



Diocese of Youngstown Catholic Charities Corporation

144 West Wood Street
Youngstown, OH 44503
330-744-8451

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Reverend and Dear Monsignor/Father:

A few of you have reached out to me over the past several weeks, asking what your parish community can do to assist with the resettlement of Afghan refugees in Northeastern Ohio. As you know, the Diocese of Youngstown does not sponsor a refugee resettlement program at the present time. However, the Diocese of Cleveland operates a very robust resettlement program that has seen activity skyrocket over the past couple of months with the arrival of approximately 20,000 refugees to the United States from Afghanistan.

I reached out to my colleagues in the Diocese of Cleveland and compiled the following list of ways we can live out our call to “welcome the stranger.” These suggestions are also included on the attached flyer, which can be used as a bulletin insert or posted on your parish bulletin board:

- **Pray:** The Jesuit Refugee Services has a Novena for Refugees that can be shared with your parishioners. https://www.jrsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/09/A-Novena-for-Refugees-English_v1.pdf
- **Volunteer:** A variety of volunteer opportunities are available through the Diocese of Cleveland. Complete the volunteer form online by visiting <https://www.ccdocle.org/afghan-humanitarian-crisis>
- **Donate:**
 - **Financial donations** are accepted online at <https://www.ccdocle.org/afghan-humanitarian-crisis>. Checks can be made payable to “Migration and Refugee Services” and mailed to Migration and Refugee Services, 7800 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102. Please make sure to note “Afghan Crisis” or “General Donation” in the memo line of your check. **Gift cards** to local department stores, grocery stores and restaurants can help people with basic needs, such as food, clothing, health and hygiene products, and other essential items. Gift cards can be mailed to the address above.
 - **Housing** is needed—apartments, single-family homes or congregate living facilities. Call 216-939-3737 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for more information.
 - **Material Goods** are needed to get families set up in temporary and permanent housing. See the attached list of needed items (side 2 of the included flyer). Contact Hilary Lucas, Program Administrator for the Diocese of Cleveland’s Migration and Refugee Services, at 216-939-3854 for additional information or to arrange for the transfer of donated goods.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this mailing at 330-744-8451, ext. 328 or rhrbolich@youngstowndiocese.org.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and support for the ministry of Catholic Charities throughout Northeastern Ohio.

Sincerely,

Rachel A. Hrbolich

Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities

www.ccdoy.org



AFGHAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



**Catholic
Charities**
DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

Some people have to decide between fleeing their home or living in unimaginable conditions.

You only have to decide if you want to help.



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown
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Online



Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Youngstown supports our Brothers and Sisters in the Diocese of Cleveland and the important work they are doing to assist Afghan Refugees.

Blessing Bags



2021

If you would like to assemble Blessing Bags for Afghan Refugees, here are the items most requested:

Sweet Dreams Blessing Bag

2 pillows, 1 comforter (twin or double/full), 1 sheet set (twin or double/full)

Bath Time Blessing Bag

1 bath towel, 1 wash cloth, 1 hand towel, 1 bar of soap, 1 pack of disposable razors, 1 pack of toilet paper, 1 hair comb and/or brush, 1 nail clippers

Let's Get Cooking Blessing Bag

1 manual can opener, 1 set of cutting knives, 1 cutting board, 1 colander/strainer, 1 wooden spoon, 2 kitchen towels, salt and pepper shakers

Housekeeping Blessing Bag

1 toilet brush, 1 plunger, 1 pack of sponges, 1 dish soap, 1 bathroom cleanser, 1 kitchen cleanser, 1 hand held broom and dustpan, 1 bucket, 1 pack of utility towels

Out on the Line Blessing Bag

1 pack of clothing hangers, 1 bottle of laundry soap (or pods), 1 laundry basket or bag, 1 mesh laundry hamper

The Basic Essentials Blessing Bag

1 pack of toilet paper, 1 pack paper towels, 1 bar soap, 1 dish soap, 1 laundry soap, 1 toothbrush, 1 toothpaste, 1 deodorant

Staying Safe Blessing Bag

Reusable face masks, 1 pocket size sanitizer, 1 container of disinfecting wipes, 2 hand soaps

