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Some Moving Lessons

In coming months I will engage in the 15th residence move in my life—so far. It tends to evoke some reflecting.

Among reflections at this time:

- There IS more to life than the process of getting one's address changed. This is an encouraging reminder at some moments of frustration.
- Like it or not, we are more electronically connected now. Most address change notices are by email and/or website. Using websites provides an experience of great variety among website setups.
- Moving tends to force one to get better organized, prune out unneeded materials.
- As Catholics and possibly others know, St Joseph, Jesus' foster father, is an appreciated friend at such periods in life.
- Such changes offer causes for grief as well as nice new experiences.
- Such changes can help keep us flexible (in attitude and muscles).
- The invention of the wheel is truly a really big thing. What would we do without carts? Or luggage with wheels?
- There are a lot of kind people in the world.
- "We have here no lasting city" is no joke.

As I try to live through this set of residence and office moves, some elements of reality therapy help keep me anchored:

- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has issued 13 emergency "flash" appeals so far in 2007 (2.5 months to go yet). Upwards of 66 million people have been made homeless or have lives otherwise upset—just across south Asia. Indications are the dire predictions about global warming human impacts have started. (Why isn't this information splashed across our newspaper front pages?)
- Iraq has upwards of 4,000,000 refugees - some still moving inside Iraq, others pushing into other coun-

tries. It is very difficult to deal with the scale of this migration in a comparatively small area that is so rife with extreme violence.

- We have new arrivals in this country and this state. Some of us are very resistant to this dynamic especially with our new arrivals from the south. Some of our talk about it is scary to me.
- Our United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN refugee agency, has helped 50 million people in its 5 decades of existence. Its almost 6300 staff in 111 countries continues to help almost 33 million people.
- US national and Kentucky state information about our sisters and brothers who lack a home or at least a good one comes at us often.

This information can be overwhelming. What can I do about it?

- For me, get through these 2 moves across campus.
- Pay attention to information about persons in need.
- Keep holding tight to the belief that each and every one of us is created by God, made in God's image, and thus always deserving my basic respect—wherever we are, wherever we are moving and why.
- Pray for a more sensitive, generous heart that at least seizes opportunities to help people, our sisters and brothers, children of an all loving God, who are on the move. Help counter "donor fatigue" among us.
- Pay special attention to public policy proposals that have the potential to help a lot of people at a time. Congress is considering Affordable Housing Trust Fund legislation currently—very effective public policy—for but one instance.

In this "flood" of human need, in the providence of God we have all sorts of ways to help one another as we move through life. God is counting on us to do so.

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