

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
READ BY HIS EMINENCE CARD. PIETRO PAROLIN, SECRETARY OF STATE TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE FIRST "WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT"
[ISTANBUL]

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[...] We cannot deny that many interests today prevent solutions to conflicts, and that military, economic and geopolitical strategies displace persons and peoples and impose the god of money, the god of power. At the same time, humanitarian efforts are frequently conditioned by commercial and ideological constraints. [...]

"Leaving no one behind" and "doing one's very best" demands that we do not give up and that we take responsibility for our decisions and actions regarding the victims themselves. First of all, we must do this in a personal way, and then together, coordinating our strengths and initiatives, with mutual respect for our various skills and areas of expertise, not discriminating but rather welcoming. In other words: there must be no family without a home, no refugee without a welcome, no person without dignity, no wounded person without care, no child without a childhood, no young man or woman without a future, no elderly person without a dignified old age.

May this also be the occasion to recognize the work of those who serve their neighbour and contribute to consoling the sufferings of the victims of war and calamity, of the displaced and refugees, and who care for society, particularly through courageous choices in favour of peace, respect, healing and forgiveness. This is the way in which human lives are saved. [...]