

When Did I see you A Stranger?

Timothy Shriver (whose mother Eunice Kennedy Shriver was on the ground floor of creating the Special Olympics) says that “**othering**’ is a national disease” for Americans.



Too many have become very good at categorizing people and treating people they consider “different” from themselves, as inferior and therefore, as a problem, or even as a threat. All too often, putting people in such categories is used as an excuse to mistreat; to exclude; to discriminate against people. We also allow this disease of othering to give us cover for turning a blind eye to the mistreatment of people, which is wrong.

Our biggest struggle is our unwillingness to risk our own security and comfort in order to confront evil. Lord, remind us again that you taught us: those who inherit the Kingdom are those who cared for the needy including the strangers in our midst. (Matthew 25:31-46)

This week pray for:

- **People in U.S. custody on the border** – Reports continue to confirm that the treatment of refugees at the U.S. border is inhumane, cruel and degrading. The long-term effects of such treatment, especially on the children, is a matter of great concern.
- **Those subject to violence in Mexico and Central America** – Mothers searching for their missing children have found another mass grave where the bodies of some of the “disappeared” people have been buried. They are victims of ongoing drug trade violence there. This violence is one of the things refugees seeking asylum in the U.S. are fleeing. . .
- **The Rohingya minority in Myanmar** (Burma). They continue to face persecution, and the government continues to deny government involvement in subjecting them to genocide. Until recently, reporters have been kept out of the area where Rohingya have been persecuted so that the story could not be documented. A reporter, who was just allowed into the area for a supervised visit, was shown new housing for the returning Rohingya refugees only to find that the people in the new houses were not Rohingya, and were not actually living in the houses. Rohingya are not returning. They do not feel it is safe to. Those who did not leave are confined to squalid ghettos or worse. . .
- **The plight of women in Afghanistan** – Afghanistan is one of the worst places in the world to live if you are a woman. Sexual abuse of woman is common and they have few rights and little protection. . .

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