# I have observed ... I have heard ... I know ... I will deliver.

As people of faith, we can add our gaze to that of God's. We can acknowledge suffering, share the promise, and be the witness and voices that help bring about deliverance.

### *Introductory word*

"Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees" is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), celebrated on September 25, 2022.

Pope Francis highlights the commitment that we are all called to share in building a future that embraces God's plan, leaving no one behind. ….

### *Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:7-10*

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

## Psalm 18

I love you, Lord, my strength.
The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold.

I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,
and I have been saved from my enemies.
The cords of death entangled me;
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.
The cords of the grave coiled around me;
the snares of death confronted me.

In my distress I called to the Lord;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears.

He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
he drew me out of deep waters.
He rescued me from my powerful enemy,
from my foes, who were too strong for me.

They confronted me in the day of my disaster,
but the Lord was my support.
He brought me out into a spacious place;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

## Reflection 1: Migration and salvation history (WDMR 2017)

"… We need to become aware that the phenomenon of migration is not unrelated to salvation history, but rather a part of that history. One of God's commandments is connected to it: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex 22:21); "Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt" (Deut. 10:19). This phenomenon constitutes a sign of the times, a sign which speaks of the providential work of God in history and in the human community, with a view to universal communion."

- Jacob's family read the sign of the times and migrated to Egypt to escape the famine. They joined Joseph because they wanted to survive.
- Because of the misery and suffering of the people, God chose Moses to deliver and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.
- Let us pray for all those who suffer and seek better living conditions.

## Reflection 2: Laudato Si 25

"There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind,

without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world. Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded."

- We easily forget that migration is often the result of a variety of layered causes – economic, social and political – which are accentuated by changing environmental conditions.
- Let us pray for all the people forced to leave their home because of environmental catastrophes and extreme natural disasters, such as floods and hurricanes, droughts, rise in sea-level, and degraded and destroyed ecosystems!

**Reflection 3: Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees (WDMR 2022)**
"History teaches us that the contribution of migrants and refugees has been fundamental to the social and economic growth of our societies. This continues to be true in our own day. Their work, their youth, their enthusiasm and their willingness to sacrifice enrich the communities that receive them."

- The pharaoh and the Egyptian population forgot about this enrichment the Israelites brought. They put them in slavery and in a system of exploitation.

- Let us pray for the migrants and refugees who fall into the hands of human traffickers and modern slave structures.

"If we want to cooperate with our heavenly Father in building the future, let us do so together with our brothers and sisters who are migrants and refugees. Let us build the future today! For the future begins today and it begins with each of us."

- Migrants and refugees easily become victims of oppression, exploitation, and abuses.
- Let us pray that they find people who welcome them with dignity and work to integrate them, so that all together build a better future!

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Concluding Prayer: WDMR 2022**

**Through our common prayer, let us renew our commitment to building a future that conforms ever more fully to God's plan of a world in which everyone can live in peace, dignity, and fraternity.**

Lord, make us bearers of hope,
so that where there is darkness, your light may shine,
and where there is discouragement,
confidence in the future may be reborn.

Lord, make us instruments of your justice,

so that where there is exclusion,
fraternity may flourish,
and where there is greed,
a spirit of sharing may grow.

Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom,
together with migrants and refugees
and with all who dwell on the peripheries.

Lord, let us learn how beautiful it is
to live together as brothers and sisters. Amen.

Listen to the
Voice of creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The Burning Bush
Ex 3:1-12