



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus UPDATE



January 8, 2015

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www.motherscabrini.org
www.cabrinifoundation.org
www.cabrinimissioncorps.org

We are One Family Under God

This is National Migration Week 2015

This is National Migration Week 2015 with the theme, "We are One Family Under God," which brings to mind the importance of family in our daily lives. This reminder is particularly important when dealing with the migration phenomenon, as family members are too often separated from one another. The issues surrounding migration are complex and multi-faceted.



Migrant Children

Central American children from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are migrating to the United States alone in record numbers. While not a new phenomenon, the number of children who are making the perilous journey alone has increased

exponentially—6,775, on

average, arrived between 2003—2011, and upwards of 90,000 were projected to arrive in fiscal year 2014. The Catholic Church has taken seriously the humanitarian and policy oriented aspects of this situation and is advocating on behalf of increased protections for migrant children and their families who are arriving in the United States.

With the recent increase in unaccompanied migrant children along the US/Mexico border, it is particularly important that we keep in our prayers vulnerable children who put into difficult situations, both in this instance and around the world:

Prayer for Migrant Children: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/upload/Prayer-for-Migrant-Children.pdf>

Migrant Workers

Often overlooked is the extent to which foreign labor recruitment exposes vulnerable people to situations of human trafficking. Internationally recruited workers come to the United States to work in the high and low wage sectors of the US economy. Foreign labor recruiters are increasingly relied upon to facilitate the migration of laborers from their respective home countries to their destination country. They normally operate in the workers' home country and interface with individuals who desire to work in the US and other labor destination countries. While many foreign labor recruiters behave ethically and are engaged in lawful conduct, a growing percentage is often complicit with, or directly involved in, trafficking of workers. Unscrupulous recruiters exploit temporary workers from US visa programs.

The prevalence of known human trafficking cases involving foreign labor recruiters has increased within the US in recent years. For example, in 2008 approximately 500 workers from India were trafficked to the US through the federal government's H-2B guestworker program to work in shipyards after Hurricane Katrina. These workers were subjected to squalid living conditions, fraudulent payment practices, and threats of serious harm upon their arrival. Recruiting agents hired by the marine industry company Signal International held the guest workers' passports and visas and coerced workers into paying extraordinary fees for recruitment, immigration processing, and travel. The cases against Signal International are currently ongoing in US federal courts.



To learn more: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/upload/Reforming-Foreign-Labor-Recruitment.pdf>

Refugees

The U.S. Catholic Bishops assessed the Syrian refugee crisis. A delegation from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) travelled to Turkey, Bulgaria, and Greece from September 19 to October 4, 2014, to assess the growing humanitarian refugee crisis caused by the three-year war in Syria and the escalation of the conflict to Iraq. USCCB/MRS chose these three countries because they host large numbers of Syrians, they host many Iraqis, Afghans, Africans, and other vulnerable refugees, and they serve as gateways and corridors for migration to the European Union (EU) and the West.

Their purpose was to express solidarity with those seeking refuge, to strengthen partnerships with Catholic migration ministries, and to engage with all stakeholders to better understand the challenges and possible solutions related to protection, humanitarian needs, and durable solutions for those seeking refuge. USCCB/MRS will release a full report of findings and recommendations this January.

To learn more: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/upload/Refuge-and-Hope-in-the-Time-of-ISIS.pdf> ~ excerpts from USCCB website



Cabrini **Action and Advocacy** Coalition

***Get Involved* during National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month**



This January has been dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking. As a part of this initiative, the **CAAC** encourages everyone to make a New Year's Resolution to participate in some way. **Here are a few suggestions to get you started!**

- “Like” the **Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition** on Facebook or Follow us on Twitter for interesting articles and information on exciting upcoming events.
- Use Pope Francis’ #slavesnomore on Twitter and learn about “Slaves No More, but Brothers and Sisters” which will be the theme of this year’s World Day of Peace.
- Make “an end to human trafficking” this month’s prayer

intention.

- Attend a local awareness-raising event.
- Buy at least one thing such as coffee, tea, or clothing that is certified fair trade. Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade is a great resource for vendors!
- Support an initiative that provides job skills training to survivors such as Elegantees, Thistle Farms, or the Women’s Bean Project.
- Make a donation to a direct service provider such as our friends LifeWay Network, Dawn’s Place, and Covenant House.

These are just a few suggestions on how to get involved in the fight against human trafficking. The **CAAC** wants to know how YOU are participating! Contact us on Facebook or at CabriniAandA@aol.com and we will feature your work!

~ submitted by CMC missionary Melanie Paccillo



Every two minutes a child is trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the United States.

—U.S. Department of Justice

Cabrini Health, Australia

Retracing the Footsteps of St. F.X. Cabrini



The entrance to the Cabrini convent in Codogno, Italy.

The town of Codogno, north of Milan, where St. Frances Xavier Cabrini established her congregation is a long way from Cabrini Health in Melbourne, Australia. Yet in September 2014, a group of eight staff from Melbourne travelled to the town and the Centro Di Spiritualita Madre Cabrini (Spirituality Centre) to connect with and foster within them the original Cabrini culture that resides there. Drawn from various departments across the organization, the pilgrims spent a week of discussion and exploration of the origins of the Cabrini culture and Mother Cabrini's birthplace.

One of the pilgrims, Jason Aquilina, Cabrini Health's Financial Controller, says the experience was unforgettable.

"I have spent most of my working life in cut-throat commercial environments.

Cabrini's culture isn't about 'customers' or commodities – we affect people's lives. Our culture is about empathy and caring. The main focus of the pilgrimage was how to more effectively imbue these traits into our daily work. We looked at the changes we might make to reinforce St. Cabrini's missionary vision in Melbourne," he said.

"It was very educational – we were given a different perspective on what it is to be part of the extended Cabrini organization. This firsthand experience means I can now give real insights into the culture to my colleagues".



Two Missionary Sisters from Codogno spend time in conversation with Jason Aquilina of Cabrini Health during the group's pilgrimage.

Jason found that because diverse sections of the organization, they each brought something different to the table, enriching the whole, and over the week a strong, natural bond grew among the participants.



On their final day, the pilgrims were fortunate in meeting Cabrini's new Superior General, Sr. Barbara Staley, MSC and other members of the General Council. Sr. Barbara spoke about how the Cabrini Sisters have always welcomed laypeople of all faith traditions into their organizations. [In doing so,] she reminded the group that the organization is Catholic and that outward expressions of Catholic culture such as prayers before meetings [are central and vital.]



Jason loved the whole pilgrimage, from the town and its welcoming inhabitants, to visiting the places where St. Cabrini grew up and worked. He found the Sisters inspiring, especially the retired Sisters who had been trail-blazers in their day, and who had made many personal sacrifices to ensure the perpetuation of the Cabrini work and spirit.

~ written by Di Websdale Morrissey; with thanks to Jason Aquilina; and submitted by Christine Elmer

The pilgrims from Australia were able to meet and spend time with the new General Council. From left: Sr. Maria Concepcion Vallecillo, MSC, Superior General Sr. Barbara Staley, MSC; Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC and Sr. Maria Regina Canale, MSC.

Cabrini College, Radnor, PA

Recognized for Community Engagement by Carnegie Foundation

Cabrini College was recognized for community engagement by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Initially classified in 2008 for both its "Curricular Engagement" and "Outreach and Partnerships," Cabrini received renewal after a two-year voluntary application process.

"Service, community partnerships, and fostering engaged citizens remain pivotal to the Cabrini mission," says President Donald Taylor, Ph.D. "The *Justice Matters* core curriculum provides every student—regardless of discipline—the opportunity to learn, reflect, serve, and act upon the issues that impact the community."

The "Curricular Engagement" classification describes teaching, learning and scholarship which engage faculty, students and community in collaboration.

The "Outreach and Partnerships" classification focuses on how the institution uses resources to benefit both the community and the campus, and on collaborative interactions with community and related scholarship for research, capacity building, and economic development.



The recognition highlights the College's community partnerships with 15 organizations, including the Montgomery County Health Coalition, Norristown Area School District, Greater Norristown Police Athletic League, Laurel House, Catholic Relief Services and Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Through diverse partnerships, students are able to integrate intellectual competency with moral and social responsibility at the local and global levels. Students collaborate with community partners on topics including watershed citizenship, domestic violence awareness, fair trade, and childhood obesity and hunger and engage in service with communities in Africa, South and Central America, West Virginia, and Louisiana.

As a leader in service learning, Cabrini was among the first institutions in the nation to implement community service into its curriculum, the first in Pennsylvania to require community service of all its undergraduates, and the first college to sign an agreement with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support the organization's global service initiatives.

For the seventh year, in 2014, the College received national recognition when it was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, this year including the Interfaith Honor Roll with Distinction and the Education Honor Roll.

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Cabrini College Named to President's Community Service Honor Roll

For the seventh year, Cabrini College has been named to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, including the Interfaith Honor Roll with Distinction and the Education Honor Roll.

This is the first year the Education Honor roll has been offered.

The President's Community Service Honor Roll recognizes colleges and universities across the nation that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes for their communities.

Evaluation is based on scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service learning permeates the curriculum, commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes of the service.

The Honor Roll highlights the College's commitment to service learning which is exemplified in its core curriculum, *Justice Matters*.

Through coursework and experiential learning, Cabrini students develop skills that allow them to go beyond service, to identify and analyze problems, and bring about meaningful change through thoughtful action.

This year, Cabrini was recognized for several programs made possible through its [Engagements with the Common Good \(ECG\)](#) courses and long-standing community partnerships, including the College's partner city of Norristown, Pa.

Through these programs, students:

- partnered with the Montgomery County Health Alliance to examine health issues related to poverty and worked with the Alliance to generate awareness and education opportunities, including a symposium
- worked with Valley Creek Restoration Partnership, engaging in community-based research to enhance the local natural environment
- mentored Latino students in the Norristown Area School District to encourage them to graduate and find career or college opportunities
- collaborated with faculty and staff, as well as national and local organizations including the Laurel House and Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, to support domestic violence prevention, awareness, and education efforts

The College estimates that, **each year, Cabrini students log more than 20,000 hours of service to the local and global communities.**

The Corporation for National and Community Service oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education.

For a complete list of Honor Roll recipients, please visit www.learnandserve.gov

Some Spiritual Thoughts to Begin the New Year

Becoming Who We Were Meant to Be

Happy New Year! These words represent an opportunity for us to transform ourselves into the people we hope to be. The people God knows we can be. This year, we can bring true joy to our lives by transforming ourselves for God.

[Start by seeking God everywhere.](#)

Whether it is by acknowledging the constant generosity God shows towards us or by accepting opportunities to receive Our Lord in the sacraments, God is waiting for us to seek his presence in our lives. All we have to do is look and listen.

[Nurture a healthy faith.](#)

Are there things in our lives that distract us from our spiritual needs? That can mean limiting such things as television or the computer or just accepting our struggles as opportunities for grace. Transformation by God can only come if we give ourselves to him completely.

[Maintain a clean slate.](#)

Avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and seek out opportunities for spiritual growth such as attending parish retreats or joining a faith-sharing or bible study group. These "vitamins" for the soul will keep us spiritually sound.

[Aspire to the great ones.](#)

Throughout history, the saints experienced every situation imaginable. Look to them for inspiration.



Cabrini High School, New Orleans, LA

Recognized by Catholic Relief Services



CHS Principal Yvonne Hrapmann (l.) presented the Catholic Relief Services plaque for community service to alumna and religion teacher Nadine Pizer.

Cabrini High School was recognized by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for its outstanding commitment to our brothers and sisters most in need around the world through the CRS iNeighbor High School Program.

Cabrini students, faculty, and staff participated in a mutually beneficial partnership with CRS in the creation of a national outreach program for Catholic high schools in the United States. Martha Gaynoe, CRS Regional Program Officer, presented Principal Yvonne Hrapmann '76, with a plaque on behalf of Cabrini at a recent Catholic Schools Principals' Association meeting. Mrs. Hrapmann presented the plaque to the school community at the Advent Mass. Accepting the plaque on behalf of the school community was alumna and religion teacher, Nadine Pizer '76, in recognition of her initiative to broaden and deepen Cabrini's work with CRS.

~ submitted by Nall Gearheard



CHS Community Adopts 20 Families at Christmastime

Cabrini High School students, faculty, staff, and alumnae adopted twenty families for Christmas in partnership with Catholic Charities of New Orleans, New Orleans Head Start Programs, and Kipp McDonogh 15 Primary School.

Cabrini High School students adopt needy families each year to assist with their Christmas needs. This year, the students, faculty, staff, and alumnae have adopted four families from Catholic Charities, six families from the Head Start Program, and ten families from Kipp McDonogh 15 Primary School. Students, faculty, staff, and alumnae collected over two hundred presents this year that are appropriate for their adopted families, including gift cards, toys, books, bikes, and more. The Cabrini family also provides food and beverages so their adopted families may celebrate Christmas in true holiday fashion.

The Adopt a Family event is coordinated each year by Cabrini's Campus Ministry and the Religion department. Emulating Mother Cabrini and her dedication to the service of others, and in celebration of Christ's birth, the Cabrini family works especially hard to make the holidays special for their adopted families. *~ submitted by Nall Gearheard*



CHS Campus Minister Laura Arand (c. holding red gift) and the CHS students as they gathered all the gifts donated for families in the New Orleans area.

Cabrini High School, New Orleans, LA

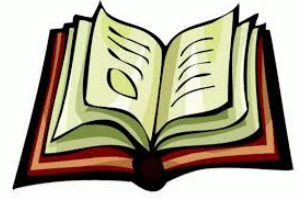
Holds a Yearbook Party for the Class of 2014



A time-honored tradition: Cabrini High School's most recent graduates return to campus, reunite and receive and sign each other's yearbooks.

Cabrini's Alumnae Office hosts a yearbook signing party each year for alumnae from the previous graduating class. The ladies have a chance to reunite and reminisce with their former classmates as they look through their yearbooks. The gathering is held in Alumnae Hall in Cabrini's historic Esplanade Building.

~ submitted by Nall Gearheard



Prayer Requests

Marie Aurora

Cabrini Companion Marie Aurora asks for our prayers as she has been diagnosed with kidney cancer and will undergo surgery on January 15th, 2015. As the time for her surgery draws nearer, she especially needs prayers for faith and courage. She thanks the Cabrinian community and asks that God bless all of us for our prayerful support.

Paul Christians

The Villa Cabrini Academy Alumnae and Friends (VCAAF) request that we please remember in prayer Paul Christians, the son of the late Rebecca Ymas Christians, VCA '33 and brother of Jeannine Christians, an active member of the VCAAF. Paul is hospitalized and being treated for liver and kidney problems.

Lisa DiMeglio

Cabrini Companion Peter Monaco asks that we please pray for his friend Lisa DiMeglio of Yonkers, NY, who has been sent home from the hospital after a long illness with cancer. She has fought a valiant fight over the years and dealt with the cancer through remission and return. Her outlook now is very poor. Peter asks prayers of grace for Lisa and her family during this difficult time.

Bishop Louis DeSimone

Please keep Bishop Louis DeSimone in your prayers as he mourns the loss of his of his brother, Fr. Russell DeSimone, OSA. Bishop DeSimone is a dear and longtime friend of the Missionary Sisters.

If you would like to send condolences to the Bishop:

St. John the Baptist Parish

1110 Vaughans Lane

Gladwyne, PA 19035

Juanita Garcia

Kindly keep Juanita Garcia in your prayers. She is the mother of Sr. Amelia Breton, SBS, the vocation director for the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and the co-coordinator of NRVC Region 3. Juanita is very ill at this time. Sr. Amelia will be traveling to the Dominican Republic to be with her mother.

Joann

We have received a request from a woman named Joann asking for peace and health for her family.

Lanski Family

Please continue to pray for Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC who is recuperating from surgery. Please also remember Sr. Tommasina's brothers Joe and Charles and her sister Mary who are also experiencing some health challenges.

Gloria Mattia

Please pray for Gloria as she recovers from hip surgery, which took place yesterday. May her recovery be swift and uneventful.

Mufide

The Province Communications Office received a phone call from a woman named Mufide who asks prayers for her family and for several special intentions.

Najah

The Cabrinian Community has been asked to pray for Najah, a minor who just learned she is pregnant. This request is being made by the staff at the Cabrini Clinic in Detroit, MI.

Sr. Regina Palamara, MSC, VCA '52

The Villa Cabrini Alumnae and Friends of Burbank, CA, ask you to continue your prayers for our dear Sr. Regina. May she have a quick and complete recovery from recent eye surgery.

Jamie Panetta

Your prayers are asked for Jamie, age 47, the son of Elaine & Jim Panetta, who was diagnosed with cancer of the colon and who will be starting chemotherapy in a few days.

Claire Reulbach

Cabrini Companion Peter Monaco asks that we please pray for his Auntie Claire Reulbach who is recuperating from an illness at home in Needham Mass. She is 92 years old and missed a recent family gathering due to her illness. Prayers for her strength and wellbeing are appreciated.



Toby

A Cabrini College staff member asks for prayers for Toby in Blue Bell, Pa., a 39-year old husband and father of two young girls who was recently diagnosed with stage-four stomach cancer that has metastasized to his liver. Please keep Toby and his family in your prayers.

Catherine Wagner

Please pray for Catherine, the mother of Sr. Christopher Wagner, OSF. Sr. Chris is a vocation director for the Sisters of St. Francis and is a member of NRVC Region 3. Her mother, Catherine, has experienced some health problems of late. Please remember her and Sr. Chris and her siblings as they care for their mom.

In Memoriam

Fr. Russell DeSimone, OSA

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Fr. Russell, the brother of longtime MSC friend Bishop Louis A. DeSimone. Fr. Russell passed away on December 29th. His Mass of Christian Burial was on Monday, January 5th. May God's grace be a special comfort to the DeSimone Family at this time.

Marilyn Pena

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marilyn Pena, mother of Susan Pena McCaskey VCA '75. God called Marilyn home on Christmas Day and relieved her of her courageous battle against cancer.



God of this new year, we are walking into mystery. We face the future not knowing what the days and months will bring us or how we will respond. Be the love in us as we journey. May we welcome all who come our way. Deepen our faith to see all of life through your eyes. Fill us with hope and an abiding trust that you dwell in us amidst all the joys and sorrows. Thank you for being the treasure of our faith life. Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day with the assurance of your walking through the day with us. God of this new year, we give you thanks and praise. Amen. ~ Joyce Rupp