

REFUGEE WEEK





In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Together we pray:

For all those who work for justice and peace around the world.

We ask that they may be your hands and feet on earth.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**LET US
PRAY**

REFUGEE WEEK



Refugee Week is an opportunity to celebrate the role that refugees play in our society. It takes place every year around World Refugee Day (20th June) and is celebrated by more than 2 million people in more than 20 countries.

Refugee Week brings together people from different backgrounds to connect beyond labels and foster a deeper understanding of why people are displaced and the challenges they face when seeking safety.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF A REFUGEE?



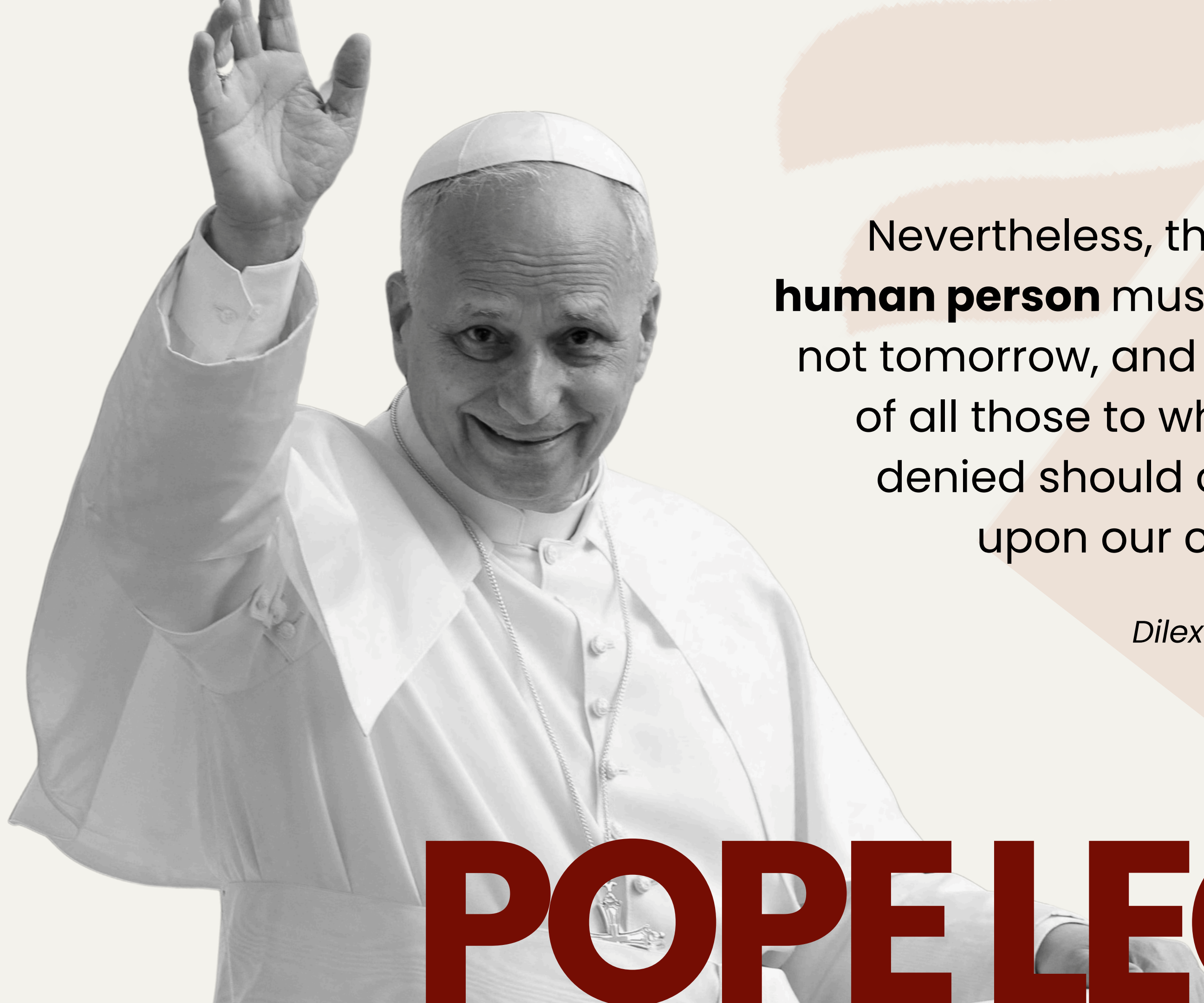
... someone who has been forced to leave their home country because of violence, war or persecution. They are unable to return home because they fear harm because of their race, religion, political opinions or social group.

People have sought refuge or 'asylum' for many thousands of years, but they have only been a category in international law since 1950.

This describes their legal status, but it doesn't say anything about them as individuals; their experiences, struggles, hopes or dreams.







Nevertheless, the dignity of **every human person** must be respected today, not tomorrow, and the extreme poverty of all those to whom this dignity is denied should constantly weigh upon our consciences.

Dilexi Te, 92

POPE LEO XIV



For refugees around the world, **courage** is often a daily necessity. It takes courage to leave home, build new relationships, navigate unfamiliar systems, learn a new language, and live with uncertainty about the future while seeking a sense of belonging in a new community.

But courage is also asked of all of us.

The Gospel teaches the dignity of every person and rejects the idea that some people in society have more value than others. We are called to love our neighbour, wherever they come from, whatever their religion and whatever their culture.

This is rooted in our belief in the fundamental dignity of all people. Standing up for our beliefs and building inclusive communities takes courage.

COURAGE

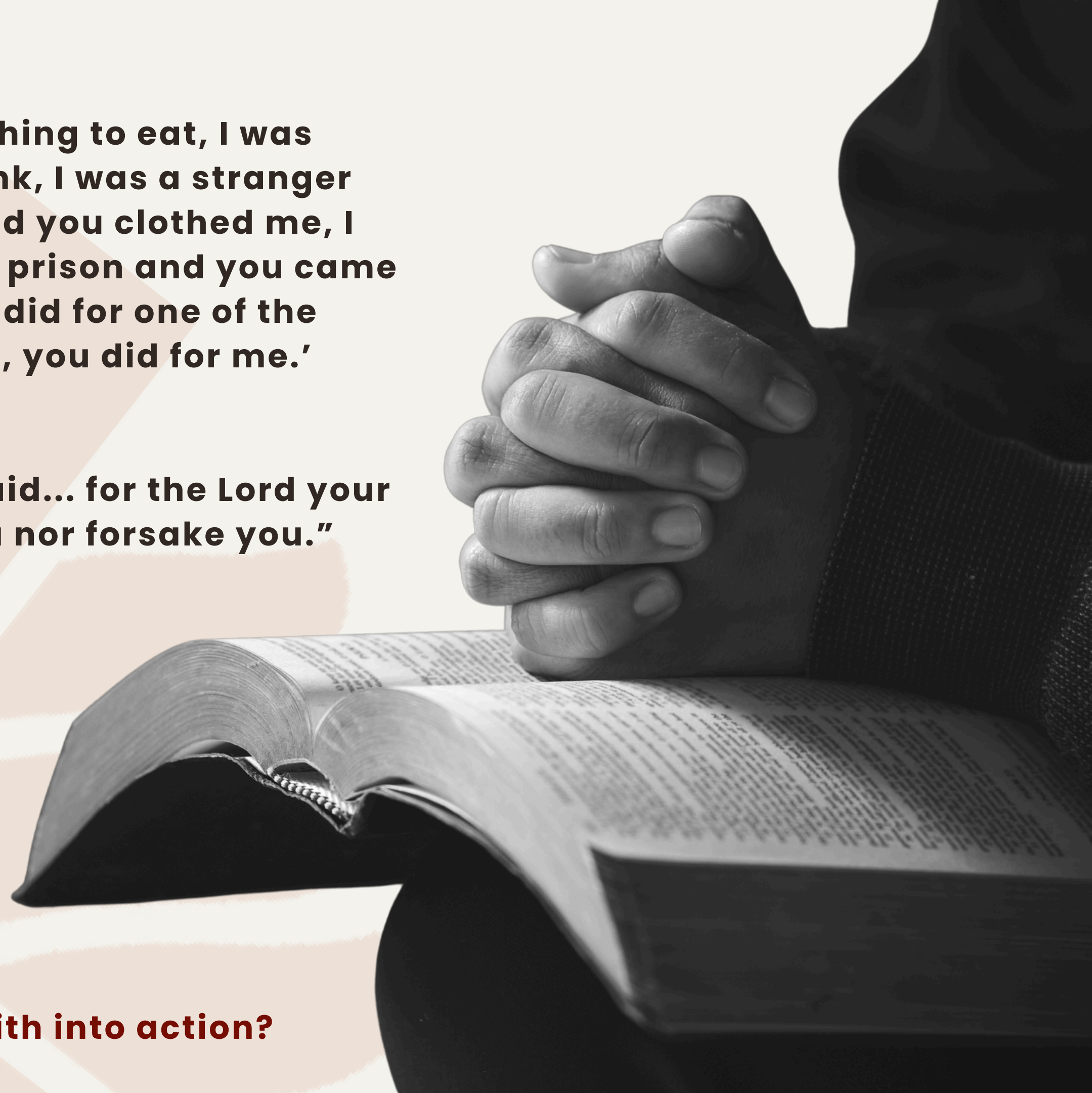
THEME

We read in the Gospel of Matthew:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

And in the Book of Deuteronomy, we hear:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”



How can we be courageous and put our faith into action?



In the Scripture we just read, we heard of how to put our faith into action in small but powerful ways. Simple Acts are everyday actions we can all do to stand with refugees and make new connections in our communities.

Small acts of kindness, conversation, and understanding can help people feel welcomed and included. They also help us grow personally by broadening our perspectives, building empathy, and deepening our understanding of others.

SIMPLE ACTS



- **Courageous conversations** help us speak honestly, share values, and listen to one another to build understanding.



- **Walk and talk together**, speak openly, listen attentively, and discover new perspectives.



- **Nature** shows us how connection, trust, and collaboration help all life thrive together.



- **Books and stories** help us see new perspectives, challenge assumptions, and build empathy.



THROUGHOUT HISTORY, SOCIETY HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED BY THOSE WILLING TO SHOW COURAGE AND SPEAK OUT AGAINST INJUSTICE

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS IN RELATION TO OUR OWN LIVES...



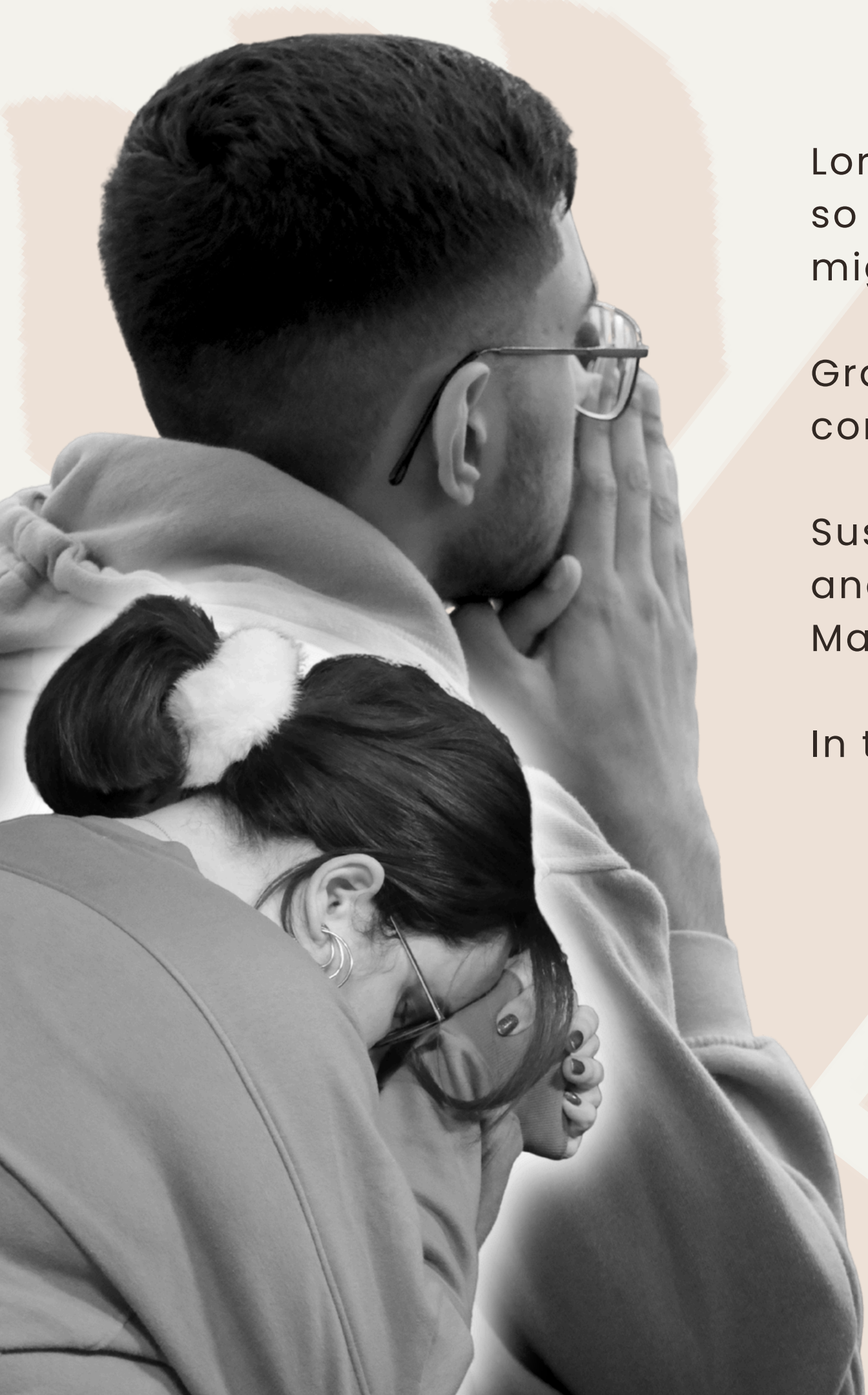
We asked some secondary school students:

What does 'courage' mean to you?

**What does
'courage' mean
to you?**

- What does courage mean to you?
- When has someone else's act of courage been important for you?
- Where do you see courage in others around you each day?

**TOMORROW TAKE A
MOMENT TO REFLECT**



Lord, grant us the grace to work tirelessly for justice, solidarity, and peace so that all Your children may enjoy the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.

Grant us the courage to speak out against the horrors of our world and to combat every injustice that destroys the beauty of our common home.

Sustain us by the power of Your Spirit so that we can reflect Your love and welcome every migrant whom You place in our path. May we be reflections of You and foster a culture of encounter and care.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

**LET US
PRAY**

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