



MARYKNOLL OFFICE FOR GLOBAL CONCERNS
Peace, Social Justice and Integrity of Creation
www.maryknollogc.org

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Welcoming Refugees as our Brothers and Sisters

WASHINGTON, DC – President Joe Biden announced today, February 4, that his administration will raise the annual refugee admissions ceiling to 125,000 starting October 1, a significant increase from the trajectory of recent years. The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns celebrates this decision that will have tremendous benefits for those refugees overseas who have been waiting for an opportunity to safely resettle as well as for U.S. communities enriched by their presence.

Susan Gunn, Director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, said:

“Opening our doors to refugees during a global refugee crisis is the right thing to do. Maryknoll missionaries working in refugee camps around the world know that hundreds of thousands of refugee families have been needlessly suffering and waiting for too long in unsafe conditions for permanent places to resettle. As people of faith here in the United States, we are called to create communities of welcome.

We can do this safely even during a pandemic. The increasing availability of COVID-19 vaccines makes this an especially opportune time to revitalize the U.S. refugee program. We know that the Catholic community in the United States stands willing and able to help welcome this number of refugees. As Pope Francis reminds us, refugees are our brothers and sisters and it is our duty and joy to care for them as our own.”

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC) represents Maryknoll missionaries, who are Catholic men and women serving in impoverished communities around the world. The MOGC provides analysis and advocacy on issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation that affect the countries and communities where Maryknoll missionaries serve.

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