



May 18, 2017

All one body; Forming Intercultural Communities



Fr. Anthony Gittins, C.S.Sp.

In the Spring 2017 issue of HORIZON, the journal of the National Religious Vocation Conference, Fr. Anthony J. Gittins, C.S.Sp., a professional social culture anthropologist, offers insights about what time and effort must be expended to have religious communities become truly intercultural. Fr. Gittins' theories have implications for other types of groups and communities, as well. We will present Fr. Gittins' article in installments over the next few weeks.

Pope Francis has impressed people of many religions all over the world by a simple, biblical, yet, apparently revolutionary way of living the Gospel of Jesus that still challenges humanity. Not surprisingly, there are resisters, even from within the church, since his example can be a stumbling block to some. James D.G. Dunn, a contemporary New Testament scholar, puts the matter this way: "There is a disturbing quality about the urgency of Jesus' call – a shaking of the foundations – such that those who want a quiet life are bound to resent and resist." Because we all seek, at least sometimes, a quiet life, we are likely to resist, if not resent, reiterated calls to conversion. The topic of this article concerns one such call.

What is meant by *intercultural*?

Intercultural living is a phrase that has gradually moved center stage in conversations about the future of religious life and other forms of faith-based communal living, including U.S.-based, non-international communities that include and seek members from a variety of cultural backgrounds. But intercultural living is often misunderstood, and its implications are not infrequently resisted and resented. So perhaps it is appropriate to explain, justify, and champion it, not only as critically important to the future of international faith communities, but as a gift of the Holy Spirit that the church is gradually understanding in our time.

For half a century or more, international conglomerates – banks, oil companies, automobile manufacturers, and the rest – have become increasingly aware of the urgent need for greater collaboration among their culturally diverse partners by treating them as equals. This insight has been driven not so much by the recognition of the intrinsic value of each person, as by

the bankruptcy of an “assimilationist” model of recruitment and extension. This model assumes the absolute dominance of the parent company in terms of policy, election to office, strategy, and selection of personnel. But, it has become increasingly clear that if an international company is to be successful in a globalized world, everyone must rethink some cherished assumptions and practices, and new ideas must be actively sought from as wide a constituency as possible. Future efficiency and creativity can be maintained by internal collaboration rather than potentially undermined by unhealthy competition.

During the past half-century then, executives have been drawing on and indeed funding the accumulating wisdom of the social sciences. These disciplines – particularly sociology, social-cultural anthropology, and psychology have identified the corrosive effects of ethnocentrism, imperialism, monolithic structures, and change-resistant policies. All this, of course, is happening in a strongly secular culture driven by pragmatic considerations and the expectations of shareholders.

Meanwhile, in (but not limited to) the Catholic Church, international religious orders, congregations and institutes of various kinds have become more and more conscious of a gradual, but increasingly palpable and irreversible change in their own demographics. The major provinces of the past (overwhelmingly comprising homogeneous ethnic membership, and primarily European stock) experience a rapid decline in native membership, due to a dramatic decrease in new vocations and the simultaneous dying out of the aging membership. But many communities, most notably those originally founded for an overseas missionary apostolate or those that responded to the challenges of Vatican II to engage in a more global apostolate, were attracting potential recruits from the countries in which they were ministering. Initially, and before the trickle became a stream and then a flood, the well-tried methods of formation – typically characterized as “assimilation” – seemed appropriate.

But many things changed in two generations. From a pattern of recruitment and formation of European candidates into predominantly European foundations with a 19th century ethos, a new challenge emerged. Now candidates from Africa, Asia and elsewhere in a global church are seeking admission into long established institutions with a strong European or American ethos, whose members have, at best, only a superficial understanding of the contexts and mentalities of the aspiring candidates.



Next week: Three important characteristics of the “new” cohort of candidates.

National Volunteer Week Celebrated at Cabrini of Westchester



On Thursday, April 27th, 2017 we hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Service. Our theme for the event was “Making the World a Better Place” which is the recognized theme for National Volunteer Week.



Simone Smith (l.) and Cabrini of Westchester President and CEO Pat Krasnausky (r.) with Peggy Coffey holding her award for 20 years of volunteer service.

An inter-faith prayer service was held in the Chapel where we presented long term Volunteer Peggy Coffey with the first ever “Spirit Award” in recognition of her 20 years of volunteer service to Cabrini! Music and refreshments followed on the north patio on what turned out to be a beautiful day. The food was great, the music was entertaining and the company was the best! Each guest received a small gift box of a key chain with a colorful butterfly and the Cabrini logo as well as a card that expressed the gratitude we have for the service of each Volunteer.

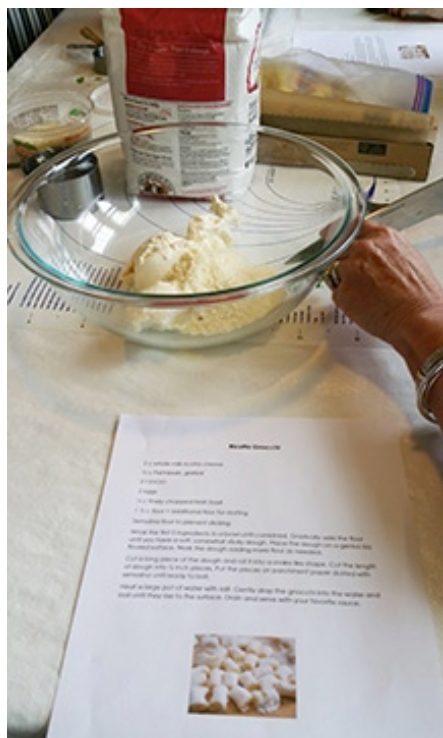
We truly thank our Volunteers who should know that we could not accomplish the great work we do without their help!

~ submitted by Pat Krasnausky



Photo above: Jean Cutrone (l.) enjoys the celebration with Sr. Adeodata Gatti, MSC.

Photo left: Cabrini of Westchester volunteers gathered for the interfaith prayer service.



Gnocchi Night at Cabrini University



On April 26, 2017, Cabrini University inaugurated its first "Live with Purpose; Learn with Joy: Cabrini U and You" faculty and staff event: Gnocchi Night at Cabrini. Lisa Ratmansky, Director of the Center for Inquiry, Teaching & Scholarship, on behalf of Dr. Jeff Gingerich, Provost of Academic Affairs, coordinated the first of many get-togethers for Cabrini faculty and staff. Dr. Maria Schwab, assistant professor of Education Policy and Leadership, taught a happy group of Cabrini faculty and staff how to make some of her family's authentic Italian recipes.

Together we enjoyed learning to prepare - from scratch - ricotta cheese gnocchi, tomato cream sauce with mascarpone and red wine, and a second sauce of broccolini with sausage and garlic in olive oil. A spirit of camaraderie was enhanced by the making of and consuming this delicious meal--a feast that also included an Italian cheese platter, a Caesar salad, and wine.

This dining treat was topped off with a dessert of lemon sorbet served with vanilla ice cream, a splash of limoncello and a meyer lemon cookie. The always-lovely Cottage was transformed into an Italian bistro with a red-checkered tablecloth and fresh flowers. In the photo please notice the happy faces of gnocchi-making apprentices (Maria, our teacher, is wearing the red apron) and the Italian-themed dining room. Special thanks goes to Maureen Catania, Assistant to the Provost, for all her efforts to support this event! A thank you, too, goes to Nancy Costello for kindly offering the Cottage for this mission-centered, fun, and educational gathering.
~ submitted by Lisa Ratmansky



Dr. Maria Schwab (c.) instructs faculty and staff members of Cabrini University in the culinary art of making gnocchi. A festive Italian meal followed!

Remembering a Beloved Colleague and Friend



On Tuesday, May 16th, the Cabrini University community gathered to dedicate a meditation garden on the Radnor campus in memory of Dr. David Dunbar who died suddenly a year ago on the evening before Commencement. In attendance at the dedication were from left: Dr. Dunbar's sister-in-law Heather, long-time friend Beth Moy, and his parents Linda and Mel Dunbar.

SAVE THE DATE!



Cabrini Mission Foundation
3rd Annual Bowling FUNdraiser

Wednesday, June 21, 2017
6:00 – 9:00 pm - Further Details to Follow



Please join us for the 16th Annual

Mother Cabrini Shrine

Gala

Celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Friday, June 23, 2017

**Pinnacle Club at the Grand Hyatt
555 17th Street, Denver Colorado**

Cocktails and Silent Auction – 5:30 pm
Dinner, Awards and Live Auction – 7:30 pm

Summer/Business Casual Attire

To Purchase Tickets or Sponsor Tables

[Click Here](#)

If you can donate to our silent or live auction, please contact JoAnn at 303.526.0758 or joann@mothercabrinishrine.org We are looking for gift cards, sporting event tickets, points for hotels or airfare, wine, vacation excursions, casual and fine dining certificates and gift baskets.



St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine, NYC

participating in

Sacred Sites Open House

This year marks the Landmarks Conservancy's seventh annual *Sacred Sites Open House* on **May 20th and 21st – this weekend!**



This year's theme, *Stained Glass: Windows on this World and the Next* focuses on the significance and conservation of stained glass and windows in religious sites and highlights work of American stained glass masters including John LaFarge, Henry Sharp, and Louis Comfort Tiffany as well as prominent European artists and studios including Henry Holiday and Mayer of Munich among others.

Over 130 churches, synagogues, and meetinghouses throughout the city and state will be open for you to explore their wonderful religious architecture.

The St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine will be open both Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a gift shop and both guided and self-guided tours.

Prayer Requests

Cabrini University Graduates

This Sunday will be the Commencement for the first class to graduate from Cabrini UNIVERSITY. Please keep the graduates and all their future endeavors in your thoughts and prayers.



Tommy Deegan

Our prayers are requested for Tommy Deegan who underwent surgery on Tuesday. Please pray for the success of his follow up treatment and long-term recovery. His family would greatly appreciate our prayerful accompaniment.

Carlos Gabriel Labiosa

Carlos "Gaby" Labiosa is scheduled to undergo serious surgery on May 30th. His mother would be so very grateful for the prayers of the Cabrinian community that is surgery will be successful and his recovery complete.

Jean Russo

Kindly remember Jean, the mother of Cabrini University staff Rosemary Gehrlein, in your prayers. Mrs. Russo is 94 years of age and is currently hospitalized.