

On May 24, 2013, the Holy Father received the participants in the plenary session of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People. The theme of their meeting was "Welcoming Christ in Refugees and forcibly displaced Persons". In his address, Pope Francis said that "the Church is Mother, and her maternal attention manifests itself with particular tenderness and closeness toward those who are forced to flee their native countries." He called human trafficking "a despicable activity, a disgrace for our societies".

[Link to the Pope's message](#)