

EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO HELP REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

- Donate to organizations helping refugees and immigrants (*many will be Exhibitors at the Convocation*)
- Contact your elected officials frequently to express concern about reforming our immigration policies to provide more funding for refugees and immigrants, to allow more of them to enter, and other specific initiatives such as travel bans, DACA delays, etc. (*USCCB, CRS, Catholic Charities and other organizations can provide advice on whom to contact and suggestions about how to express your concerns and requests. There will be a Workshop on Advocacy during the Networking Break at the Convocation.*)
- Thank your elected officials who stand up for just and compassionate immigration policies
- Offer your legal skills, translation services, job counseling skills
- Offer your training skills for English as a Second Language (ESL) and teach classes for Immigrants and Refugees
- Spread the word about immigrants' and refugees' rights. Catholic Charities Boston now offers interactive "Know Your Rights" presentations with translation services – see website:
<http://www.ccab.org/sites/default/files/files/CCAB%20KYR%20Flyer.pdf>
(*Catholic Charities Boston will have an attorney available at its Exhibitor Table during the Convocation to provide more information.*)
- Open your home to those stranded, stuck or helping refugees and immigrants (e.g. those detained at airports, awaiting deportation)
- Raise funds via GoFundMe and other crowdfunding sites, or through more traditional bake sales, etc
- Write articles for your local newspaper and/or parishes advocating for immigrants and refugees
- Help to make immigrants and refugees who are already in your communities feel welcome, for example, by hosting a gathering at your parish. Implement some strategic ways for people to meet and get to know one another. For example, encourage people to sit with someone they don't know, and provide conversation-starter questions on index cards.
- Organize a speaking event or school assembly in your community. Contact Catholic Charities Boston, CRS or your diocesan pastoral office that serves migrants and refugees to identify people who would be comfortable meeting and sharing their stories.
- As new families arrive at Mass, ask greeters or even designate a couple of "family welcome teams" to greet them.
- Display posters or pictures in a gathering space with stories and ways to help.
- Identify and support immigrant-owned businesses locally and beyond.
- Use immigrant-owned restaurants to cater events. Promote their contributions within and outside your community.

(continued below)

Examples of Specific Actions for Volunteers who want to help Refugees through the “Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program” *(There will be an Exhibitor Table at the Convocation with more information)*

- Apartment set-up
- Bike repair
- Car donations
- Career orientation
- Citizenship classes
- College financial aid applications
- Dental work
- Doctor’s visits
- Donation drives
- Employment mentoring
- ESL instruction
- Events planning
- Fellowship / friendship
- Financial literacy education
- Grant writing
- Health education
- Helping maternity clients
- Hiring refugees
- House hunting / apartment search
- Individual and family counseling
- Job search
- Legal assistance
- Library visits
- Material design
- Medical appointments scheduling
- Newspaper articles
- Office assistance
- Press releases
- School supplies
- Shopping
- Transportation
- Tutoring for school-aged children,
- Videography
- Warm meals
- Website management
- World Refugee Day

Source: USCCB – Migration and Refugee Services (MRS), “Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) 2014 POWR Webinar Series - Part II: “A Parish Volunteer Toolkit”