

Discussion Guide for *“Renewed Commitment of the Jesuit Refugee Service”*

LETTER FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE JESUITS,
FR. ARTURO SOSA, SJ

In the spirit of Ignatian tradition, Jesuit Refugee Service/USA invites Jesuit institutions across the United States to take a moment of group discernment in response to the Superior General’s letter urging a renewed commitment to the Jesuit Refugee Service.

As stated by Fr. Sosa, “This service to refugees requires a discernment that strives to be guided by the Spirit, and apostolic planning that makes effective use of human and all other available resources.”

After reading Fr. Sosa’s letter, please set aside some time to reflect on the questions listed below and to discern what resources you have available to share in serving the needs of refugees and the forcibly displaced.

*Updated numbers: Since the publication of Fr. Sosa's letter, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released its annual report, which stated that, as of 2018, 70.8 million people had been forced from their homes, with 25.9 million of these people being refugees.

About JRS

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization with a mission to accompany, serve, and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. JRS undertakes services at national and regional levels with the support of an international office in Rome. JRS was found in 1980 by Pedro Arrupe, SJ as a work of the Society of Jesus. JRS currently serves more than 677,000 people in 56 countries.

JRS/USA is a 501(c)3 organization based in Washington, DC that provides support – through funding, oversight, monitoring, and evaluation – to JRS projects and programming throughout the world.

JRS/USA also serves forcibly displaced migrants in the US through our Detention Chaplaincy Program.

Suggested Questions for Discernment and Discussion

1. As Fr. Sosa writes, “this reality calls for more equitable sharing in hosting and supporting the world’s refugees.” As a Jesuit institution in the United States, what can we do as a community to claim our share in the response to the world’s refugees?

2. What steps can we take here in the United States to advocate on behalf of refugees?

3. Pope Francis has given us four actions to respond to refugees and migrants: welcome, protect, promote, and integrate.

Please reflect on the following and then discuss as a group how you can:

- Welcome

- Protect

- Promote

- Integrate

4. As stated by the Society of Jesus, what is required to “continue to help create conditions of hospitality” within our home community?

5. Sharing in the mission of JRS, how can we dedicate ourselves anew “to the accompaniment, service, and defense of refugees around the world?”

Take Action

Now, with these questions answered and discussed, please identify three action steps that you can take as a community to show your renewed commitment to the Jesuit Refugee Service.

If you need help identifying actions, we recommend taking a look at our [**“How to Get Involved”**](#) Resource Guide.

1. Action:

2. Action:

3. Action:

Closing Prayer **(from the words of Superior General Father Arturo Sosa, SJ)**

Our Lady of the Way,
We ask you to guide our footsteps,
As we journey with the people of God
On the road that leads us to the very same Jesus
Who calls us to this service.

Amen.