webpage to the [Juneteenth](https://www.juneteenth.com) celebration.

A museum of the Smithsonian Institution, explore the webpage which offers resources on music, food, stories and experiences of African American Juneteenth celebrations.



We are Ready to Go!

The JPIC Advisory Council and Racism Committee have been meeting throughout May to prioritize the many suggestions for actions that we received from the sisters as we work to implement the Corporate Stance Against Racism. A plan for the implementation was submitted to the SND USA Leadership Team. This plan was recently approved and our office will begin to put these suggestions into a booklet which we will share soon. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to begin to live out our commitment to practicing being anti-racist. It will also be an opportunity to be an ally in the process of becoming more aware and responding in appropriate ways.

In the spirit of beginning this process, we invite you to view a conversation sponsored by the Global Sisters Report and presented by Dr. Shannon Dee Williams on her newly released book, *Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle*. You can watch the [59 minute video here](#).

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