

Vatican City, 31 July 2019

Prot. N.: MR-0271/2019

Ref: Celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019

Dear friends and partners,

On 29th September this year, Pope Francis will celebrate the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees with a Holy Mass in St Peter's Square, in Rome. The Pope asks us to join in with the celebration with the slogan <u>"It is not just about Migrants"</u>. Indeed, it is about all of us, our fears, our humanity, our common desire to build a better world. I am therefore asking you to join us in this heartfelt appeal of the Holy Father.

This important celebration, organised by the Italian Bishops' Conference, seeks to concretely express our thanks to him, whose voice has often been raised in favour of the poor and suffering, of the marginalised and excluded, of all those residing in existential peripheries, among whom we can definitely find migrants and refugees. It is for this reason that I wish to appeal to your organisational abilities, so that many people gather at St Peter's Square on the 29th September this year, to show Pope Francis our support.

Your participation at an institutional or personal level will be especially appreciated. Furthermore, I ask you to help us, if possible, by extending this invitation to all those who have been called or encouraged by the words of the Holy Father.

In the hope of seeing many of you in St Peter's Square, I take this opportunity to extend to you my best regards

In the Migrant Christ

Fr. Fabio Baggio C.S. *Under-secretary*

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