



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM  
DE SPIRITUALI MIGRANTUM  
ATQUE ITINERANTIUM CURA

Prot. N. 5979/2011/GEN

Vatican City, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Reverend and dear Fr. Sylvester,

As I look back to the pastoral visit to migrant chaplains and migrant communities in Australia, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for all that the Under-Secretary and I have seen and heard. Speaking to various people and groups, I often compared this visit to a pilgrimage and indeed such it was.

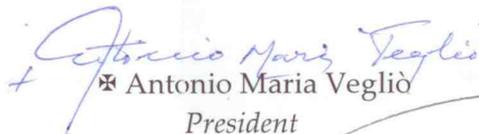
The late Bishop Joseph Grech and Fr. Maurizio Pettenà when visiting our Pontifical Council have always spoken with pride about the pastoral care afforded to migrants and refugees by Bishops and Chaplains of Australia.

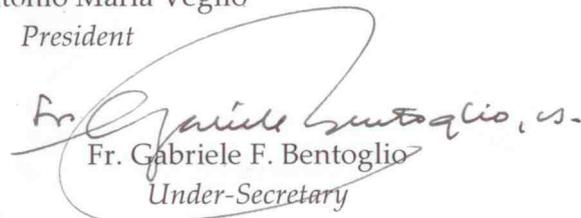
Fr. Bentoglio and I had a chance to finally experience the vibrancy we so many times heard about in person. We met with migrant chaplains and representatives of migrant communities; very importantly, we heard of their stories and of their involvement in the life of the wider church community in Australia. This helped us of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People to better understand the system in Australia regarding the provision of pastoral care to migrants and refugees. The world of human mobility is a complex one, one that is not easy as it requires a flexibility of pastoral models and a commitment to the one who stands at the door of our security and asks to be welcomed. Furthermore, it requires the ability to know and understand the needs of migrants and refugees and responded with concrete support and pastoral care. Fr. Bentoglio and I had the opportunity to experience how committed you are in these efforts. Thank you for the leadership with which you provide for the pastoral needs of migrants and refugees. Once again, we wish to affirm you in all that you do, we encourage you to continue in your ministry and we support you in your courageous actions for the good of migrants and refugees in Australia knowing that: *"whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me"* (Mt 25:40).

We will now need the time to reflect on the vast material we took back with us and to allow the many experiences and the vibrant celebrations to sink within us.

I take this opportunity, on my behalf and that of Fr. Bentoglio, to express to you and your collaborators in the pastoral care to migrants and refugees my prayerful best wishes.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

  
✠ Antonio Maria Vegliò  
President

  
Fr. Gabriele F. Bentoglio  
Under-Secretary

Reverend Fr. SYLVESTER KARASIUK  
Episcopal Vicar  
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