

JRS DAY

show your support.
walk with refugees.



HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR PARISH

For the last **40 years**, Jesuit Refugee Service has walked with those who are forcibly displaced — working for a world where refugees and forcibly displaced people attain protection, opportunity and participation.

But, the need has grown over the last 40 years, and there are now more than **79 million people** who are forcibly displaced, half of whom are children.

Walk with us.

Why JRS?

The 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 works in **56 countries** worldwide. **150 active JRS projects** serve refugees and displaced persons from diverse cultures, nationalities and religions.

Education and **livelihood** training are **core JRS activities**. These life-saving interventions in 42 countries foster agency and promote the full development and freedom of displaced people.

As the global pandemic continues to impact our entire world, you can play an important role in supporting refugees.

What is JRS Day?

JRS was founded on November 14, 1980 by Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, who was then Superior General of the Society of Jesus, in response to the plight of Vietnamese refugees fleeing their war-ravaged homeland.

Superior General Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ invited the global Jesuit community to participate in JRS Day on November 14, 2020, JRS's 40th Anniversary. The day is meant to "celebrate the women and men whose lives have been changed through JRS, and the generous service of so many lay colleagues, religious and Jesuits over the past 40 years."

“ One proposal I support is to recognize **14 November 2020 as JRS Day** throughout the Jesuit world, inviting all our ministries to acknowledge appropriately JRS's history of accompaniment and service. ”

- Arturo Sosa, S.J., Superior General



What can my parish community do to support JRS on this day?

Your parish community can help commemorate this day in a number of creative ways. Below we provide some suggestions:

1. ORGANIZE A COMMITTEE

Gather a small group of your fellow parishioners who will lead the commemoration.

2. REVIEW YOUR OPTIONS

JRS/USA is suggesting three ways to get involved on JRS Day: *Pray in Solidarity*, *Share the Story*, *Support the Mission*.

For parishes, we recommend:

Pray in Solidarity – inviting your director of liturgy to include this prayer of the faithful during liturgy on November 14 and 15:

The Society of Jesus marks November 14th as JRS Day, a day to celebrate thousands of women and men whose lives have been changed through Jesuit Refugee Service. We pray today for all refugees and forcibly displaced people that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future, and for all those who serve them. We pray to the Lord.

Share the Story – Include a story from JRS in your parish bulletin to educate others in your parish on JRS and who we serve. Visit www.jrsusa.org/our-work/jrsusa-updates/ for stories.

Support the Mission – Join us for JRS/USA's Walking with Refugees for Forty Years, live virtual event on Thursday, November 12, to recognize JRS's history, honor those who've joined us on that journey, and lift the voices of the refugees we've accompanied.

Or encourage parishioners to provide a gift to JRS during this time, perhaps doing this by organizing a second collection.

3. CHOOSE AN ACTION (OR TWO! OR THREE!)

Determine what will work best for your parish during this time.

4. PROMOTE JRS DAY

Be sure that the entire parish community is notified on how the parish plans to commemorate JRS Day.

5. REACH OUT TO JRS

Please let us know what you have planned to commemorate JRS Day! And if you need any resources, support, or have questions, please let us know by emailing Josh Utter at joshua.utter@jrsusa.org

BE SURE TO VISIT WWW.JRSUSA.ORG/JRSDAY FOR MORE IDEAS AND RESOURCES!