

Our Story

- Discuss Theogene Rudasingwa's story. List the things that enabled him to move from refugee to high government official.
- Discuss the U.S. Catholic Bishops' "A Place at the Table" which says that to "serve and stand with the poor...rests on these four legs:"
 - What families are called to do.
 - The role and responsibility of community organizations and faith-based institutions.
 - The marketplace and institutions of business, commerce, and labor.
 - The role and responsibilities of governments, doing "together what we cannot accomplish on our own." – "A Pastoral Reflection of the Catholic Bishops of the United States" <www.usccb.org/bishops/table.htm>
- Invite a former refugee or displaced person to speak to your church.
- For information on HIV/AIDS worldwide, look up www.unaids.org.
- Pray, as a family, as a community, together three times: "O God, give us – all of us – this day our daily bread."



Hunger No More

God's Story

*For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship God day and night within the temple;
and the one who is seated upon the throne
will shelter them.*

***They will hunger no more,
and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd,
and will guide them to springs of the water of life;
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.***

– Revelation 7:15-17 NRSV adapted



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Personal Stories

Theogene Rudasingwa's Story

Former ambassador to the United States from Rwanda, Theogene is Director of Cabinet in the Rwandan president's office. The first 30 years of his life were spent in refugee camps.

I am told that my father was crucified. The four of us, together with our mother, first went to Burundi, and then left Burundi through Tanzania and finally settled in southwest Uganda, where we lived in a refugee camp for most of my life.

We moved on foot through the thick jungles of East and Central Africa. Many people perished in the course of this movement and during the very harsh conditions that existed in refugee camps.

Life in the refugee camp is something that you can only really experience in order to adequately describe it. The refugees are ultimately the most impoverished. My mother, brother and sister had to work long hours in order to get food for the day. After working 12 hours, they gave you a bunch of bananas.

When I actually began going to school, it was not in a formal classroom, but under a tree. When I began learning how to write, it was not in an exercise book with a pen, but rather on our thighs using sharp pieces of wood or grass in order to leave some kind of imprints on our thighs. But as time went by, with the help of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and other organizations, schools were established in the refugee camps. <www.refugees.org>

An Elderly Woman Speaks from the Ukraine

If I lay down and died, it wouldn't matter, because nobody needs me. This feeling of my own powerlessness, of being unnecessary, of being unprotected is for me the worst of all.

<www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices>



Empowerment and Disempowerment Stories

each fact is a human story

- Eighty percent of refugees are women and children. Women are especially vulnerable to sexual harassment, abuse and violence. Children are targets of abuse, prey to military abduction and typically miss years of education. <www.womenscommission.org>
- Millennium Development Goal #3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Two-thirds of illiterate people are women, and the rate of employment among women is two-thirds that of men.
- Nearly 4 million youth in the United States between the ages of 14 and 24 are high school dropouts. <www.census.gov/statab/www/>



- Nearly 2.5 billion of the world's 6.3 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. One billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Contaminated water kills 2.2 million people per year. <<http://hdr.undp.org>>
- At least 300 million people have acute cases of malaria, 90 percent of them in developing countries, 75 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. <<http://hdr.undp.org>>

* Additional facts, updates, Web links, stories and educational materials can be found at www.hungernomore.org.