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**“A Continuing Journey: ‘Care is Work, Work is Care’
Robert J. Vitillo**

Paper delivered at Home Renaissance Foundation IV Experts Meeting: 'The Home and Displaced People',
The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., 22-23 September 2022

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HRF Presentation Summary

Msgr Robert J. Vitillo opened the meeting with reflections from his long engagement with displaced people, and through the particular lens of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC). Meeting the need for security and stability, and for the dignity of home for migrants is truly a continuing journey. As so many more millions of family lives are disrupted by forced or economic migration, these journeys are becoming longer and more fraught. So too is the journey towards successful interventions and responses by governments both challenging and contested. In a powerful analogy Msgr Vitillo reminded all policy-makers in this area that migrants each have their own story and intrinsic dignity and are not "just pieces on the chessboard of humanity." We need to listen to their voices.

A further illustration drew attention to a sculpture of the exhausted Holy Family in the Washington DC Basilica, a stone's throw from the meeting room, just as such stories are on our doorsteps today. Msgr Vitillo closed with some of the moving testimonies of those he had worked with, noting especially the hardships parents were prepared to make for a better future for their children. For migrants, family and work are very important. Reminding us again that these are real voices and we have real responsibilities.

*Full paper is being prepared for publication. Further details to be announced.