

## Concluding REMARKS – Msgr. Robert J Vitillo, Secretary General of International Catholic Migration Commission

I started out my remarks yesterday with the affirmation that Pope Francis' theme for the 108<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees – Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees – was “music to my ears”.

During the two days of this Community Resettlement Workshop, that music inspired and helped us to produce a symphony concert.

Some of the principal instruments in this concert include the following, since Community Resettlement is based on PARTNERSHIP:

- 1) The local host communities (and let's not forget that we mentioned the faith leaders, communities, and organizations very frequently during these days) –all these communities serve as the first violins in this symphony;
- 2) the governments constitute the bass section providing security, coordination, legislation, and regulation – they best perform when they offer facilitation, but also leave room for creativity and sensitivity to the diverse needs of both refugees and hosts;
- 3) Traditional resettlement cannot be expelled from this orchestra – it serves as the trombone section; Community resettlement is not meant to serve as a substitute or replacement – but an essential complementary component in this symphony;
- 4) The refugees themselves, including the refugee families, embody the flute section – bringing their voices of pain, trauma, desperation, and longing, but also of resilience, skills, values, culture, determination, hard work, and gratitude;
- 5) All these sections, or partners, are blended in the two-way process of integration – in faith and in hope, providing mutual and vital contributions to the final movement of strengthening and improving our common home of one humanity and of all creation on the foundation of charity and justice for all.

Thanks for including ICMC as part of the orchestra!