



MEDIA RELEASE – ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

DATE: September 29, 2017

On September 30th, there is a rally planned for the city of Peterborough by a group protesting the government's immigration and refugee policies. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough recognizes that the rally is a source of controversy and concern for many individuals and groups who have given expression to their concern in recent days.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches, as did Jesus himself, of our obligation to welcome the stranger and provide a home for the homeless.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote the following in their Pastoral Letter, *We Are Aliens and Transients before the Lord, our God*, "The social and political attitudes of Christians ought to reflect a deep concern for the plight of immigrants and transients. It is extremely important that the Christian community be a model of acceptance and appreciation for migrants in our society. This openness should be shown to persons of all cultures and origins, no matter their immigration status. Christians are to be among those who refuse to let injustice towards migrants continue, let alone increase."

The Diocese of Peterborough has joined with Casa Maria Homes to welcome refugees to our city. Most Reverend Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough, says, "Through the work of Sr. Ruth Hennessey, CSJ, and the ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph at Casa Maria Homes, hundreds of refugees have been welcomed to Canada and supported to begin building their lives here. During the Syrian refugee crisis, 17 of our parishes sponsored 15 families. These good works witness to the teaching of the Gospel and the missionary tradition of the Church."

As the global refugee crisis has worsened in recent years, Pope Francis has taught repeatedly of our call to respond with welcome and care to the most vulnerable among us.

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