



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE  
SERVIZZ TAL-ĠIŻWITI MAR-REFUGĠATI

## *Pope Benedict XVI acknowledges Refugees from Africa Knocking at Europe's Door*

(18 April 2010) Pope Benedict XVI, visiting Malta on 17-18 April to commemorate the 1950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shipwreck of St Paul the Apostle on Maltese shores, made various references to refugees reaching the island as boat migrants in search of protection in Europe. Speaking to journalists on the inbound flight to Malta on Saturday (17 April) afternoon, Pope Benedict said:

*"Malta is the point where the waves of refugees arrive from Africa and knock at Europe's door. This is a great problem of our time, and, of course, cannot be resolved by the island of Malta. We must all respond to this challenge, work so that everyone can, live a dignified life in their homeland and on the other hand do everything possible so that these refugees find here, where they arrive, that they find a decent living space. A response to a great challenge of our time: Malta reminds us of these problems and also reminds us that their faith is the force that gives charity, and thus also the imagination to respond well to these challenges."*

In a speech to young people gathered for an encounter with the Pope at the Valletta Waterfront, Benedict XVI reminded them that:

*"As Christians we are called to manifest God's all-inclusive love. So we should seek out the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized; we should have a special care for those who are in distress, those suffering from depression or anxiety; we should care for the disabled, and do all we can to promote their dignity and quality of life; we should be attentive to the needs of immigrants and asylum seekers in our midst; we should extend the hand of friendship to members of all faiths and none. That is the noble vocation of love and service that we have all received. Let it inspire you to dedicate your lives to following Christ."*

The Pope returned to the response that Malta and the international community could give to the drama of the boat migrants crossing the Mediterranean in search of protection and a new beginning in his farewell address at Malta International Airport:

*"On account of its geographical position in the heart of the Mediterranean, many immigrants arrive on Malta's shores, some fleeing from situations of violence and persecution, others in search of better conditions of life. I am aware of the difficulties that welcoming a large number of people may cause, difficulties which cannot be solved by any country of first arrival on its own. At the same time, I am also confident that, on the strength of its Christian roots and its long and proud history of welcoming strangers, Malta will endeavour, with the support of other States and international organizations, to come to the aid of those who arrive here and to ensure that their rights be respected."*

### **All the Pope's discourses:**

Pope Speaks to Journalists en Route to Malta	<a href="http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373130">www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373130</a>
Discourse 1 – Pope Benedict arrives in Malta	<a href="http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373102">www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373102</a>
Discourse 2 – Grotto of St Paul, Rabat	<a href="http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373152">www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373152</a>
Discourse 3 – Homily during Mass in Floriana	<a href="http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373164">www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373164</a>
Discourse 4 – Meeting with Young People	<a href="http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373325">www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373325</a>
Discourse 5 – Farewell Address at Malta International Airport	<a href="http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373358">www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=373358</a>