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Pope Leo XIV Urges Church to Care for Displaced Children as Migration Commission Marks 75 Years

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"I urge you to persevere in your noble and important mission of strengthening the Church's services to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants, refugees and returnees,"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Pope Leo XIV has urged the Catholic Church to find new ways to care for displaced children, in a video message released on 10 November 2026 to the Plenary Meeting of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) in Rome. The meeting, held from 10 to 12 November, coincided with the commission's 75th anniversary, and the Pope asked its members to keep welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants, refugees and returnees. His words landed at a moment when wars, natural disasters and falling aid funding are forcing millions of people from their homes.

Picture a child of eight or nine, alone at a border post with a plastic bag holding everything she owns. She does not know the language on the signs, and she does not know who will take her in tonight. That child is the reason the Pope's message began with children, not with policy.

Pope Leo XIV ICMC Message: Displaced Children At The Centre

"I urge you to persevere in your noble and important mission of strengthening the Church's services to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants, refugees and returnees," the Pope said in the video message. He added that he prayed in particular that their efforts would "help find new ways to care for displaced children."

The number of displaced children "tragically continues to grow", the Pope said, and the answer has two halves. First, work with their countries of origin to remove the causes that compel them to flee. Second, offer them protection and welcome in the countries of transit and destination, so no child falls through the cracks between borders.

The Council that received the message brings together representatives of national Bishops' Conferences and local Churches from across the world. Its members had gathered in Rome to reflect on the global situation of human mobility and the challenges the Church faces in responding, a task that grows heavier each year, as shown by the millions still fleeing violence and persecution, as reported in Today: International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians 2026 Focuses on Bassam.

ICMC 75th Anniversary: Founded In 1951 By Pius XII, Montini And James Norris

This year marks the ICMC's 75th anniversary. It was founded in 1951 by Pope Pius XII, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini - the future Pope Paul VI - and American layman James Norris, at a time when Europe was still counting its war dead and millions of people were on the move.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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