

4 VERBS TO SERVE MIGRANTS

From Pope Francis' message for the 104th World Day of Migrants & Refugees celebrated January 14, 2018.

WELCOME

"... offering broader options for migrants and refugees to enter destination countries safely and legally."

PROTECT

"... a series of steps intended to defend the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees, independent of their legal status."

PROMOTE

"... a determined effort to ensure that all migrants and refugees — as well as the communities which welcome them — are empowered to achieve their potential as human beings."

INTEGRATE



"... concerns the opportunities for intercultural enrichment brought about by the presence of migrants and refugees. Integration is not "an assimilation that leads migrants to suppress or to forget their own cultural identity. Rather, contact with others leads to discovering their 'secret', to being open to them to welcome their valid aspects and thus contribute to knowing each one better."

The Church supports the human rights of all people and offers them pastoral care, education, and social services, no matter what the circumstances of entry into this country. It works for the respect of the human dignity of all, especially those who find themselves in desperate circumstances.

- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops -
*Welcoming the Stranger Among Us:
Unity in Diversity*



ST JOSEPH THE WORKER
Patron of all workers, pray for us!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Send your donations payable to:

Diocese of Charleston/Farmworkers Ministry
c/o Sister Migdalia "Meggie" Flores, DC
Hispanic Farmworkers Ministry Supervisor
1427 Pickens Street
Columbia, SC 29201

migdalia@charlestdiocese.org | 202-740-6569
charlestdiocese.org/farmworkers-ministry



MIGRANT FARMWORKERS MINISTRY



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIocese OF CHARLESTON



MISSION



The Diocesan Farmworkers Ministry commits to strengthen the Catholic presence in the South Carolina by focusing on Hispanic migrant farmworkers in Aiken, Edgefield, Lexington, and Saluda counties in their journey of faith, as we promote evangelical values, especially the respect and defense of human dignity, improvement of quality of life, and true practice of charity and justice.



HISTORY



"Our farmers deserve praise, not condemnation; and their efficiency should be cause for gratitude, not something for which they are penalized."

– John F. Kennedy

In 2021, under the direction of then-Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo, a team of Vincentian priests and Daughters of Charity sisters accepted the challenge and invitation to begin a formal ministry for farmworkers in the Diocese of Charleston.

Migrant farmworkers have been traveling to South Carolina for decades. The men and women who travel here are legally able to work in the United States under the H2-A Seasonal or Temporary Agricultural Work Visas. Some are here up to 10 months of the year, and they reside in dorms that the company provides. Most travel alone, leaving behind family to earn money to support loved ones.

Without the labor of guest workers from Central and South American countries, U.S. farms would not survive. Our diocese is grateful for the work of thousands of our brothers and sisters that come in each year and help put fresh fruits, vegetables, chicken and more on our tables all across the country.

Now under the care of Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS — of the Scalabrinian religious order whose charism is specific ministry to migrants — we welcome these workers. They are part of our Church family, and we offer them pastoral care, education and social services.



Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, speaks with a migrant farmworker at the first Mass for Migrants in March 2023.

VISION

Following the invitation of Pope Francis to respond to the pastoral challenge of integrating migrants and immigrants, the Diocese of Charleston will *"welcome, protect, promote and integrate them in their journey of faith."*

