

NEWS FOR OUR PARTNERS

Effective 1 January 2023, the Migrants and Refugees Section is completely integrated into the new structure of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, with the hope of providing an ever more efficacious service to local Churches.

With the Apostolic Letter *Humanam progressionem* of 17 August 2016, Pope Francis established the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. It emerged from the amalgamation of the Pontifical Councils 'for Justice and Peace,' 'Cor Unum,' 'for the Pastoral Care for Migrants and Itinerant People,' and "for the Pastoral Care of Health Care Workers.' In the statutes of the new Dicastery, approved *ad experimentum*, Pope Francis stated that a Section of the Dicastery would deal specifically with issues concerning migrants and refugees. This Section was placed *ad tempus* under the direct leadership of the Supreme Pontiff. For six years, the Migrants and Refugees Section operated within the Dicastery, receiving instructions and guidance directly from the Holy Father.

Now, on the basis of the recommendations prepared by the commission in charge of evaluating the work of the Dicastery in the summer of 2021 and after consultations with the superiors concerned, Pope Francis has provided for the Migrants and Refugees Section be fully integrated into the new structure of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The integration of the Migrants and Refugees Section into the Dicastery also responds to the Holy Father's desire to ensure an integrated and integral approach to issues concerning human development, in view of the ever-increasing interconnectedness of the processes and phenomena that characterize our contemporary era. In the current scenario, in fact, it makes less and less sense to separate human mobility from ecology, economics, health, and security.

Accordingly, as of 1 January 2023, all the activities and prerogatives of the Migrants and Refugees Section flow into the new configuration of the Dicastery, without any detriment to the service hitherto offered by the Section to the Holy Father and the local Churches. To ensure this operational continuity, Fr. Fabio Baggio, Undersecretary of the Dicastery, remains responsible for migration issues, in harmony with the essential mission of the Dicastery: service to integral human development.