



DELEGACIÓN NTRA. SRA. DE LA PAZ DE CENTROAMÉRICA O.S.A.

## **Communication from the Augustinians of Central America on the occasion of the migratory crisis of our peoples**

The religious friars of the Order of St. Augustine in Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica (OSA-AMC) want to openly express our great concern about the anguished exodus of thousands of brothers and sisters involved in the migrant caravan moving towards the north, heading to the US, to get away from the violence and poverty.

Our vocation calls us to be witnesses of the mercy and love of God in the world. Therefore, we cannot remain at this moment as insensitive spectators before a humanitarian drama that is leaving in the ditches of the road those to whom Jesus identifies himself (see Mt 25:35). Augustine of Hippo challenges us in this sense, on the occasion of the wave of migration caused by the plundering of Rome by the Vandals in the year 410 (see *Sermon 25, Commentary on Psalm 40*). We cannot avoid "putting ourselves in the shoes" of those who are risking everything to give their children a future, as Pope Francis tells us (*Gaudete et Exultate 102*).

We denounce the world disorder through which capital and goods circulate freely -often covering up the perverse traffic in arms, drugs and human beings- while the new pharaohs raise walls, accuse of being criminals and threaten the impoverished by using security forces. We call on international organizations for migrants' dignity and fundamental rights to be protected, especially the most vulnerable of them, such as children and the sick. They hope that we join our voices to break the barriers of silence or indifference that increase their helplessness and to build bridges of compassion and solidarity.

Finally, we want to express our fraternal closeness to the volunteers, to the social organizations, to the religious groups and to the many anonymous citizens and families that are accompanying and protecting the migrants of the caravan in their "desert crossing" with their generous welcome. That exemplary testimony dignifies the human community. We pray for you, asking Mary, Our Lady of Peace, her motherly intercession. God bless you all.

November 1, 2018, *All the Saints solemnity*