



**Nine Immigration Themed Resources for Lent—
Encouraging Faith Commitments in Solidarity with Refugees & Immigrants
Focus: Combating Islamophobia & the Muslim Ban**

Scripture: “He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity/One of those from whom men hid their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.” *Isaiah 52:3*



Reflection: Christians call this day of crucifixion and death “Good” because Jesus, Incarnate Son of God, took on terrible suffering out of love for ALL God’s people, no exceptions. The prophet Isaiah foretells what God’s Suffering Servant will endure. Jesus is able to identify with human suffering, including what Muslims undergo today: hateful rhetoric and actions, suspicion, misunderstanding and false identification with terrorists. Many families are separated by refugee and Muslim travel bans. The followers of Jesus were not able to save him from suffering and death; rather they were to carry on his mission of love--sharing in the suffering of others and acting on their behalf. This mission is passed on to Christians today. We must stand with our Muslim sisters and brothers, denouncing hate and embracing them with love.

Story: Arwa is an American Muslim living in the Bay Area. She relates: “Recently, my sister who’s a Yemeni citizen interviewed at the US embassy in Malaysia and everything went well until she received a letter denying her and her family visa based on Donald Trump’s ban. My family is heartbroken. Oh, did I mention that my father, a US citizen since the 70’s, filed this application on my behalf of my sister back in 2003? I am beyond heartbroken because I know the only reason my sister was denied a visa is because of the Muslim ban.” See other stories, many also heartbreaking, at <https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights/living-muslim-ban>.

“My family is heartbroken.”

Actions/Resources:

- ⇒ Since the Trump Administration issued Executive Orders on January 27, 2017 banning individuals from seven Muslim-majority countries, anti-Muslim rhetoric has led to increased hate crimes and local and state policies targeting Muslim communities. Learn more about the impact of the Muslim bans at www.nomuslimbanever.com.
- ⇒ Call Congress at: 1-866-961-4293 to register your concerns about the Muslim and refugee bans. See a sample script at <http://www.rcusa.org/advocate-now/>.
- ⇒ Learn more about Shoulder to Shoulder, an interfaith coalition of faith leaders working to address anti-Muslim bigotry and build inclusive communities: www.shouldertoshouldercampaign.org.
- ⇒ Some Christian churches and organizations have linked with a nearby Mosque to build relationships. Make a connection in your area and host a multicultural dinner or gathering. See guidance on participating in an “Interfaith Iftar” on the Refugeesarewelcome.org website at: <http://bit.ly/2nY07OI>.
- ⇒ Obtain a DVD titled “The Sultan and the Saint,” produced by UPF Muslim film company about the meeting of St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan of Egypt Malik Al-Kamil during the 5th Crusade; a Christian and a Muslim who took risk for peace, offering a model for us today. Discussion guide available at: <https://franciscanaction.org/article/purchase-sultan-and-saint-dvd-and-guide>.

Prayer: “O God, You are peace. From you comes peace; to You returns peace. Revive us with a salutation of peace, and lead us to your abode of peace.” *Amen.* (a Muslim prayer)

**INTERFAITH
IMMIGRATION
COALITION**

*Devotion by Sister Marie Lucey, Franciscan Action Network
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