



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT  
1234 WASHINGTON BLVD.  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

January 3, 2007

Dear Father:


For 26 years now, usually coinciding with the weekend we celebrate the Epiphany, the Church has observed Migration Week. The Church's long history of concern for the gifts and needs of migrant peoples and refugees takes on all the more urgency in today's world where millions of people find themselves deprived of the comfort and security of residing in their own native land. In our own nation, we also see first-hand the sad reality of people politically divided because of the growing presence of new migrants.

As a Cardinal for over twelve years now, I have served as a consultor to the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People and have been an active member of the USCCB Committee on Migration. Over the years, I also have gained many insights into the challenges of migration thanks to my special ministry for people of Polish ethnic heritage and the service of many different ethnic groups within our own Archdiocese.

For all these reasons, I encourage you, as far as possible and appropriate, to include references to the challenge of migration in your homilies this weekend, and perhaps make use of some of the suggested petitions for the prayers of the faithful (included); they have been especially prepared by our Bishops' Conference.

With all best wishes and with thanks for your loving service of the Lord's people, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

  
Adam Cardinal Maida  
Archbishop of Detroit

ACM/dm