

January 6, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

# *Daily Reflections*

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHRISTMAS

Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg

## ALL ARE WELCOME

By Julie Mussché

*“No one must be excluded. God’s plan is essentially inclusive and gives priority to those living on the existential peripheries. Among them are many migrants and refugees, displaced persons, and victims of trafficking. The Kingdom of God is to be built with them, for without them it would not be the Kingdom that God wants. The inclusion of those most vulnerable is the necessary condition for full citizenship in God’s Kingdom.”*

**POPE FRANCIS**

**“Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees”**

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## Reflection

Many a January I spent time in the desert welcoming in the New Year. Sometimes camping, other times staying with friends or passing through California, Arizona, Nevada—or Algeria and Niger—the desert is a compelling place to be during times of passage. Vast and barren with unique flora and

fauna, windy, cold, and stark, it is certainly not a place one desires to travel without shelter or reasonable transportation.

Reflecting lately, I can't help but wonder what it must have been like for the Holy Family having to flee Bethlehem and make their way to Egypt. Positioning ourselves liturgically, the young family would have been about nine days along in their journey, or perhaps 90-100 miles into their trek, with many miles and days to travel ahead. Conceivably, the route taken would have included hilly and arid terrain, and the peril of wild animals or bandits. Yet, they were literally escaping for their lives, with their child marked for execution, refugees escaping the hateful actions of power-hungry ruler.

Were they welcomed warmly and generously as commanded by Torah? Made to feel as if they were a part of the community? Or were they separated and detained, indefinitely held captive; or were they heartlessly shipped off to an undisclosed location, left adrift and lacking resources to survive? I certainly hope that is not how Jesus and his mom and dad were treated. What about now?



Death Valley, CA, in the Winter  
Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ

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### For Pondering

You are invited to spend a moment with the following passage. Just sit with it and hold it in your heart as the words pass through:

*“Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the Kingdom prepared for*

*you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.”*

**MATTHEW 25:34-36**

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### **For Prayer**

*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.*

**POPE FRANCIS**

**Rome, Saint John Lateran, 9 May 2022**

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