



Declaration on the occasion of the 98th World Day of Migrants and Refugees January 16th, 2012

Most of them are young. They can be seen near railway stations or in queues in front of local administration offices. They are looking for guidance information on housing or possibilities to obtain food. Their poor knowledge of the local language makes their communication difficult and too few people take time to answer their questions. In turn, when a dialogue is started, when trust overcomes fear, when brotherhood is lived, everything becomes possible and everybody comes out a winner. Whom are we referring to? Migrants, of course!

With its 4-year plan adopted in Nantes in October 2009 and worked out in continental seminars, the WMCW wants to open up to new prospects for and with the migrants. While some are building physical or internal walls, it is proposing to build bridges. It announces the possibility of living together and its members are given the means to build up a real fraternity.

Following the call of Pope Benedict XVI, the WMCW supports all those in this world who believe that each one can play a role in society, live in dignity, whatever their origin, colour of their skin, culture, language or religion. As a movement of Christian workers, the WMCW builds its action on God's Word and on the social teachings of the Church. Its primary proposal is meeting and dialogue with migrants: who are they? What is their story? What are they looking for? What are their aspirations? What do they say?

«I grew up amidst violence and war. I did not feel in security anymore in my country because of discrimination and fights between armed groups. I decided to leave my country as soon as I felt there was no hope anymore. I'd rather ventured into a deadly, risky and very costful life», says Salim from Somalia.

«In its long history of resistance and struggle, my country experienced slavery, invasions of foreign powers, the worse dictatorships, and in spite of all these tragedies and hardships, it has always put itself under God's protection», says Sandy from Haiti.

«We left Iraq because of war, a day-to-day reality there. We suffered a lot from this war. We came to France in order to find peace ! », says Hizni from Iraq.

«I've been living in France for four years and I could learn French which is a very difficult language to learn. I have many French friends but in my heart I feel I am an Armenian», says Lussiné from Armenia.

«As you leave your childhood, friends and family behind, you are leaving behind a part of your life. At first you do not think about your own sorrow. You try to be positive in your journey and think that you will discover new experiences, a new way of life, new horizons, and you try to prepare you own future», says Clark from Gabon.

All these testimonies are words of young people aged 20 to 30.



Let us listen to those migrants we meet in our daily life, in our neighbourhood, those who work in our company or those we meet to pray and celebrate Jesus Christ. Let us be closer to them and let us build together with them a world without frontiers where everyone would live in peace and harmony.

The Secretariat of the WMCW
23. Dec. 2011

