**(Mike) (OUR SCRIPT)**

**Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation**

**The JPIC Moment at the**

**St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Meeting - January 13, 2019**

***In Solidarity with the Forced Migrants***

**(excerpts from the Fall, 2018 campaign of Development & Peace)**

**(Marion)**

Every minute, **31 people** are forced to flee their homes. **Forced migrants** are those compelled to flee their homes because they are in a situation of insecurity and fear for their lives. There are **69 million** people in the world today who are forced migrants. That is double the population of Canada.

* **40 million** are internally displaced.
* **26 million** are refugees**.**
* **3 million** are asylum seekers.

**(Maureen)**

**What are the forced migrants fleeing?**

* **Armed conflict**
* **Persecution** (ethnicity, religion, political opinion, nationality, etc.)
* **Development megaprojects** (mining, oil & gas exploration, hydroelectric dam, urban ‘improvement’ projects, etc.)
* **Environmental causes (**drought, famine, natural disasters, climate change, etc.)
* **Economic & political causes** (denial of basic rights**,** mass unemployment, political instability, etc.)

**(Charlie)**

**Where are refugees leaving from?**

**68%** of the refugees come from **5 countries:**

* **Syria**
* **Afghanistan**
* **South Sudan**
* **Burma (Myanmar)**
* **Somalia**

**Where have the refugees gone? In 2016:**

* **9 million** went to **Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda, Lebanon and Iran.**

**(Mike)**

**Putting an end to some myths:**

**“Canada welcomes too many refugees and they threaten the cultural diversity and values of Canadians.”**

* In 2016, Canada welcomed **1.7% (58 thousand)** of the **3.4 million** new refugees in the world.
* **1 in 5 (about 8 million) Canadians are foreign-born.**

**Let us act in solidarity with the forced migrants of the world by**

**knowing and telling their stories.**

**The Holy Family**

Let’s check out the song **“Christmas Day on Planet Earth”** recorded by Lennie Gallant when the Black Umfolosi visited PEI last summer. In this beautiful song, Lennie makes a connection between the Holy Family and the migrants of the world. I invite you to sing along with the “Chorus.”

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5c7UOBhAKs&feature=youtu.be**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5c7UOBhAKs&feature=youtu.be)

**Christmas Day on Planet Earth**

**(Lennie Gallant & Black Umfolosi)**

Away in a manger (Silent night)

So the story goes (Holy night)

A king of heaven

Came to let us know (Gloria)

There is hope for the helpless

For the homeless too (All is calm)

For the lost and lonely

There is love for you (Gloria)

Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

They were cold in the night

And she was with child

They needed lodging

To be safe for a while

They knocked on doors (Hmmmm)

They were turned away (Ahhh no)

No room no shelter

For them on that day (Poor little child)

There is so much sorrow (So much hurt)

People in need (Many souls)

Cast from their homes

By hate and greed (So many wars)

There’s a knock at the door (Listen now!)

Hear it again (I’m listening)

Echoes of that night

In Bethlehem (Hallelujah!)

**Chorus repeat**

The gift of love and hope and

Light a candle for the lost and homeless

Sing a hymn for the birth of Jesus

Unlock the doors and windows

Let love and kindness all flow

Light a candle for the hungry child

Sing a hymn for the birth….

**Chorus repeat**

On Christmas day we open

The gift of love and hope for all

**Chorus:**

On Christmas Day (What child is this) / (Ring the bells)

On planet earth (Joy to the world)

We celebrate (Ahhhhhh)

A simple birth (Hallelujah)

A tale to teach (Fall on your knees)

How to give love (Aaahhhh)

A child to lead (O holy night)

Like a star above (Hallelujah, Hallelujah)