



## Migration and Refugee Services

### Office of the Executive Director

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Dear Friends:

World Refugee Day is Friday, June 20. The Syrian refugee crises is a tragic situation, but USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services is working tireless to turn tragedy into success.

Refugees are resilient and courageous individuals. I want to tell you the story of Armand. Armand was originally from the Republic of Congo, another country with deep political and humanitarian strife. We have been working with Congolese refugees for several years.

When Armand was three, his family was killed amidst ethnic tension. The foster family who took him in was in danger because of the support they offered him and his family, and they fled to a refugee camp. Armand was bullied and threatened because of his tribal affiliation/ethnicity. When his foster father died, another of this family's relatives brought him to the U.S.

After resettling in the U.S. Armand struggled in his first foster home and was temporarily moved to a group home, before finally settling in with a new foster family. The family's strong support and advocacy for Armand's academic goals helped them bond.

In high school, Armand took honor classes, volunteered in the school cafeteria, and participated in after school sports. He excelled in school and never gave up on his dreams of attending a prestigious university. Armand liked to help his community. He was always one of the first to volunteer his time to help other Congolese youth resettle to life here. He often accompanied staff to help welcome new arrivals from Congo.

Armand was admitted to American University and has maintained a 3.0 GPA, majoring in International Relations with the goal of attending Law School. He maintains close connections to his culture and is active in campus clubs. He holds an office position in the African Students Club on campus.

Armand shows great pride in his country and himself. His motivation and energy are contagious and no doubt will yield great success in his future. Ferdinand's dream and aspiration is to become a diplomat and eventually become the president of his native country, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Be a part of the global effort to help refugees this World Refugee Day by making a tax-deductible contribution to the [National Catholic Fund for Migration and Refugee Services](#) so that we can make every refugee story a success story!

Very truly yours,

Ambassador Johnny Young (Ret.)

Executive Director

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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops