

**The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary –  
Theme: Pray for millions of people who are refugees in our world.**

This Sunday we pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and we will connect them with a huge worldwide problem that we may rarely think about – it is the issue of the large number of brothers and sisters in our global family who are refugees.

This past week an EWTN program stated that:

- Every minute, 20 people leave all behind to escape persecution, terrorism or poverty.
- In 2018, 70 million people fled their homeland or fled to another part of their homeland.
- 26 million of all refugees are under the age of 18.

Behind these huge numbers are the faces of men, women and children who are looking for a better life for themselves and their children.

It is good for us to remember we have in our parish, brothers and sisters who had to flee from their country. I am especially thinking of parishioners raised in Cuba when Fidel Castro came to power and parishioners raised in Vietnam when communists overran their country.

The Sorrowful Mysteries are good mysteries to reflect on as we think about and pray for millions of our brothers and sisters who are walking their own Calvary journey.

***First Mystery: Agony in the Garden***

As we ponder the agony of Jesus in Gethsemane we think about and pray for refugees who are undergoing a very severe agony of their own.

***Second Mystery: Scourging at the Pillar***

As we ponder how Jesus was beaten and flogged, we pray for the many refugees who experienced their own scourging prior to fleeing their homeland and during their flight to some unknown place.

***Third Mystery. Crowning of Jesus with Thorns***

When I pray this decade, I pray for all who suffer from severe headaches, depression and are mentally ill. Let us now pray for refugees who are suffering in any of these ways.

***Fourth Mystery: Jesus Carries His Cross***

When Jesus walked with his cross on his shoulders, he fell several times. Finally Simon was forced by the soldiers to help Jesus. In this decade we pray and thank God for the nations that have opened their borders to refugees. We also pray for *Catholic Relief Services* which represents our church on the front lines where there is disaster.

***Fifth Mystery: Jesus Dies on the Cross***

Sadly, many refugees died during their flight to freedom. We pray for the leaders of our nation that we would find a way to welcome some refugees fleeing persecution and terrorism.