



Share the
Journey ✨
#sharejourney

Love In Every Step:

Share the Journey Prayer Pilgrimage



In our diocese and around the world, people are participating in Pope Francis' two-year campaign **Share the Journey**, which aims to increase our solidarity with migrants and refugees.

This autumn, U.S. Catholics are being asked to take part in prayerful, walking pilgrimages to remember our sisters and brothers, millions of them, who have been forced to leave their homes to escape war, violence and poverty, many of them travelling on foot. The goal is to collectively walk the equivalent of five laps around the Earth— that's 124,500 miles!

OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness of the global migration crisis facing today's world.
- Involve U.S. Catholics and other people of goodwill in bearing public witness to solidarity with and for migrants and refugees.

“Pilgrimage means to journey with a purpose, and our purpose is to be the hands and feet of our just and merciful Lord. Christians have taken pilgrimages since at least the third century. In the spirit of this tradition, Pope Francis is asking us to stand with migrants through a spiritual pilgrimage, to mark “an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal...”

Every step we take will send a message to political leaders that we stand with and support migrants and refugees. Our steps will also be an expression of solidarity with those who migrate, and will help us deepen our relationship with Christ. We will go home after walking together; **they may never see their homes again.**”

Go to ShareJourney.org for the manual on how to organize a prayer pilgrimage.

Please bring this idea to your pastor and parish staff. Everyone in your parish could get involved: Catholic schools, youth groups, faith formation programs, the K of C etc. Your walk could be a mile or more. The more people who walk, the closer we'll get to the 124,500 goal.

Share this prayerful journey with our sisters and brothers, in the name of Jesus, Who was also a Refugee.

124,500

mile goal:

five laps around the world

54,520

miles walked



Responding to the Opioid Crisis with Love



Get Ahead of the Problem

In our Diocese, Bishop Matano and the Diocesan Public Policy Committee are asking our parishes to be part of the solution to the opioid crisis, which is destroying so many thousands of lives in our communities. As part of our continuing series, here's another aspect of the issue that parishes can get involved in:

Getting Ahead of the Problem:

Reducing Risk Factors

Increasing Protective Factors

Supporting Families and Youth

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships has developed a helpful resource entitled [Opioid Epidemic Practical Toolkit: Helping Faith and Community Leaders Bring Hope and Healing to Our Communities](#).

In it they discuss that one important part of prevention is addressing the needs of children and families. Social scientists are researching the negative effects of "Adverse Childhood Experiences" (ACEs), which include: physical, sexual, and emotional abuse; physical and emotional neglect; violence, mental illness or substance abuse in the household; parental separation or divorce; incarceration of a household member.

These experiences increase the likelihood of substance abuse. Moreover, the more ACEs in a child's life, the greater the likelihood of future substance abuse. Parishes and individual parishioners can't stop all ACEs from happening, but we can be part of the solution of decreasing the risk of future opioid addiction.

A few ideas of how we can promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children:

- ◇ Publicize (and even offer space for) parenting training offered by local organizations
- ◇ Support your local pregnancy care center in helping young moms
- ◇ Educate yourself and your parish on how to spot domestic violence, abuse and neglect and how to support victims
- ◇ Contact you state legislators to advocate for increased funding for child care subsidies
- ◇ Promote a living wage at your parish and workplace, and give your patronage to local businesses that pay and treat their employees well; economic stability contributes to overall household stability!
- ◇ Provide ways for local youth to engage in healthy, fun activities and to build healthy relationships—including youth who aren't members of your parish
- ◇ Be a mentor, tutor, Big Brother/Big Sister, or caring neighbor to a child or teen
- ◇ Share resources like www.abovetheinfluence.com on your own and your parish's web site and social media to encourage young people to avoid being pressured into risky behavior

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