



Migration and Refugee Services
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
2014 Annual Report





Credit: Sarah Williamson

Cover Photos:

Top: Bishop Gerald Kicanas celebrates Mass along the U.S./Mexico border and gives communion to a celebrant on the Mexican side of the border. The Mass was held to commemorate the thousands of people who have died trying to cross the border in recent years. (Credit: George Martell/Pilot New Media)

Bottom: Pope Francis washes the foot of a prisoner at Casal del Marmo youth prison in Rome March 28, 2013. Two young women were among 12 people whose feet Pope Francis washed and kissed at a traditional ceremony in a Rome youth prison on Holy Thursday, the first time a pontiff has included females in the rite. A significant majority of prisoners housed at Casal del Marmo are migrants. (Credit: REUTERS/ Osservatore Romano)

Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) represents the bishops' interests in policy formulation, communication, advocacy, education, refugee resettlement, and other specialized services to at risk and vulnerable migrant populations, including unauthorized immigrants, refugees, victims of human trafficking and unaccompanied minors. In this effort, MRS:

Advocates with policymakers at both grassroots community and national levels to secure fairness, justice, and protection for the vulnerable people on the move that the Church serves;

Communicates to an ever more interconnected world the Church's social teaching on migration;

Educates the Catholic faithful on the moral and scriptural imperative to provide hospitality and welcome to newcomers to our nation;

Serves and supports vulnerable migrants in need of MRS' advocacy and care in collaboration with other Catholic and allied partner organizations of goodwill.

MRS Advocates

The bishops recognize the importance of helping to shape migration related legislation and policy, through grassroots organizing and direct advocacy with Congress and Presidential administrations.

25,000

postcards and letters sent to Congress that voiced opposition to Migrant Family Detention and called for the development of more humane forms of alternatives to detention for migrating persons.

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20,000 +

advocacy messages sent—in October alone—to Congress supporting comprehensive immigration reform and urging them to fix the broken immigration system.

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400 +

people participated in the Advocacy Day during the July 2014 National Migration Conference in support of comprehensive immigration reform and assistance for refugees and child migrants.

MRS Communicates

We live in a high tech world in which new forms of social media and communications technology emerge regularly. With the competition that this creates to get one's message out, it is imperative that MRS has in place a communications strategy to deliver the bishops teaching on migration in a timely and effective manner.

70,000 +

people are connected to MRS listservs, which provides a mechanism through which MRS is able to advocate on behalf of vulnerable migrant populations and provide educational materials to increase awareness.

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200 +

interviews conducted with MRS staff by Catholic and secular radio, newspaper, and television media to discuss issues related to the recent unaccompanied child migrant crisis and comprehensive immigration reform.

MRS Educates

To advocate and effectively serve populations of interest, MRS educates the public on the bishops' teaching on migration, as a way to help persons understand the historical, moral, and theological foundations of that teaching.

1,434,509

educational resources were downloaded from the Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services website for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of refugee-serving and mainstream organizations across the U.S. to ensure the successful development of refugee children, youth, and their families:

www.BRYCS.org

.....

25,000 +

prayer cards, bulletin inserts, and other educational material distributed nationally, with thousands more downloaded from www.usccb.org/mrs.

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800

people attended the 2014 National Migration Conference that provided more than seventy workshops on a diverse array of issues related to public policy, programs, and pastoral care.

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220

community leaders across the country trained in the Amistad Program, which helps people to identify human trafficking in their local community.

MRS Serves

MRS is the largest non-governmental resettlement agency in the world and has traditionally helped to resettle a quarter or more of all refugees admitted to the United States each year. MRS has resettled more than a million refugees since 1975 and also provides extensive support to child migrants here in the U.S.

20,875

refugees were resettled by MRS from around the world in 2014, with the largest numbers arriving from Burma, Bhutan, Iraq, Somalia, and the Congo. This accounted for over one quarter of all refugees resettled in the United States during this period.

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1,888

The combined number of Cubans (1,817) and Haitians (71) resettled by the MRS Cuban/Haitian Program Office in Miami.

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5,253

clients provided direct orientation and referral services through the Parolee Orientation Program via MRS' Cuban/Haitian program in Miami, Florida.

1279

unaccompanied migrant children were served by MRS, including short-term foster care, shelter, and long-term foster care, including 469 unaccompanied, migrant children who were in federal custody due to their immigration status. MRS also provided family reunification services to 640 children who were released from federal custody to their families while in immigration proceedings.

1,248

MRS was awarded funding by the U.S. government to provide legal services to 1,248 unaccompanied minors and child advocacy for 250, through partnerships with Catholic Charities and Catholic Legal Immigration Services across the United States.

120

Survivors of human trafficking were enrolled in the MRS Dignity of Work Program, which provides training and guidance to help survivors start a new life.

Central to MRS' service efforts, The Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) has connected with 43 USCCB/MRS diocesan resettlement

affiliates, who have made a difference in the lives of 26,379 newcomers from 49 countries. Its goal is to provide refugees with legal support, medical and language services, friendship, warm meals, jobs, and welcome in local parishes and communi-

\$1,100,000 +

spent through the POWR program to support resettlement agencies to help integrate and empower recently arrived refugees.

1,700

volunteers in over 290 parishes across the United States supported the POWR program with their time and energy, providing resources that enable newly arriving refugees an opportunity to start a new life here in America.

275

Educational and related outreach activities initiated by the POWR Program, including literacy education, health mentoring, and awareness raising.

Key Initiatives in 2014



2014 National Migration Conference

IN FAITH, IN SOLIDARITY, IN SERVICE

In July 2014, MRS co-sponsored a national migration conference with Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network that attracted over 800 attendees. Its theme: “In Faith, In Solidarity, In Service.” Its purpose? To highlight the work of the Church in the field of migration, point out gaps that need to be filled in the arena of migration policy and social services, and call to action Catholics in support of vulnerable populations. In comments made prior to the opening of the event, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo of the Archdiocese of Seattle and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, reaffirmed the mission of MRS, emphasizing the importance of defending “the rights of the migrant, no matter what the political situation or polls may dictate. We must continue to push our lawmakers on both sides to act on this important national issue, as our fellow human beings continue to suffer under this broken system.”



For over thirty years the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has observed National Migration Week as a moment in the life of the Church to reflect upon and celebrate the wide ethnic and cultural diversity of the Church and the ministries that serve people on the move. The week serves as an opportunity for the Catholic community to be educated and informed on issues related to refugees, asylees, and other forced migrants, immigrants, trafficking victims, and other people on the move. “Out of the Darkness,” echoes the figurative darkness undocumented immigrants, children, refugees and victims of human trafficking must face when their ability to live out their lives is severely restricted, often due to violence and exploitation. Resources for National Migration Week are available at www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw.

Refuge and Hope in the Time of ISIS



In the fall of 2014, MRS led a delegation to explore the refugee crisis in the countries of Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria. The primary purpose was to assess the impact in those countries of the growing humanitarian refugee crisis caused by the Syrian conflict. More than 3.8 million Syrians have been displaced since the onset of the Syrian revolution and the rise of ISIS. The [final report](#) reveals some serious challenges that Syrians and non-Syrians seeking refuge in these countries face, and provides suggested solutions to these problems. More work needs to be done to address this problem and provide relief to those in need.

The Amistad Movement



The [Amistad Movement](#) is a national education campaign that works through churches, cultural organizations, and other community-based groups to empower immigrants and local leaders to prevent human trafficking in their communities. This program fills an important niche in the fight against human trafficking, as it aims to educate leaders and others living in the community to identify trafficking situations as they occur on the local level. These individuals then have an opportunity to work with local authorities to stop the trafficking situation in its tracks.

For more information or to schedule a free training in your community please email MRSTRAFF@usccb.org or call (202) 541-3021.

To learn more about the work of



BECOME *a* SHEPHERD

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION.
PROTECT, HELP, EMPOWER AND, RESTORE DIGNITY

Catholics are called to find ways to work within their dioceses and communities to address the evil of modern day slavery. One way to do this is to “[Become a Shepherd.](#)” The SHEPHERD program, run through the MRS anti-trafficking office, is a campaign that is designed to help

Catholics learn more about human trafficking, as well as work with their parish community to address this issue. Through this program, participants learn the Church’s teaching on human trafficking, different forms of human trafficking and exploitation, trends in human trafficking cases, and other important aspects of this great evil. Paired with the Amistad program, the MRS SHEPHERD initiative provides the Church with an opportunity to confront human trafficking on the grassroots level, thus increasing its momentum in the fight against it.

Migrant Children in Crisis

In late 2013, MRS traveled to Central America to examine the causes underlying the rising number of children and families migrating from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to the U.S. As this problem reached a crisis point in the spring and summer of 2014, MRS was on the front lines in support of these vulnerable migrants following their arrival in the United States. From advocacy efforts, including [Congressional Testimony by Bishop Mark Seitz](#) of El Paso, to [service provision and educational outreach](#), MRS sought to create a more welcoming environment that better protects the human dignity of mothers, children, and unaccompanied minors who arrive in America with the hope of finding a better life.



MRS Audited Financial Statement (As of December 31, 2014)

REVENUE

Federal Grants/Agreements.....	\$79,590,512
CRS Collection.....	1,778,214
Travel Loan Collection Fees.....	3,401,622
Meeting Fees/Dues.....	147,526
Private Grants /Donations.....	582,655
Other.....	6,421
Total Revenue.....	\$85,506,950

EXPENSES

Personnel.....	\$9,806,510
Operating.....	6,370,193
Diocesan Programs & Direct Assistance.....	69,494,005
Grants & Donations.....	229,420
Total Expenses.....	\$85,900,128

Revenue (deficit).....	(\$393,178)
Use of Fund Balance.....	<u>\$393,178</u>
	\$0

National Catholic Fund for Migration and Refugee Services

This fund provides help to recently arrived refugees and other migrants who are faced with emergencies or crises: burying a family member, temporary help with unanticipated expenses, help in finding employment, etc. For further information as to how you can help, please contact Bill Canny at (202) 541-3169, by email at MRSDevelopment@usccb.org, or visit our website at www.usccb.org/mrs-giving.

USCCB Committee on Migration

2014 – 2016

Chairman:

Most Reverend Eusebio. L. Elizondo, MSpS
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

Members:

Most Reverend Thomas Wenski
Archbishop of Miami

Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio
Bishop of Brooklyn

Most Reverend Daniel Flores
Bishop of Brownsville

Most Reverend John Manz
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

Most Reverend Anthony Taylor
Bishop of Little Rock

Most Reverend Kevin Vann,
Bishop of Orange

Most Reverend John Wester
Bishop of Salt Lake City

Most Reverend Luis Zarama
Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta

MRS Executive Director:

William Canny

Creating a world where immigrants, refugees, migrants, and people on the move are treated with dignity, respect, welcome and belonging.



3211 Fourth Street, NE • Washington, DC 20017
<http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/>