

Refugees – International Commission

Iraqi Christians/Chaldean Catholics - need material as well as spiritual assistance. Many have been evangelized by our Protestant brethren. They are very grateful for the help and goodwill shared by American people.

The situation continues to be bleak in Iraq as these courageous Christians continue to be targeted. See the attached handout depicting recent attacks over the Christmas holidays – **NO CHEER FOR IRAQI CHRISTIANS.**

Two young women who are recent were brought to my attention – recent refugees from Iraq. Jandark and Sabrim had hoped to be here this morning.

Jandark (Joan of Arc) and her husband and 2 children arrived in the USA from Turkey last year. Jandark was very active in her church, taught religious education to teenagers and at one time studied to be a nun. Jandark loves Jesus and she has a deep devotion to Mary. Jandark and her husband Salwan know Monsignor Mankel and are thankful to him in helping their children attend St. Joseph's Catholic School.

Sabrim is a young woman who arrived recently with her family. They escaped after her young brother was kidnapped. He was released and he is in Turkey .

These stories put a human face on the on going challenges. See the web site for more information and links regarding Iraqi Christians/Chaldean Catholics

Bridge Refugee Services is also expecting a number of new arrivals Burma, Moldavia, and Vietnam. Much help is needed in the way of material things and volunteer help. See recent e mail and website.

Catholic Relief Service – works with Iraqi refugees in Syria, Egypt and Lebanon as well as Iraqi's displaced from their home town but still in Iraq. **CRS** is willing to travel and to speak at our CCW meetings.

Lastly, **CRS** entitled **Sudan: War or Peace?** Will be shown on January 14, from 2 PM – 3PM EST. The Catholic Sudanese suffer from persecution and this will heighten our awareness.