

The Islamic community has been subjected to change. In this case, its biggest jump has been with refugees. Imam Mohammed ElFiki knows that just like other religions, Islam finds its faith within the refugee community.

(NAT SOUND= chatter among the congregants in the Mosque)

((SOT))

(Mohammed Elfiki/Imam at CNY Islamic Center)

<I say three because the refugees are the communities. Syracuse is one of the places that accept refugees. It's like sanctuary. It's a place where they are welcome and they are welcome.>

((TRACK #2))

The Muslim population has grown throughout Onondaga County within the last year. Over 1100 refugees have taken up residency, with almost all of them being from Islamic countries. For Muslim Chaplain at Syracuse University Amir Duric, it is necessary to have a safe place to go in a time of need.

((SOT))

(Amir Duric/Muslim Chaplain at Syracuse University)

<"It's definitely definitely a place where regardless how I feel I will go there and I will feel good and I will be safe.">

((TRACK #3))

Safe, good and comfortable, the writing on the wall does not determine who gets to be a part of the community.

((SOT))

(ElFiki)

<"Different faces, up to 50 nationalities, 100, maybe more. All colors, all walks of life, all social statuses, everything yet together they come. So that a mosque has a feeling the sense that gathers many, which is our belief and faith.>"

((STANDUP))

(SUPER= Emily Adelman/ Syracuse NY)

With the Islamic population growing every day here in Syracuse, whether you're in a mosque, a Chapel like this, or at home, you can always find a sense of community. For NCC News, I'm Emily Adelman.

