



BORDERS: WALLS OR BRIDGES?

Proceedings of the First International Forum
ON
MIGRATION AND PEACE

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Edited by

Leonir Mario Chiarello
Maria Isabel Sanza Gutiérrez
Ezio Marchetto

Scalabrini International
 **Migration Network**

Closing Remarks



Rev. Leonir Chiarello

Executive Director

Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN)

We began this Forum on Migration and Peace remembering Martin Luther King's dream that in his country one day all would be equals, and recalling a Brazilian song that says: "A dream one dreams alone could be a mere illusion; a dream that is shared is the sign of a solution." The Forum helped us recognize that the dream of peaceful coexistence between local communities and migrants needs very concrete actions and the personal commitment of each one of us in our different roles and personal responsibilities. The various panels and workgroups have directed us to overcome the walls of conflict before engaging in bridge-building and working for amicable coexistence. In this ongoing process, migrants and their families are the principal heroes.

I wish to thank all of you for your participation, and for the support you have lent to make this Forum possible. We thank the Forum participants, especially the moderators and experts who have taken part in the discussion panels and in the workshops for the excellent presentations they have shared; because of them this Forum has become a reality. We appreciate your excellent contributions, which we now publish in these Proceedings.

I would like to thank, in a very special way, the two representatives from the International Migration Network and the Center for Migration Studies in New York, Fr. Ezio Marchetto and Fr. René Manenti, for their help in the work of organizing and preparing the Forum; the *Centro Scalabriniano de Comunicação de Passo Fundo*, Brazil, with Fr. Sérgio Gheller and Camila Aparecida Panassolo, for their great work in setting up and preparing the technical equipment for the live "real time" broadcast of the Forum through Radio Migrantes; and Roseli Rossi Lara for her contribution in covering the event. I also thank Fr. Clair Orso for his services as webmaster, which made it possible for the Forum to be placed on the Internet.

We thank Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini, Fr. Mauro Verzeletti, Lilibeth Sánchez, and Amilcar Vásquez from the National Commission of the

Pastoral Office for Human Mobility for their cooperation in the overall coordination of the Forum. We thank the Guatemalan Bishops Conference for its support, as well as the personnel of the seminary and the Casa del Migrante: Miguel Angel Quiroz, Jacqueline Hernández, Carlos López, Abraham Ochoa, Abraham Euán, with special gratitude for Cecilia Aguilera, who took care of the “migrants” coming from other countries to help prepare this Forum, and always did it with a smile that showed her sincere and heartfelt Mexican joviality.

We cannot conclude without expressing a very special “thank you” to Einaro Bingemer, Ekke, for his presence during the entire preparation and celebration of the Forum; to María Isabel Sanza Gutiérrez, who has closely followed the overall coordination of the activities for the preparation and execution of the Forum; and to Claudia Figueiredo for her excellent support at the Forum secretariat.

On these occasions it is always easy to forget someone. However, we wish to express to each and every one who contributed or participated in any way to help bring about this Forum our most sincere gratitude.

At the Second Forum on Migration and Peace, which will take place in Santiago de Chile, we will endeavor to add new bricks for building bridges of peaceful international coexistence.

Thanks very much to all of you for your participation and for supporting this First International Forum on Migration and Peace.

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**Scalabrini International
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