



**The University of the West Indies**  
**St. Augustine Campus**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Education**  
**Caribbean Studies Project**  
**HUMN 3099**

Student name: Jomar Torres Rodríguez  
Student ID no.: 816018077  
Degree Program: BA THEOLOGY  
Supervisor: Sr. Katrina Charles, O. Carm

Title of Thesis:

THE SOCIAL AND PASTORAL WORK OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO WITH MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Word count: 7,080 words

**Declaration**

1. I declare that this thesis has been composed solely by myself and that it has not been submitted, in whole or in part, in any previous application for a degree. Except where stated otherwise by reference or acknowledgment, the work presented is entirely my own.
2. I authorise The University of the West Indies to make a physical or digital copy of my thesis/research paper/project report for its preservation, for public reference, and for the purpose of inter-library loan.

Signature of Student: Jomar Torres Rodríguez

Date: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
The Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies

**INDIVIDUAL PLAGIARISM DECLARATION**

This declaration is being made in accordance with the University Regulations on Plagiarism (First Degrees, Diplomas and Certificate) and should be attached to all work submitted by a student to be assessed as part of or/the entire requirement of the course, other than work submitted in an invigilated examination.

**Statement**

1. I have read the Plagiarism Regulations as set out in the Faculty Handbook and University websites related to the submission of coursework for assessment.
2. I declare that I understand that plagiarism is the use of another's work pretending that it is one's own and that it is a serious academic offence for which the University may impose severe penalties.
3. I declare that the submitted work indicated below is my own work, except where duly acknowledged and referenced.
4. I also declare that this paper has not been previously submitted for credit either in its entirety or in part within the UWI or elsewhere.
5. I understand that I may be required to submit the work in electronic form and accept that the University may check the originality of the work using a computer-based plagiarism detection service.

TITLE OF ASSIGNMENT – THE SOCIAL AND PASTORAL WORK OF THE CATHOLIC  
CHURCH IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WITH MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

COURSE CODE – HUMN 3099

COURSE TITLE - CARIBBEAN STUDIES PROJECT

STUDENT ID - 816018077

By signing this declaration, you are confirming that the work you are submitting is original and does not contain any plagiarised material.

I confirm that this assignment is my own work, and that the work of other persons has been fully acknowledged.

SIGNATURE – Jomar Torres Rodríguez

DATE - April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank God for his guidance and providence for making it possible for me to come to Trinidad and Tobago to pursue my studies in Theology and for being my strength in moments of weakness and exhaustion.

I thank my parents and family for always supporting me, for the values they have instilled in me, for all their advice and their words that have guided me throughout my life. Thank you for your unwavering trust and belief in me and for all the sacrifices you have made for me. The respect that you afforded to all my decisions is greatly appreciated.

To all the lecturers and staff of the Seminary of St. John Vianney & the Uganda Martyrs Theological Institute gracious thanks for the knowledge, dedication, patience, and support during these four years of studies. Special thanks to Dr. Adanna James who inspired me to write this thesis, and to my supervisor Sr. Katrina for her continuous support and patience during the writing of this thesis.

I thank the migrants whom I interviewed for their openness to share their experiences with me. I also thank the members of Living Water Community, AMMR, and PMMR coordinators who collaborated with their knowledge to enrich this research.

I would also like to thank Fr. Gregory Mc Lawrence, Bishop Malcolm Patrick Galt, Archbishop Joseph Harris, my confreres and all the Spiritan Fathers in Trinidad and Tobago and Puerto Rico for their essential support and for instilling in me a love and service for the poor and marginalized of society.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Norma St. Rose for her invaluable advice during the writing of this thesis.

## ACRONYMS

- AMMR- Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees
- CCSJ- Catholic Commission for Social Justice
- CEBM - Catholic Education Board of Management
- CFSs- Child Friendly Spaces
- FCCB- Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops
- IOM- International Organization for Migration
- LWC- Living Water Community
- PADF- Pan American Development Foundation
- PEBM- Presbyterian Education Board of Management
- PMMRs- Parish Ministries for Migrants and Refugees
- RC- Roman Catholic
- UNFPA- United Nations Population Fund
- UNHCR- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNICEF- United Nations Children's Fund
- USAID- United States Agency for International Development's
- TTVSOLNET- Trinidad y Tobago Venezuela Solidarity Network
- WDMR- World Day of Migrants and Refugees

## ABSTRACT

Aware of the reality faced by migrants and refugees in Trinidad and Tobago, the Catholic Church has taken on the task of responding to and assisting them in their social, pastoral, and spiritual needs. Based on the values and principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church, synthesised in welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating, the Catholic Church has assumed her evangelical mission to bring them the message of love, charity, justice, and communion. This study highlights the social and pastoral work of the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago with migrants and refugees. The Archdiocesan Migrant and Refugee Ministries and the Living Water Community are the main ministries responsible for providing care and resources to these vulnerable brothers and sisters. These ministries provide a range of services and support to ensure their personal safety and basic rights, and their participation and integration into parish communities and society.

**Key Words:** Migrants and Refugees; pastoral; social work; justice; integration; Catholic Church

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	i
ACRONYMS .....	ii
ABSTRACT .....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	iv
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	vi
INTRODUCTION .....	1
Rationale.....	3
Parameters .....	3
Objectives of the study .....	4
Methodology .....	4
Chapter Outline .....	4
CHAPTER I: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	6
CHAPTER II: MINISTRIES FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES.....	9
Living Water Community Ministry for Migrants and Refugees (LWC’s MMR) .....	9
A. Reception and case management services.....	10
B. Legal protection programs .....	10
C. Education Programs .....	10
D. Psychosocial Team.....	11
E. Food Assistance.....	11
Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees (AMMR) and Parish Ministries for Migrants and Refugees (PMMRs).....	12
CHAPTER III: INTEGRATION INTO PARISH COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETY.....	16

Integration of children ..... 17

    Alternative Care Programme ..... 17

    Access to Education..... 18

    Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) ..... 19

Parish Activities for Migrants and Refugees..... 20

Hispanic Ministry ..... 21

Social media ..... 22

CONCLUSION..... 23

Works Cited ..... 25

Appendix A: Questionnaires..... A

Appendix B: Figures .....a

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Questionnaires.....	A
1. Interview questions to LWC, AMMR, and PMMRs leaders and coordinators.....	A
2. Interview questions to migrants and refugees.....	A
3. List of interviewees and their designations.....	B
Appendix B: Figures .....	a
Figure 1: Map of Parish Ministries for Migrants and Refugees in Trinidad and Tobago ...	a
Figure 2: Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees’ Team .....	b
Figure 3: Refugee Day, La Divina Pastora RC Church, Siparia.....	c
Figure 4: Refugee Day St. Francis of Assisi RC Church, Erin.....	d
Figure 5: Refugee Day St. Dominic RC Church, Penal.....	e
Figure 6: Community Health Clinic for Migrants & Refugees .....	f
Figure 7: Stations of the Cross Online .....	g
Figure 8: Spanish Holy Mass Celebration .....	h
Figure 9: Bilingual Divine Mercy Chaplet .....	i
Figure 10: Bilingual Rosary .....	j
Figure 11: LWC webinars and workshops.....	k

## INTRODUCTION

The migratory phenomenon is a great challenge and a concern worldwide. The Catholic Church considers this to be a critical area of interest in its mandate of pastoral care. First, it is important to make a distinction between refugees and migrants. “A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, violence or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order, and who, as a result, require international protection” (AMMR, “Toolkit 1” 7). Migrants on the other hand, “choose to move not because of a direct threat of persecution or death, but mainly to improve their lives by finding work, or in some cases for education, family reunion, or other reasons” (LWC, “FAQ”).

Pope Francis has stated, “Migrants are our brothers and sisters who seek a better life away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unfair distribution of the planet's resources, which should be divided equally among all” (“WDMR 102<sup>nd</sup>”). Based on the teachings of the Holy Scriptures and the traditions of the social doctrine of the Church, the Catholic Church must raise its voice, to defend and protect its marginalized children who are discriminated against, persecuted and whose rights and human dignity are not respected (FCCB 1). It is also the responsibility of the Church to “help build bridges, show compassion and hospitality and ensure that migrants and refugees in need of protection and support are treated according to international standards” (AMMR, “Toolkit 2” 3).

The Church is motivated by the love and mercy of Jesus in his teachings as recorded in Matthew 25: 35-36: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me” (RSV). She is obedient to this mission as she offers her

love, help and support to migrants and refugees, recognizing in them their dignity as persons and as children of God (Cor Unum 3).

“In Trinidad and Tobago, there are migrants and refugees from over 20 countries, including Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Bangladesh, Jamaica, Colombia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Congo, Mali, Sudan and Uganda” (AMMR, “Toolkit 2” 2-3). From 2017 to the present, there has been a drastic increase in Venezuelans migrating to Trinidad and Tobago (Nakhid). “Based on data from the Regional Inter-Agency Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) over 28,500 Venezuelan refugees and migrants are living in Trinidad and Tobago up to January this year [2022]” (De Silva).

As indicated by most of the Venezuelans interviewed, Venezuela is a country where the current political, economic, and social situation has generated critical processes of human rights violations and corruption. According to them, the violation of their human rights was reflected in the deprivation of freedom of expression, poor access to health and food services, lack of employment, inflation, restrictions in banking abroad, and energy crises.

Pope emeritus Benedict XVI affirmed that the Church is the family of God in the world and in this family, there should be no one who suffers for lack of what is necessary (DCE, n. 25). For this reason, the Catholic Church asserts that before meeting the spiritual needs of these people it is necessary to satisfy their physical needs and basic services. This echoes the teaching of Pope John XXIII in his Encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, “Every human being has the right to existence, to physical integrity, to the indispensable means for a decent standard of living, especially as regards food, clothing, housing, rest, medical attention and the necessary social services” (11).

For more than thirty years the Catholic Lay Ecclesial Community, Living Water Community has dedicated itself to assisting and advocating for the rights of migrants and refugees (Maingot). In 2013, they established the first migrant and refugee ministry in Trinidad and Tobago

(Nakhid). In 2018, the Archbishop of Port of Spain, Charles Jason Gordon, also established an Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees to ensure that these brothers and sisters are treated with compassion, justice with a deep respect for their rights, as they are integrated into the parish communities to contribute to the development of the church community and society generally (Pierre, “Interview”). In this way, the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago is committed to, and has responded enthusiastically to Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate migrants and refugees.

### **Rationale**

This study aims to raise awareness of the social and pastoral work carried out by the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago with migrants and refugees. Within the migrant community, due to their large numbers, Venezuelans are the most negatively affected. The Catholic Church, in embracing her evangelical mission to bring them the message of charity and justice is committed to welcoming, protecting and accompanying them as they seek a better life. The main aim is to create an enabling environment so that these migrants and refugees can be integrated into society and live dignified life. It is hoped that this study will also serve as a tool of influence and instruction for parishes that do not yet have a migrant and refugee ministry.

### **Parameters**

This study focuses on the social and pastoral work carried out by the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago with migrants and refugees. It is hoped that the findings will help to reflect on solutions that the Church can offer to similar challenges in other parts of the world. The data presented in this work is extracted from interviews and the toolkits and directory developed for the CCSJ, AMMR, LWC and UNHCR.

## **Objectives of the study**

The main objective of this work is to highlight the social and pastoral work carried out by the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago with migrants and refugees. In this way, the entire population and especially migrants and refugees can be aware of all the aid and services that the Catholic Church offers for the reception, protection, and integration of migrants and refugees and to address their basic needs. It is also hoped that it would provide Trinidadians and Tobagonians with a basic knowledge of the needs and rights of refugees and migrants and encourage them to work together on solutions to these challenges.

## **Methodology**

The study is qualitative and exploratory. For this, an approach was made to three representatives of the Living Water Community, four coordinators of the CCSJ/AMMR, three members of the Hispanic Ministry and 23 migrants: 21 Venezuelans, one Colombian and one Cuban; to establish a space for dialogue, through interviews conducted through phone calls, video calls and face-to-face meetings.

## **Chapter Outline**

There are three chapters in this study. Chapter one presents the Literature Review, where the bibliographic and theoretical background of the eight messages of Pope Francis for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, the AMMR Toolkits, the AMMR 2021 directory and *The Advocate* magazine are presented. The second chapter deals with the social work carried out by the Living Water Ministry for Migrants & Refugees and the Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants & Refugees (AMMR), under the ambit Catholic Commission for Social Justice (CCSJ). The services that these ministries offer to meet the needs and respect the rights and dignity

of migrants and refugees will be described. Chapter three deals with the pastoral work of the Catholic Church and the activities of integration of migrants and refugees in the Archdiocese and the parish communities. Finally, the main conclusions of the study are presented.

## CHAPTER I: LITERATURE REVIEW

Not much literature is available on the pastoral and social work of the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago with migrants and refugees. However, there are Church documents that inspired and contributed to the creation of various ministries at the archdiocesan and parish level that are currently managing this mission. Pope Francis has written eight messages for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. In them, the Pope points out how migration has become a global crisis. He reiterates that it is no longer a question of people leaving their countries for better job opportunities or studies, but they are forced to leave their countries in the hope of having peace, seeking security and a search for better living conditions for their families. Food shortages, deterioration of public services, unemployment, insecurity, violence, and political persecution also contribute to the migration (Pope Francis, “WDMR 102<sup>nd</sup>”; “WDMR 103<sup>rd</sup>”). The local population very often feel threatened by the migratory waves, and as a result migrants and refugees become victims of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, injustices, marginalization, and other negative judgments (Pope Francis, “WDMR 100<sup>th</sup>”; “WDMR 105<sup>th</sup>”).

Pope Francis also stated that by showing interest in migrants and refugees, one shows interest in oneself since they are all parts of the same human family (“WDMR 107<sup>th</sup>”) and in each one of them one should see the face of Jesus (“WDMR 104<sup>th</sup>”). All humanity as one family is called to carry out together God's plan of love and salvation for the world (Pope Francis, “WDMR 105<sup>th</sup>”). Pope Francis calls on all humanity to be committed to welcoming foreigners, watching over one another, breaking down the barriers that create division and not looking at them as “others” but as part of a “we”, to grow as a Church, to enrich each other (“WDMR 100<sup>th</sup>”; “WDMR 101<sup>st</sup>”; “WDMR 105<sup>th</sup>”; “WDMR 106<sup>th</sup>”).

Another document that was the basis for the creation of these ministries was the encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” of Pope Francis. This Encyclical aims to promote fraternity and solidarity, recognizing the dignity of each person. It must be accepted that the human being as the son and daughter of God, created in his image and likeness, possesses a dignity that no one, or anything, can take away from him/ her (*Fratelli Tutti* 22). No other human being has the right to violate that dignity granted in the love of God. Therefore, every abuse, injustice, or mistreatment of a human being is an offence to God (*Fratelli Tutti* 24-27).

In the face of the very serious offences and violations that human beings commit throughout the world, it is necessary to recall that charity, the promotion, and integral liberation of people to promote the transformation of reality into a more just, supportive, and fraternal one, are the centre and purpose of the Social Doctrine of the Church (*Fratelli Tutti* 1, 87, 94, 181). Like all brothers and sisters, the Pope exhorts Christians to show with fraternal and solidarity actions a love without borders, open to humanitarian crises, especially to those who face the difficult process of acceptance and reception in other countries due to migratory conflict (*Fratelli Tutti* 127, 152, 169, 205). The love and actions of Christians must favour the processes of reception, promotion, protection and integration of migrants and refugees. In this way, this encyclical lays the foundations for the pastoral and social work that the Archdiocese of Port of Spain intends to carry out with the migrant and refugee communities in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees Toolkits are excellent resources developed by AMMR, in conjunction with the Living Water Community and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that describe the needs and rights of refugees and migrants in Trinidad and Tobago (AMMR, “Toolkit 1” 6). The first toolkit helps educate both the local community, migrants, and refugees to respond to the call of Pope Francis in the development of

strategies to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate migrants and refugees (5). In it, one can find answers to basic questions about refugees and migrants in Trinidad and Tobago (7-12). It also offers suggestions and recommendations on how to prepare parish communities to commit to welcoming and helping migrants and refugees within their communities. Finally, it provides activities and suggestions for integration and contact information where they can receive different types of help in Trinidad and Tobago (16-24).

In the second volume of the AMMR Toolkit, resources are provided to support the Parish Ministries for Migrants and Refugees (PMMRs). There are also guidelines on how to welcome and integrate migrants into parish communities (7-18). Along with other agencies, such as IOM, PADF, UNHCR, UNICEF and USAID the AMMR provided training to PMMRs to “respect the right to privacy, human dignity and well-being of migrants; ensure their safety and non-discrimination” (AMMR, “Toolkit 2” 11). Finally, the toolkit presents some engagement ideas to enhance PMMRs and some links where one can find information and other resources for developing migrant and refugee ministry in local parish communities (19-38).

CCSJ/AMMR also created a magazine called *The Advocate*. It provides general information about migrants and refugees, messages from Pope Francis for the WDMR, Archbishop Jason Gordon, the Chair of the CCSJ/AMMR and its coordinators. The second issue of *The Advocate* provides a section where fifteen migrants or refugees tell of their experiences of life in Trinidad and Tobago and a PMMR coordinator tells of her experience in this ministry (20-34). The issue also has a classified section promoting the legal services and skills of migrants to support their integration and contribution to the local community (35-37).

## **CHAPTER II: MINISTRIES FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

### **Living Water Community Ministry for Migrants and Refugees (LWC's MMR)**

In Trinidad and Tobago, the social and pastoral work of the Catholic Church towards migrants and refugees has arguably taken many years to develop. However, the pioneers in this venture were the members of the Living Water Community (LWC). According to their founder and director, Ms. Rhonda Maingot, this local NGO has been working tirelessly with refugees for almost thirty years. However, it was not until 2013 that the Migrants and Refugee Ministry was officially established, with Ms. Rochelle Nakhid as the ministry coordinator (Nakhid).

As reported by Nakhid, this ministry arose due to the large increase in asylum seekers who arrived in Trinidad and Tobago in 2013, especially Cuban nationals. As a result of this increase, the UNHCR required the LWC to comply with several more formal requirements to continue serving and assisting migrants and refugees. The Ministry began by offering basic humanitarian assistance and gradually added more services (Maingot). At present, the Ministry for Migrants and Refugees is the largest staffed ministry within this Catholic Lay Ecclesial Community, with approximately 20-30 teachers, 4 lawyers, several counsellors and volunteers (Maingot).

The ministry for Migrants and Refugees is guided by the teachings and tradition of Catholic social teaching and international human rights (LWC, "FAQ"). Over the years the works have changed, however, the pastoral and social aspect of its mission and its commitment to the defence of the human rights of migrants and refugees have been maintained (Maingot). "It aims to ensure that the rights of all refugees and asylum seekers, regardless of their nationality, are respected; that they are given equal opportunity to access all services; that they are empowered, and that they can lead a life of dignity in Trinidad and Tobago" (Aguilera-Hay).

“The LWC’s Ministry for Migrants and Refugees has been characterised as the right hand of UNHCR as its implementing partner in Trinidad and Tobago” (Nakhid). Aguilera-Hay stated that “the Ministry offers multiple social services including emergency assistance, legal orientation, health services, education, housing, documentation, security, and food assistance for asylum seekers and refugees”.

#### **A. Reception and case management services**

LWC oversees pre-registration for asylum applications and case management of migrants and refugees with UNHCR (Maingot; Nakhid). The ministry also orients and refers them to the different services offered by the Catholic Church and other civil organisations according to their needs (Nakhid).

#### **B. Legal protection programs**

The legal department offers legal advice and is responsible for ensuring that migrants and refugees know their rights and can access protection services, these are mainly for the most vulnerable such as children, survivors of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, pregnant people, and LGBT (Nakhid).

#### **C. Education Programs**

This department provides educational services to children and adults. According to Aguilera-Hay, staff offer support and advice to parents/caregivers to stimulate the development of their children. They also advise expectant and new parents on proper nutrition and feeding practices before and after giving birth, and prepare children ages 3-4 for formal education programs formal (Aguilera-Hay). In addition, they offer primary and secondary education to

school children through online learning platforms that provide synchronous and asynchronous classes, and employ content and language integrated learning methodology (Aguilera-Hay).

#### **D. Psychosocial Team**

This ministry also offers psychological support in both English and Spanish to children and adults (Aguilera-Hay). Counselling is done virtually through teleconferencing via WhatsApp, Google Meet and Zoom (InfoSpott). According to Aguilera-Hay, in the case of migrants and refugees who are victims of trauma, sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence, Living Water Community's psychosocial team refers them to the Rape Crisis Society (RCSTT). The psychosocial team also works in partnership with other organisations such as ChildLine, Families in Action and Groots Trinidad and Tobago (InfoSpott).

#### **E. Food Assistance**

Migrants and refugees can apply to the LWC for food assistance by email or WhatsApp (Aguilera-Hay; Maingot). However, this service is usually offered only once for most people as indicated by Mrs. Maingot. The ministry distributes food through parishes or vouchers in participating supermarkets (Aguilera-Hay).

According to its website, the work of the ministry for Migrants and Refugees can be defined as 40% social services, 40% asylum assistance and 20% legal advice. Also, the ministry works very closely with the AMMR, PMMRs, CEBM, the PEBM, the Ministry of Education, other local NGOs and their primary donors, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, PADF, IOM, USAID (Aguilera-Hay; Maingot; Nakhid).

## **Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees (AMMR) and Parish Ministries for Migrants and Refugees (PMMRs)**

As previously mentioned, an exodus of Venezuelans to Trinidad and Tobago began in 2017 due to the political, social, and economic situation in Venezuela under the regime of President Nicolás Maduro. This drastic increase in migrants caught the attention of the Archbishop of Port of Spain, Charles Jason Gordon, who, in response to Pope Francis' call in the Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees in January 2018, asked the Catholic Commission for Social Justice to lead a ministry for migrants and refugees in the archdiocese (CatholicTT; Ramdeen 3). This ministry was tasked with establishing parish ministries for Migrants and Refugees to address their needs and provide for their safety, respect, and well-being (Ramdeen 3).

“Archbishop Jason made it clear that as Catholics we are called to care for migrants and refugees, we need to welcome them and ensure that they are treated with the dignity and decency they deserve” (Ramdeen 3). The archbishop reiterated Pope Francis' exhortation that all humanity is interconnected. He stated:

Our dignity is connected, if their dignity is trampled upon, mine becomes tarnished. For this reason, we work [in the Archdiocese of Port of Spain] to meet the needs of those who come to our shores seeking peace; seeking a better life, and this includes encouraging our government to look again at the legal and practical implications of not ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. (qtd. in Ramdeen 3-4)

The Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees was officially launched in June 2018 (Pierre, “Interview”). Its pastoral team comprises Leela Ramdeen, Darrion Narine, Shelly-Ann Simon, Matthew Pierre, Dominique Heffes-Doon and Marcia Faustin-Walker (See Figure 2;

Pierre, *St. John the Baptist* 9). This ministry is led by Leela Ramdeen, who is also the Chair of the CCSJ. In collaboration with this team are Father Simon Peter Ango and from the Living Water Community, Rhonda Maingot, and Rochelle Nakhid (“AMMR Toolkit 1” 5). Collectively, the PMMRs form the AMMR, and together with the LWC's Migrant and Refugee Ministry are the primary means by which the Catholic Church provides social and pastoral care to migrants and refugees in Trinidad and Tobago (Pierre et al. 5). “At the moment, 27 of the 61 Catholic parishes in Trinidad and Tobago have established Parish Ministries for Migrants and Refugees (see Figure 1), whose voluntary members seek to meet the varied needs of migrants and refugees” (Ramdeen 3).

“The PMMRs were established because of the concern of those who, witnessing the suffering and hardship faced by migrants in Trinidad and Tobago, offered their time and resources to serve their brothers and sisters in need” (Albornoz). Such was the case of Matthew Pierre, Ruth Albornoz, Cristina John and all the coordinators of this ministry. These volunteers, guided by the Christian values of love and compassion, took on the mission of bringing migrants and refugees the Good News of love, by welcoming, accompanying, protecting them, and enabling their integration into society. As Pierre writes in *The Advocate*, “The AMMR for our part continue to do our duty as a faithfully Catholic organization, to serve the needs of humanity for the love of Christ, even with the challenges and constraints faced on our operations because of the pandemic” (*St. Francis de Sales* 6).

Each PMMR determines its focus, services and charism to help the migrants and refugees, and each is distinctly Catholic in its identity, vocation, and work (Pierre et al. 5). Also, all PMMRs follow the four pillars suggested by Pope Francis: welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees. In the task of welcoming and protecting, the PMMRs seek to

offer help so that migrants and refugees enter the country safely and legally (“AMMR Toolkit 2” 7). Also, they have continuously offered food, clothing, education, counselling, legal aid clinics, health fairs, seminars (see Figure 11) and psycho-social and spiritual support to migrants and refugees (“AMMR Toolkit 2” 8). In this way, they promote the social justice teachings of the church through word and action (Pierre et al. 5).

One of the first PMMRs to develop and currently one of the most active and largest ministries within the AMMR network is St. Dominic's R.C. Migrants and Refugees Ministry (Pierre et al. 19). This ministry began in 2018 offering basic humanitarian aid as part of another ministry, Food for the Poor (John). According to its director, Mrs. Cristina John, in 2019 there was a significant increase in the number of migrants who began to enter Trinidad illegally through the Port of Cedros, and who remained in the southwest of the island of Trinidad homeless and in great need.

In March 2019 the Ministry of Migrants and Refugees of Penal became independent and began to incorporate more services such as housing, feeding, healthcare and education for children in collaboration with St. Martin De Porres RC Church of Morne Diablo (Pierre et al. 19). This ministry is not only committed to migrants but also 50% of all the aid they receive is offered to poor families in the communities (John).

According to Cristina John, one of the great difficulties faced by PMMRs in the southwest area of Trinidad is dealing with Warao migrants due to the difference in language and culture. The Warao are indigenous people who live in stilt houses in Venezuela's Orinoco Delta region (John). These indigenous people have migrated to Trinidad and live in abandoned houses in extreme poverty, mainly on the shores of Icacos and Cedros (Tosca). According to Father Tosca, this group of indigenous people find it difficult to integrate into the local community in Trinidad because of

their way of life, the fact that they do not speak English or Spanish, and their lack of inculturation. With the help of the LWC, some Warao families were taken to a shelter in Arima, and another group remained in Penal (John).

A large percentage (87.5%) of the migrants interviewed before arriving in Trinidad and Tobago were unaware of most of the services and assistance offered by the Catholic Church, while 9.5% knew about them through a family member or friend and 3% through social networks. These results show that there is a need for more publicity of the services and different programmes offered by the church so that more people can enjoy and benefit from these aids. On the other hand, most of the interviewees were comfortable and very grateful for the services they have received. However, they pointed out that there is a need for more people to become involved as volunteers, especially more bilingual staff. Ministry coordinators agreed with this point and stated in an interview that this is a humanitarian task and commitment that should concern everyone, not just the government or the church (Albornoz; John; Nakhid; Pierre).

### CHAPTER III: INTEGRATION INTO PARISH COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETY

Of the four pillars suggested by Pope Francis, the last is integration. The integration of migrants and refugees within parish communities and society is essential to their self-sustainability, self-sufficiency and independence. Pope Francis stressed the importance of integration, saying that if communities and society only welcome them and do not integrate them into the community, there is a danger that they will feel alienated, rejected and abandoned (Ecclesia). This situation can create self-exclusion or division in the community on the part of refugees and migrants. For this reason, Pope Francis recommends that it is necessary to involve them, so that they can have a sense of belonging, and can contribute to the well-being and development of society (*Fratelli Tutti* 30).

Migrants and refugees in Trinidad and Tobago face many legal challenges that affect their stay and integration in Trinidad and Tobago. According to Ramdeen, an estimated 40,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela have arrived in Trinidad and Tobago (6). Of this number, only 16,523 adults were able to register in the May-June 2019 amnesty to work and receive access to primary health services (Ramdeen 6). In this amnesty, 3,206 children were also registered, thus gaining access to study in the country's public schools and health services (Ramdeen 6). This means that most Venezuelan migrants and refugees are living illegally in the shadows, living and working in highly exploitative environments, and unable to access basic services (Ramdeen 6-7).

In addition, according to most of the migrants interviewed in Trinidad and Tobago, they constantly face xenophobic cultural or ethnic prejudices, marginalization and behaviours of rejection, hatred and violence that prevent them from feeling safe and comfortable in the society. Mrs. Moya expressed, “some Trinis think, Venezuelan women are prostitutes who come here to steal their husbands and that the men are criminals, freeloaders, a risk to national security and

public health. Some of them do not want us, and they make our lives impossible so that we return to Venezuela.” All this makes integration into society more difficult when most migrants come in search of a quality of life and a peaceful life.

In this framework, the Catholic Church seeks to defend the human rights of migrants, so that they can integrate into the social life in a way that their humanity and dignity are not threatened. The Catholic Church, through the PMMRs, has created a wide network of parishes and ministries that offer social services and different activities to help migrants and refugees integrate into social life and enable them to participate in a community that they can call home. Among their initiatives are different programmes to offer them access to education, parish activities, Hispanic ministry, a magazine, and different support groups on social networks.

### **Integration of children**

Among migrants and refugees, children are the most vulnerable group for four reasons: they are minors, foreigners, defenceless and have no voice (Francis, “WDMR 102<sup>nd</sup>”). Jesus said, “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me” (Mk 9,37; Mt 18,5; Lk 9,48; Jn 13,20). These are the biblical bases from which the Catholic Church makes the protection, safety, and integration of children a priority. To achieve this, it seeks to guarantee children a healthy and safe family environment, and access to education, health, and psychosocial support (Mohammed).

### **Alternative Care Programme**

“Information from the Counter-Trafficking Unit shows that more than 138 children have arrived in Trinidad and Tobago from Venezuela unaccompanied or have been separated from their parents” (Ramdeen 6). Without the care and supervision of a family member or other primary

caregiver, many of them are unsafe, live in unhealthy environments, and are subject to dangers such as forced human trafficking, and victims of exploitation, abuse, neglect, and violence (CCSJ; Ramdeen 10). To prevent this, the AMMR's Alternative Care Program seeks to care for and protect them by providing them with a safe home and ensuring their well-being and development within a family (CCSJ). Community-based child protection committees have been established at the parish level and volunteer families have been trained as caregivers (Ramdeen 9). Volunteer families can help these children in two ways; by becoming a caregiver that provides direct care to a child within their home temporarily, or a care supporter family that will provide support to a child living independently or semi-independently (CCSJ).

### **Access to Education**

Schools contribute greatly to the integration of migrant children and youth by providing a space that helps them adapt and develop key social and life skills. Due to the Immigration Act, migrants and refugees, including children, cannot study in Trinidad and Tobago without first obtaining a student permit. In 2019, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago permitted the Catholic Church to allow Venezuelan children to enter Catholic public schools (Alvarado). However, as reported by Leela Ramdeen, after three years, more than 2,000 migrant children cannot access schools as the Minister of National Security has not granted them exemptions to obtain student permits (7). According to La Vende, when contacted for an update Minister of National Security Fitzgerald Hinds said, “This matter is not in front of me as Minister of National Security in any official way.”

The CEBM conducted an assessment and identified more than 2,400 spaces available in Catholic schools in the country, yet without a student permit, they cannot be registered (Ramdeen 7, 9). As a temporary solution, the Catholic Church offers Child Friendly Spaces and Equal space

programmes for children and young people aged 5-17 who do not have access to mainstream education (Ramdeen 9). However, these informal education programmes cannot substitute for being able to formally attend a school, and participate in the comprehensive and integral learning that the school environment allows (La Vende).

### **Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs)**

To assist in the integration and inclusion of migrant children and adolescents, CCSJ/AMMR implemented in 2019 the Child Friendly Spaces programme in partnership with UNICEF, which offers them psychosocial support through informal education (Mohammed). This programme has been performed in several of the parishes in the archdiocese with the creation of community-based child friendly spaces (Ramdeen 9). CFSs help improve the psychosocial well-being of children by strengthening and nurturing cognitive, emotional, and social development (Ramdeen 9). They also “help children feel secure and calm, have a social connection with other children their age, have fun while learning, and give them a sense of hope for their future” (Mohammed). CFSs also help to improve relationships and a sense of solidarity among community members.

Before the pandemic, this programme provided education and protection to more than 500 children (Ramdeen 9). However, as reported by Ramdeen in February 2021, after the lockdown the programme was affected and the number of participants was reduced to 226 children. Pierre points out that the reduction did not last long, as the virtual form allowed access to children who were not participating in the programme, and at the same time allowed for “greater flexibility, cohesion, diversity of offers and better management of the programme, as well as providing some measure of accompaniment while they were at home” (Pierre, *St. Francis de Sales* 21).

The programme currently has seven bilingual facilitators offering classes virtually from Monday to Friday but hopes to return to face-to-face learning in the coming months of May to July 2022 (Mohammed). CFS also has a 24-hour digital library to keep children engaged and educated (Pierre, *St. Francis de Sales* 21).

### **Equal Place**

Equal Place is a free accredited education programme offering personalised learning run by the LWC in partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Refugee Agency, PADF, CEBM and TTVSOLNET (Aguilera-Hay; “Equal Place”). This programme started in September 2019 with 600 students attending face-to-face classes at LWC centres (Alvarado). Today the number of students has increased considerably, and it is conducted online through the NotesMaster and Daware platforms (Aguilera-Hay; Alvarado; La Vende).

Children at the primary level followed the same subjects as local students as established by the Ministry of Education guidelines (Alvarado). These students are educated in mathematics, English language, social studies, and physical education (Alvarado). High school students, on the other hand are trained in “business principles, Spanish, integrated science, genetics, computer principles, chemistry, physics, voluntary public services, probability and statistics, art in world culture, biology, trigonometry and economics”. (Alvarado). “According to the UNHCR’s June report on Venezuelan migrants in the Caribbean, there are 1,235 students in the Equal Place programme with 1,022 attending regularly” (La Vende).

### **Parish Activities for Migrants and Refugees**

During the last three years, many parishes of the Archdiocese of Port of Spain have carried out a series of activities for the integration of migrants and refugees into the ecclesial life of the

communities and society in general. These include the celebration of Holy Mass in Spanish, organizing prayer groups in Spanish, refugee day community outreach celebrations, English classes, catechesis in Spanish, training workshops, job placement, health fairs and shelters (see Figure 3-Figure 11). Through these activities, the Catholic Church seeks to cover all the necessary dimensions to empower the refugee and migrant population so that they can achieve full integration.

Among all these activities, the Refugee Day Community Outreach Programme has enabled the integration and teamwork of different ministries, local and international organisations and agencies that have in common the goal of providing protection and assistance to any vulnerable migrant or refugee in need. This programme was launched in the archdiocese in February 2021 to “provide support and humanitarian assistance to the migrant and refugee population in the areas of food security, health care, education, protection, livelihoods and religion” (Pierre, *St. Francis de Sales* 10). This programme has been successful thanks to the collaboration and support of volunteers from parish communities, priests, religious and “UNICEF, UHNCR, IOM, LWC, The Ministry of Health's HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit, The Queen's Park Counselling Centre (QPCC), The Seventh Day Adventist Church, La Casita Hispanic Heritage Centre, and Hollis Avenue Drugs” (Pierre, *St. Francis de Sales* 10).

### **Hispanic Ministry**

Although in the year 2000 the situation of migrants was not as serious as it is today, Fr. Joseph E. Harris C.S.Sp. realized that there was an increase in the Hispanic population, and they were not receiving the spiritual attention they deserved (Harris). Fr. Harris took the initiative to create a space for the Hispanic community where they could congregate, have their celebrations in Spanish and be able to offer their gifts to the service of a community (Aqui; Harris). Fr. Harris

began to celebrate Masses in Spanish at Holy Rosary Church in Port of Spain, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Port of Spain, St. Ann's Church, Fatima College, and sporadically at St. Anthony's Church in Port Fortin and in San Fernando (Aqui; Harris). Following the appointment of Fr. Harris as Archbishop in 2011, Mass was celebrated weekly in the chapel at Fatima College until the present day (Aqui).

### **Social media**

The social media of the LWC, CCSJ/AMMR and PMMRs are primarily aimed at the local and Catholic population of Trinidad and Tobago. Their publications support and highlight the religious and solidarity work that the Catholic Church carries out in Trinidad and Tobago, within the church and the community. These groups enable them to sensitise the local community to the situation faced by migrants and refugees, advocate for their welfare and rights and allow migrants and refugees to express their concerns and lived experiences (Pierre, *St. John the Baptist* 31).

The LWC runs infospott.org, a website where migrants and refugees can obtain information in English and Spanish about the assistance offered by this NGO. The LWC also relies on Maria, its virtual support specialist to answer questions and offer support 24 hours a day in English and Spanish via WhatsApp (Pierre, *St. John the Baptist* 37-38). The Facebook page of the CCSJ and AMMR allows the archbishop, coordinators, and members of the different ministries to reach a great number of people. There one can find different messages from them subtitled in Spanish, as well as online Masses, Rosary prayers in real-time (see Figure 10), Bilingual Divine Mercy Chaplet (see Figure 9) and reflections in both English and Spanish.

## CONCLUSION

To respond to the calls made by Pope Francis in his eight messages for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees (AMMR) was created in the Archdiocese of Port of Spain under the Catholic Commission for Social Justice (CCSJ) and the Ministry for Migrants & Refugees, under the aegis of Living Water Community. These are the two main ministries in charge of the pastoral and social work with migrants and refugees within the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago.

These ministries ensure the recognition and defence of the human rights and dignity of every migrant and refugee as a son or daughter of God. Through the programmes and services offered by these ministries, the Church endeavours to provide them with the appropriate means to achieve self-sufficiency, self-sustainability, integration and social contribution to local communities. It is hoped that through these channels their physical, spiritual, legal and psychosocial needs will be met. Another focus of these ministries is to inspire and promote social responsibility on the part of the local community to accept and work together to achieve the integration of refugees and migrants into society.

Children are the most vulnerable group among the migrant and refugee communities. Many migrants and refugee children lack a safe and secure family environment, and access to education, health and psychosocial support. They are at risk of exploitation, hunger, violence, abuse and neglect. To ensure the protection, safety and integration of children, the Church has adopted the Alternative Care Programme and Child Friendly Spaces in partnership with UNICEF and other local and international agencies.

To achieve the integration of migrants into the local society the Church has promoted a series of activities in Spanish or bilingual such as Masses, Rosaries, Stations of the Cross, Chaplet of Mercy, workshops, faith formation, English courses, the Refugee Day Community Outreach Programme, promotion of classifieds, and health fairs and shelters. Migrant and Refugee Ministries also have their websites, Facebook accounts, and WhatsApp groups to reach out to more people and facilitate contact and promotion of the activities and support they offer. Another way of integration on the part of the church is that many of the messages of the archbishop, PMMR coordinators and reflections have been translated or subtitled into Spanish.

It shows that the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago is committed to and has responded enthusiastically to Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants and refugees. However, the Church alone is not able to meet all their needs. There is a need for the local population to engage it and stand in solidarity with the migrant and refugee community and together contribute to the development of society in Trinidad and Tobago.

As migrants and refugees are often excluded from basic services such as health and education due to lack of documentation and restrictive policies, it is advisable to create more temporary shelters, where they can be provided with these services, safety and protection. Parishes can so be encouraged to help children who do not have access to education through the usual means by making church halls or parish centres available for classes and by making Catholic schools available during non-working hours so that local students are not affected.

## Works Cited

- Aguilera-Hay, Simone. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 11 Feb. 2022.
- Albornoz, Ruth. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 8 Nov. 2021.
- Alvarado, Grevic. "Equal Place Prepares 1,000 Migrant Students for Catholic School." *Trinidad and Tobago Newsday*, 20 Jan. 2021, <https://newsday.co.tt/2021/01/20/equal-place-prepares-1000-migrant-students-for-catholic-school/>.
- AMMR, et al. *AMMR Toolkit: How Parishes Can Support Migrants and Refugees*. Vol. 1, Archdiocese of Port of Spain, 2019.
- AMMR, et al. *AMMR Toolkit: Ensuring a place at the table of life for all*. Vol. 2, Archdiocese of Port of Spain, 2020.
- Aqui, Noelia. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 29 Oct. 2021.
- Canizales, Maritza. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 8 Nov. 2021.
- CatholicTT. "What You Need Know: Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees." *CatholicTT*, 29 Sept. 2020, <https://catholictt.org/2020/09/29/what-you-need-know-archdiocesan-ministry-for-migrants-and-refugees/>.
- CCSJ. "Alternative Care Programme." *Catholic Commission for Social Justice*, 14 Jan. 2021, <http://rcsocialjusticett.org/2.0/2021/01/14/alternative-care-programme/>.
- Cor Unum*. "Welcoming Christ in Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons." *Vatican Website*, Vatican Press, June 2013.

De Silva, Radhica. "Living Waters Concerned about Treatment of Venezuelans in T&T."

*Trinidad Guardian*, 11 Feb. 2022, <https://guardian.co.tt/news/living-waters-concerned-about-treatment-of-venezuelans-in-tt-6.2.1454214.ba99f929c8>.

Ecclesia. "El Papa Francisco Pide 'Honestidad y Diálogo Entre Los Países' Ante La

Problemática De La Migración." *Revista Ecclesia*, Ecclesia Digital, 1 Sept. 2021,

<https://www.revistaecclesia.com/el-papa-francisco-pide-honestidad-y-dialogo-entre-los-paises-ante-la-problematika-de-la-migracion/>.

"Equal Place: Education Programme." *UNHCR Trinidad and Tobago*, 8 July 2020,

<https://help.unhcr.org/trinidadandtobago/faqs/equal-place-education-programme/>.

Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Catholic Church on Immigration." August 2015,

<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/11291/documents/2015/8/CatholicChurchonImmigration10-07Spanish.pdf>.

Harris, Joseph E. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 12 Jan. 2022.

The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. New York: Oxford University, 1996.

InfoSpott. "Psychosocial Support." *The Living Water Community*, 4 Mar. 2021,

<https://infospott.org/psychosocial-support/>.

Jemmot, Fr. Glen. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 17 Nov. 2021.

John, Cristina. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 14 Feb. 2022.

La Vende, Jensen. "An Equal Place to Learn: 4,400 Migrant Children Want to Go to School."

*Trinidad and Tobago Newsday*, 3 Oct. 2021, <https://newsday.co.tt/2021/10/02/an-equal-place-to-learn-4400-migrant-children-want-to-go-to-school/>.

LWC. "FAQ." *The Living Water Community*, <https://lwcrefugee.org/faq/>.

Maingot, Rhonda. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 6 Jan. 2022.

Mohammed, Zahirah. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 19 Nov. 2021.

Moya, Lourdes. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 30 Jan. 2022.

Nakhid, Rochelle. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 13 Jan. 2022.

Pierre, Matthew. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 17 Nov. 2021.

---. "St. John the Baptist." *Advocate Magazine*, issue no. 1, 24 Jun 2021.

---. "St. Francis de Sales." *Advocate Magazine*, issue no. 2, 24 Jan. 2022.

Pierre, Matthew, et al. "2021 Directory." Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees, 21 Sept. 2021.

Pope Benedict XVI. "Deus Caritas Est - Encyclical Letter of Benedict XVI." Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 25 Dec 2005.

Pope Francis. "*Fratelli Tutti*: Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis on Fraternity and Social Friendship." Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 3 Oct. 2020.

Pope Francis. "LI World Day of Peace 2018 - Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace." Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 13 Nov. 2017.

Pope Francis. "Message for the 100<sup>th</sup> World Days of Migrants and Refugees 2014: Migrants and Refugees: Towards a Better World." Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 5 Aug. 2013.

Pope Francis. "Message for the 101<sup>st</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2015: Church without Frontiers, Mother to All." Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 3 Sept. 2014.

Pope Francis. "Message for the 102<sup>nd</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2016: 'Migrants and Refugees Challenge Us. The Response of the Gospel of Mercy.'" Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 17 Jan. 2016.

Pope Francis. "Message for the 103<sup>rd</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2017: 'Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless.'" Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 15 Jan. 2017.

Pope Francis. "Message for the 104<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2018: 'Welcoming, Protecting, Promoting and Integrating Migrants and Refugees.'" Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 14 Jan. 2018.

Pope Francis. "Message for the 105<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019: 'It Is Not Just about Migrants.'" Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 29 Sept. 2019.

Pope Francis. "Message for the 106<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2020: Like Jesus Christ, Forced to Flee. Welcoming, Protecting, Promoting and Integrating Internally Displaced Persons." Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 27 Sept. 2020.

Pope Francis. "Message for the 107<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2021: Towards an Ever Wider 'We.'" Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 26 Sept. 2021.

Pope John Paul II. “Encyclical Letter *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*.” Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 30 Dec. 1987.

Pope John XXIII. “*Pacem in Terris*: Encyclical of Pope John XXIII on Establishing Universal Peace in Truth, Justice, Charity, And Liberty.” Vatican: The Holy See. *Vatican Website*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 10 Apr. 1963.

Ramdeen, Leela. “Migrants and Refugees.” Catholic Commission for Social Justice, 17 Feb. 2021. Seminary of St. John Vianney and The Martyrs of Uganda.  
[www.rcsocialjusticett.org/downloads/Presentation%20to%20Seminarists%20on%2017%20Feb%202021%20re%20Migrants%20and%20Refugees.pdf](http://www.rcsocialjusticett.org/downloads/Presentation%20to%20Seminarists%20on%2017%20Feb%202021%20re%20Migrants%20and%20Refugees.pdf).

Tosca, Fr. Gutemberg. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 14 Feb. 2022.

Touissan-Padia, Yarelis. Interview. Conducted by Jomar Torres Rodríguez, 21 Oct. 2021.

## **Appendix A: Questionnaires**

### **1. Interview questions to LWC, AMMR, and PMMRs leaders and coordinators**

- a) How was the Ministry of Migrants and Refugees created?
- b) What's your objective?
- c) What services do you offer?
- d) How can people in need of your services contact you?
- e) What groups does the ministry work with?
- f) Future activities
- g) How would you describe the work that the Catholic Church is doing with migrants and refugees in Trinidad and Tobago? What could they do to improve it?

### **2. Interview questions to migrants and refugees**

- a) What situation moved them to emigrate from their country of origin?
- b) Why did you decide to come to Trinidad and Tobago?
- c) What difficulty did they face or face in this country?
- d) What services or help have they received from the parish Migrant and Refugee Ministries (PMMRs, AMMR) or Living Water?
- e) Before arriving in Trinidad and Tobago, were you aware of these services offered by the Catholic Church?
- f) How would you describe the work that the Catholic Church is doing with migrants and refugees?
- g) What aspects do you think should be improved to provide more effective services?

**3. List of interviewees and their designations**

- A. Maritza Canizales - Coordinator of Mass and Catechesis in the Hispanic community of Fatima's College
- B. Yarelis Touissan-Padia - Director of the Ministry of Music in the Hispanic community of Fatima's College
- C. Noelia Aquí- Director of the Ministry of Music in the Hispanic community of Fatima's College
- D. Ruth Albornoz- Coordinator of Curepe PMMR
- E. Emeritus Archbishop Joseph E. Harris, C.S.Sp.
- F. Fr. Glen Jemmot
- G. Fr. Gutemberg Tosca Barahona- Missionary priest from the Diocese of Carúpano, Venezuela working in Penal PMMR
- H. Matthew Pierre- Community Liaison Officer, CCSJ/AMMR
- I. Zahirah Mohammed - Child Friendly Spaces Support Officer, CCSJ/AMMR
- J. Rochelle Nakhid- Coordinator of Ministry for Migrants and Refugees Living Water Community
- K. Simone Aguilera-Hay- CEO Catholic Religious Educational Development, Education Manager of Living Water Community
- L. Cristina John- Head Coordinator Penal PMMR
- M. Rhonda Maingot- Fundadora y directora de LWC
- N. Lourdes Moya- Venezuelan migrant
- O. Hilaria Castillo- Venezuelan migrant

Appendix B: Figures



Figure 1: Map of Parish Ministries for Migrants and Refugees in Trinidad and Tobago

Source: Pierre, Matthew, *Coverage of the Archdiocese's Parish Ministries*. 24 Jun 2021, The Advocate Magazine, issue no. 1, p. 14.



Figure 2: Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees' Team

Source: Pierre, Matthew, *Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees' Team*. 24 Jun 2021, *The Advocate Magazine*, issue no. 1, p. 10.

**CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**WELCOME PROTECT PROMOTE INTEGRATE**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PORT OF SPAIN MINISTRY FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (AMMR)**

**LA DIVINA PASTORA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, SIPARIA**

# REFUGEE DAY

**GET HELP · GET TESTED · GET VACCINATED**

**30 October 2021 · #7 La Pastora Street, Siparia · 9am-1pm**

*Services*

- COVID-19 VACCINES · HIV/AIDS TESTING · SYPHILIS TESTING · BASIC SCREENING · DOCTORS · LIVING WATER COMMUNITY · UNHCR · IOM · CCSJ-AMMR · FOOD ASSISTANCE · DRUG ASSISTANCE · CHILD EDUCATION REGISTRATION · CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE REGISTRATION · CATHOLIC PRIEST · EVANGELICAL PASTOR**

**CLICK OR SCAN TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE**

**CLICK OR SCAN TO JOIN CCSJ-AMMR TELEGRAM GROUP**

**f AMMR - Catholic Community clo.ammr@catholicctt.org**

Figure 3: Refugee Day, La Divina Pastora RC Church, Siparia

Source: AMMR - Catholic Ministry Community. Refugee Day Event in Siparia. Facebook, 25

Oct. 2021, 7:11 a.m., [www.facebook.com/AMMRrccommunity/photos/174398964885276](https://www.facebook.com/AMMRrccommunity/photos/174398964885276).

**CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE** (CCSJ)

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PORT OF SPAIN MINISTRY FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (AMMR)**

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, ERIN**

# REFUGEE DAY

**GET HELP · GET HEALTHY · GET VACCINATED**  
 20 November 2021 · Erin R.C. Primary School · 10am-2pm

*Services Available*

COVID-19 VACCINES · HIV/AIDS TESTING · SYPHILIS TESTING ·  
 BASIC HEALTH SCREENING · DOCTORS · LIVING WATER  
 COMMUNITY · UNHCR · IOM · CCSJ-AMMR · FOOD ASSISTANCE ·  
 DRUG ASSISTANCE · LEGAL ASSISTANCE · CHILD EDUCATION  
 REGISTRATION · CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE REGISTRATION ·  
 EVANGELICAL PASTOR · CATHOLIC PRIEST

CLICK OR SCAN

CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE

GOOGLE MAP LOCATION

CCSJ-AMMR WHATSAPP

CCSJ-AMMR TELEGRAM

CLICK OR SCAN

[clo.ammr@catholicctt.org](mailto:clo.ammr@catholicctt.org)

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

Figure 4: Refugee Day St. Francis of Assisi RC Church, Erin

Source: AMMR - Catholic Ministry Community. Refugee Day Event in Erin. Facebook, 15 Nov. 2021, 7:23 p.m., [www.facebook.com/AMMRrcommunity/photos/188844853440687](https://www.facebook.com/AMMRrcommunity/photos/188844853440687).

**CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**ST. DOMINIC ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PENAL**

**WELCOME PROTECT PROMOTE INTEGRATE**

**REFUGEE DAY**

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO MIGRANTS & REFUGEES**

**Saturday 19 March, 2022 · 10am - 2pm**

UNHCR IOM LA CASITA LWC - LEGAL SERVICES LWC - CHILD EDUCATION HEROS FOUNDATION	DOCTORS COVID-19 VACCINES INFLUENZA VACCINES TETANUS VACCINES BASIC HEALTH TESTS SEXUAL HEALTH TESTS CANCER TESTS	MEDICINE REQUESTS FOOD SUPPORT REQUESTS BIRTHS & BABIES SUPPORT CLOTHES SPANISH BOOKS RELIGIOUS BOOKS
AMMR - CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES AMMR - ALTERNATIVE CARE FOR MINORS AMMR - MINISTRY SUPPORT SIGN-UP AMMR - MIGRANT PAGES (CLASSIFIED ADS)		BIBLES (FOR SALE \$40) CATHOLIC PRIEST CATHOLIC SACRAMENT SIGN-UP EVANGELICAL PASTOR (SDA)

**CLICK, PRESS OR SCAN**

CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE 	GOOGLE MAP LOCATION 	CCSJ-AMMR WHATSAPP GROUP 	CCSJ-AMMR TELEGRAM GROUP 	CCSJ-AMMR MEDIA LINKTREE 
-----------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------

**CLICK, PRESS OR SCAN**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

UNICEF for every child

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

ONU MIGRACIÓN

La Casita

Adventist Health Ministries

sewa

HEROES FOUNDATION

Figure 5: Refugee Day St. Dominic RC Church, Penal

Source: AMMR - Catholic Ministry Community. Refugee Day Event in Penal. Facebook, 11 March 2022, 7:29 p.m., [www.facebook.com/AMMRcommunity/photos/263577492634089](https://www.facebook.com/AMMRcommunity/photos/263577492634089).



The Medical Research Foundation  
& The Catholic Commission for Social Justice, Archdiocese Ministry for Migrants & Refugees

# COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES



**Book An Appointment**  
Click or Scan QR Code.  
WhatsApp For More Info:  
MRF Clinic (868) 765 9300  
AMMR Shuttle Services 868-376-0040



- Bi-Lingual Doctors
- Free Medical Services
- Free Giveaways & Transport

## Medical Services

<p><b>Family Health Services</b> Health Check-Ups Health Counselling Glucose &amp; Cholesterol Testing Blood Pressure Monitoring</p>	<p><b>Pregnancy Testing</b> Cervical Cancer Testing Disease Prevention STI Counseling, Testing &amp; Treatment Referral Letters</p>	<p><b>Doctors</b> Pharmacists Social Workers Over-The-Counter Medications Ongoing Medical Follow Up</p>
--	---	---

## Shuttle Services (Monthly Transfers)

<p><b>Penal</b> St. Dominic's Catholic Church 1st Fridays Leave @ 10 AM Return @ 4 PM</p>	<p><b>Chaguanas</b> Sts. Philip &amp; James Catholic Church 2nd Fridays Leave @ 10 AM Return @ 3 PM</p>	<p><b>Curepe</b> Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church 3rd Fridays Leave @ 10 AM Return @ 3 PM</p>	<p><b>Arima</b> Santa Rosa Catholic Church 4th Fridays Leave @ 10 AM Return @ 3 PM</p>	<p><b>San Fernando</b> MRF Clinic All Fridays @ 10:30am - 5pm</p>
---	---	---	--	---

The Medical Research Foundation of Trinidad & Tobago - 7 Keate Street, San Fernando (next to the Naparima Bowl)  
The Catholic Commission for Social Justice - Archbishop's House, 27 Maraval Rd. Port of Spain

Figure 6: Community Health Clinic for Migrants & Refugees

Source: AMMR - Catholic Ministry Community & Medical Research Foundation. Health Clinic

for Migrants & Refugees. Facebook, 9 Feb. 2022, 12:55 p.m.,

www.facebook.com/AMMRrcommunity/photos/244036211254884.

**Estaciones de la Cruz (Bilingüe)**

Bilingual  
**STATIONS of the CROSS**

**FB en vivo // FB Live**

**Miércoles 13 de abril a las 7:30**  
**Wednesday 13th April at 7:30pm**

Ministerio de Migrantes y Refugiados  
de Santa Rosa Malabar

The Santa Rosa Malabar  
Migrants and Refugees Ministry

MIGRANTS & REFUGEES MINISTRY  
SANTA ROSA MALABAR AMMR

*Figure 7: Stations of the Cross Online*

Source: AMMR - Catholic Ministry Community. Station of the Cross, Facebook, 11 April 2022, 12:04 p.m., [www.facebook.com/events/693103845447425?ref=newsfeed](https://www.facebook.com/events/693103845447425?ref=newsfeed).

The Parish Ministry for Migrants and Refugees  
INVITES YOU TO OUR.....



# SPANISH MASS



**ALL ARE WELCOME AS WE JOIN TOGETHER TO  
LIFT UP MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

---

**20TH FEBRUARY, 2022 | 4:00 PM**  
**OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL, CARAPICHAIMA**

**CELEBRANT-**  
**FR. HAROLD IMAMSHAH**

*Figure 8: Spanish Holy Mass Celebration*

Source: AMMR - Catholic Ministry Community. Spanish Mass, Facebook, 14 Feb 2022, 12:30 p.m., [www.facebook.com/AMMRcommunity/photos/247147594277079](https://www.facebook.com/AMMRcommunity/photos/247147594277079).

¡Recemos juntos  
la Coronilla bilingüe  
de la Divina Misericordia!

Let's pray the bilingual  
Divine Mercy Chaplet  
together!

Este miércoles a las 7:30pm  
This Wednesday at 7:30pm

Zoom ID:  
**893 9875 2367**

Contraseña / Password:  
**621515**

Ministerio de Migrantes y Refugiados  
de Santa Rosa Malabar

The Santa Rosa Malabar  
Migrants and Refugees Ministry

**FB en vivo / FB Live** Jesus I trust in You

Figure 9: Bilingual Divine Mercy Chaplet

Source: AMMR - Catholic Ministry Community. Bilingual Divine Mercy Chaplet, Facebook, 13 Oct. 2021, 1:33 p.m., [www.facebook.com/AMMRcommunity/photos/166307245694448](https://www.facebook.com/AMMRcommunity/photos/166307245694448).

¡Oremos juntos  
**EL SANTO ROSARIO**  
bilingüe!

Let's pray the bilingual  
**HOLY ROSARY**  
together!

**Los misterios  
gloriosos**

**The Glorious  
Mysteries**

Este miércoles a las 7:30pm  
This Wednesday at 7:30pm

Zoom ID:  
**893 9875 2367**

Contraseña / Password:  
**621515**

**FB en vivo // FB Live**

Ministerio de Migrantes y Refugiados de Santa Rosa Malabar  
The Santa Rosa Malabar Migrants and Refugees Ministry

*Figure 10: Bilingual Rosary*

Source: AMMR - Catholic Ministry Community. Bilingual Rosary with Santa Rosa RC PMMR, Arima. Facebook, 27 Oct. 2021, 6:32 p.m.,

[www.facebook.com/AMMRrccommunity/photos/176076831384156](https://www.facebook.com/AMMRrccommunity/photos/176076831384156).



**UPCOMING  
WEBINARS  
AND  
WORKSHOPS**

Spaces are limited. All sessions are free of charge.

**Tackling Human Trafficking and  
Advancing Financial Inclusion Series  
APRIL 12th – MAY 24th 2022**

**Fundamentals of Design Thinking (Interactive  
Workshop) - April 12th & 13th**

**Introduction to Human Trafficking for the Private  
Sector (Sensitization Webinar)- April 14th**



**Human Trafficking Design Sprint  
(Interactive Workshop) - April 19th - 22nd**

**Enabling Financial Inclusion  
(Webinar)- May 13th**

**Innovating for Purpose (Webinar)- May 24th**

**Attendance at all sessions is recommended!  
Register using the link provided**

*Figure 11: LWC webinars and workshops*

Source: Nakhid, Rochelle. Living Water Community: Ministry for Migrants and Refugees  
upcoming webinars and online workshops. WhatsApp message to the author. 9 April 2022.