

WE WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY

09.10.15 | Author: *The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde*



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35

In two weeks, Pope Francis will visit Washington D.C. and I will be among those listening to his every word. With his demonstrated compassion for all who call planet earth our home, Pope Francis has earned the world's trust. In a special environmental issue of the diocesan e-news next week, I'll describe how reading his recent encyclical, *Laudato Si--On Care for Our Common Home*, has changed my life.

But Pope Francis will also address the migrant crisis in the Middle East and Europe when speaking to Congress and the United Nations. He leads a growing chorus of voices across the world saying that we cannot stand idly by in the face of world's largest migrant crisis since World War II. We can be proud that [Anglicans in Europe and around the world](#) are taking action both in caring for migrants and advocating on their behalf.

Just today, [President Obama has announced](#) that the United States will take in at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the next year. I applaud this action, but I will add our collective voice to those calling upon our government to allow even more migrants to settle in the United States. The Presiding Bishop and others are also preparing to speak out, and migrant resettlement ministries across the country, including that of the Episcopal Church, are making the case for welcoming migrants to our land.

Here are three ways you can respond with the compassion of Jesus to the migrant crisis:

- [Send a donation to Episcopal Relief & Development's Disaster Relief Fund](#), which supports relief efforts, and [follow their suggestions](#) about how take action on behalf of Syrian refugee. I am sending money to Episcopal Relief & Development today.

- Join me in writing or calling President Obama and members of Congress in support of significantly increasing the number of refugees from Syria and other nations.
- Pray for refugees and those welcoming them.

From the Anglican Prayer Wall:

Gracious God,

You are the source of all goodness, generosity and love.

We thank you for opening the hearts of many
to those who are fleeing for their lives.

Help us now to open our arms in welcome,
and reach out our hands in support.

That the desperate may find new hope,
and lives torn apart be restored.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Your Son, Our Lord,
who fled persecution at His birth
and at His last triumphed over death.

Amen