

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"EVEN ONE OF THESE CHILDREN"



112th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people should have writing materials available, specifically sheets of paper, markers, pens, erasers, and colored pencils. The program begins with an opening prayer (This can be spontaneous or the prayer of the day).

1. **Each young person introduces themselves, stating their name, their country or region of origin, and one thing they appreciate about their own culture.**
2. **Reading of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew 18:1-5,** followed by a brief discussion on the presence and importance of children and vulnerable people in the community.



3. Our Round Table



To facilitate a discussion or a time of sharing based on this photograph, here are three main themes for reflection:

Theme A: "Sharing our stories" (Welcoming vulnerability)

The question of dialogue: look at the faces. The expressions show empathy and seriousness, but also warm smiles.

- **Question for the young people:** "Is it easy today to sit down with someone who has a life story completely different from our own and listen to them without prejudice? What kind of inner attitude does this require?"

Theme B: "Building the future" (From welcome to collaboration)

Active inclusion: these young people do not simply "coexist" in the same space; they work together.

- **Question for the young people:** "Does welcoming a migrant or a refugee mean only offering them shelter and food, or does it also mean offering them a space where they can become active participants in our society? How can we - in our daily lives (at school, in sports clubs, at the parish, or in the neighborhood) - build projects with them, rather than just for them?"

Axis C: The Tree and the Environment (The Protective Environment)

The symbol of the tree: The group is gathered beneath a large tree in the center of a green space - perhaps a courtyard or a community garden. The tree symbolizes life, roots (sometimes left behind), and branches reaching toward the sky (the future).

- **Question for the young people:** "What role does our community (our school, our youth group) play? Are we this warm, protective 'tree' that allows others to pause safely, grow, and rebuild their lives?"

Axis C: The Tree and the Environment (The Protective Environment)

The symbol of the tree: The group is gathered beneath a large tree in the center of a green space—perhaps a courtyard or a community garden. The tree symbolizes life, roots (sometimes left behind), and branches reaching toward the sky (the future).

- **Question for the young people:** "What role does our community (our school, our youth group) play? Are we this warm, protective 'tree' that allows others to pause safely, grow, and rebuild their lives?"

4. Creative writing

Ask each young person to choose one of the characters in the photograph. For 5 minutes, have them written in the first person: "Who am I? Where do I come from? What am I telling the group at this very moment?"

Sharing

Read out some of these imagined stories. This helps develop empathy and gives words and emotions to realities that sometimes remain abstract.

Concrete commitment

Using the notebook on the table as a starting point, ask the group to list three concrete local actions that can be taken to foster integration or raise awareness about the situation of migrant and refugee children in their own community.

5. Small-group activity: Young people identify the main challenges faced by migrant and refugee children during their journeys and in the places where they live.

6. **Facilitator's presentation** on the various forms of support young people can offer migrant and refugee children: welcoming, listening, protection, accompaniment, and sharing.
7. **Presenting the situation through role-play:** Participants act out various scenarios involving a migrant or refugee child, a host family, local young people, and those who come to their aid.
8. **Creative activity:** Each group creates a poster or drawing representing a concrete gesture of welcome and solidarity towards a migrant or refugee child.
9. **Group cooperation game:** An activity that allows young people to work together, overcome differences, and value mutual aid, unity, and friendship—for example, a soccer match.
10. **Personal and community commitment:** Each young person chooses a concrete action they can take to welcome, protect, accompany, or support a migrant or refugee child in their own community.

11. Closing prayer:

Lord Jesus, we entrust all migrant and refugee children to You.

Protect them on their journey and grant them peace, safety, and hope.

Open our hearts so that we may welcome every child with love, recognizing Your presence in them.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, accompany and protect all children who are far from their home.

Make us instruments of your love and mercy.

Amen.

