



MISSIONARY SISTERS  
of the SACRED HEART of JESUS  
*Bringing Christ's love to the world*

THE UPDATE

March 10, 2016

## *A Home Away from Home: Visiting the MSCs in Barcenas*

Over the recent Spring break, several Cabrini College faculty, students and alumnae had the opportunity to travel to Guatemala in order to participate in a one-week mission trip in San Lucas.

Our time in Guatemala would not have been complete without visiting the kind Missionary Sisters at Dispensario Madre Cabrini in Barcenas.

Over the course of my life I have had the great pleasure and

honor of knowing and loving many Missionary Sisters. I have very fond memories of the Sisters and all the good they have done and continue to do for many – including for my family and me. For this reason, I hold the Missionary Sisters very close to my heart.

As soon as I stepped out of the van in Barcenas and saw the words “Madre Cabrini” painted on the building, I knew that I would be among friends.

Our group had the great pleasure of spending the day with Sr. Maria Elena Plata, MSC, a new amiga of the Cabrini College Cavaliers.

Sr. Maria Elena was kind enough to show us the different departments in the Dispensary; introduce us to many of the employees; lead us to a breathtaking view of Barcenas on the roof, as well as, provide a very tasty and satisfying lunch.

I was truly in awe of the incredible work that the sisters do with the people of Barcenas. The Dispensario contains a hospital, psychological services, a children's program, a pharmacy, as well as other resources for the people of Guatemala.



A view of Barcenas from the MSC dispensary.



Cabrini students Molly Seaman (l.) and Emily Gutierrez pause for a photo by the Mother Cabrini grotto.



Cabrini College professor Dr. Raquel Green and Sr. Laudir Crocolli, MSC enjoy renewing their friendship.

The Dispensario embodies the spirit of Mother Cabrini and welcomes all to its services. Our group had the great opportunity of witnessing the sisters in action as they greeted all of the patients and employees by name, offering kind words and a hug to everyone they passed.

The cross that the Missionary Sisters wear around their neck is an immediate sign of peace and safety for me. Although Guatemala is thousands of miles away from the United States, Barcenas and the Dispensario instantly became our home away from home.

Gracias to the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart for showing us so much love during our journey and for carrying out the work and mission of Mother Cabrini every single day.

*~ submitted by Cabrini College sophomore Molly Seaman.*

*(Molly is the daughter of JoAnn Seaman, Director of Development at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO.)*



Dr. Jerry Zurek and Sr. Xochilt Calero, MSC (l.) and Sr. Laudir Crocolli, MSC.



Sr. Maria Elena Plata, MSC (c) welcomes the faculty members, students and alumnae from Cabrini College who travelled to Guatemala and visited the MSC clinic in Barcenas during Spring Break.

## A Visit to Guatemala – An Alumna's Perspective

Last week I had the privilege of joining Cabrini College professors Dr. Jerry Zurek and Dr. Raquel Green and their class on their spring break trip to San Lucas, Guatemala. This is part of a semester-long course they teach called ECG 200 ([Engagements with the Common Good](#)). There were 10 students and 4 Cabrini College alumnae on this immersion trip to the San Lucas Mission. This was a powerful week in so many ways as we interacted with volunteers at the Mission and met the people of San Lucas Toliman through our work. Each

day seemed to reveal a new level of purpose about why this group of 16 was meant to be on this journey together.

In the middle of the week we were able to visit the Missionary Sisters in Bárcenas who graciously welcomed us and gave us a full tour of the Madre Cabrini Dispensario. As Sr. Maria Elena Plata, MSC led us through the clinic and explained the services offered, I had the overwhelming feeling that I had been there before. This was my first trip to Guatemala so this familiar feeling was something else. Over the years I have been fortunate to visit other MSC communities in the United States and one thing is always true when we are in the presence of Cabrini Sisters in a Cabrinian institution. You are always made to feel welcomed and hospitality flows from everyone you meet. It's as though you are meeting up with friends you have not seen in some time.

A special thank you to Sr. Maria Elena Plata, Sr. Laudir Crocolli, and Sr. Xochilt Calero for extending such a warm welcome to all of us. I was so pleased that these students and recent graduates of Cabrini College were able to meet the sisters and hear about their work in the first person and better understand that Cabrini is not just a school in the Philadelphia suburbs – but it is indeed part of a global organization.

*~ submitted by Jean Findlay, Class of 1985*



Cabrini College graduates carry their spirit of mission and justice for life. Continuing their tradition of service are alumnae from left: Hollie Havens '98; Madison Milano '15; Lauren Hight '15 and Jean Findlay '85.

## Continuing the Jubilee Year of Mercy

During this Year of Mercy we are considering ways in which we can more fully enter into the spirit of the Jubilee Year and will be offering practical suggestions for showing mercy to others. In the coming weeks we will be considering the ...

### The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to "help our neighbor in their spiritual needs" ([USCCA](#)).

### COUNSELING THE DOUBTFUL

Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and turn to him along our way.

- Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may eventually become wise" ([Prov 19:20](#))
- The Cross of Christ "the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength" ([1 Cor 1:25](#))
- Has someone asked you for advice? Orient your response to Christ, who is the

Way, the Truth, and the Life

- Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others may see God's love revealed in your actions
- Accompany a friend who is struggling with believing to join a parish group for service or faith formation, share a book you found useful in dealing with your friend's faith concern, and worship at Sunday Mass



# Helping Trafficking Victims...

*One Purse, Shoe, Belt, and Scarf at a Time!*



~ An account by Danielle Perez, MSC Communications Office intern

When we hear the words *human trafficking* we think of the horrors foreign women and children go through in their countries. From rape, to torture, to prostitution, and even death.



But what not many people are aware of is that human trafficking is a practice common not just in poorer countries but in wealthy countries like the U.S. Human trafficking is not just the dark and dingy picture portrayed in films. American children and young adults being forced into prostitution and into working for someone else's profit *is* human trafficking. The King of Prussia Mall, located in suburban Philadelphia, and many other malls, and concerts and sporting events in the U.S. are playgrounds for traffickers. They target runaways and vulnerable young people.

Cabrini freshman, Christian Vazquez, had a basic understanding of human trafficking from learning about it at his high school, but he admits that he was not aware of how close to home this occurrence is. Because of the assumed "...tough laws..." that the U.S. has, many Americans like Christian have no idea that human trafficking is an international occurrence and not just another misfortune third world citizens have to endure.

Thankfully, the Cabrini community continues spreading awareness on social justice issues and providing for those in need. The Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition is an MSC ministry that promulgates the MSC's two corporate stances: to SUPPORT the rights and dignity of all immigrants and STOP human trafficking once and for all.

"The coalition was formed to do whatever we [could] to stop human trafficking," current chairman, Karol Brewer explains. Karol began her work with the Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition many years ago, and

"We have to do something...

We can do something...

Why not do this on our own?"

~ Karol Brewer  
speaking of founding the  
Cabrini Closet

because of her dedication to helping the most vulnerable, the MSCs asked her to chair this initiative.

Karol is also the founder of The Cabrini Closet, “a trendy Goodwill” -- as I call it -- which specializes in providing human trafficking victims with new and contemporary attire to better accommodate them in their transition into society once again. She began this work after forming a friendship with an FBI agent who worked solely with trafficking victims and hearing the stories of what these people go through. “We have to do something -- we *can* do something!” Karol recalled telling herself. So she took matters into her own hands and thought: “Why not do this on our own?” And so, The Closet was created!



To further spread the word on The Closet and promote awareness as well as support for Human Trafficking and its victims, the Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition will be hosting a sale to raise funds for the cause. The sale will take place on **Wednesday, March 16th** in the College’s **Grace Hall Atrium** from **10:00 am-3:00 pm**. (See flyer on page 6.) They will be selling designer purses, shoes, belts, and many more items, which were donated to The Closet by generous people from all over the country. These items will be sold at reasonable prices.

Karol has reached out to top designers to ask them to donate at least one of their bags. She has sent out about 15 requests to designers ranging from Michael Kors to Ralph Lauren and even Coach. She is still waiting for replies but is hoping at least one agrees. Being as though this is the first fundraiser the coalition has hosted, she expressed her nervousness for the turnout of the sale. But she was enthused about the Cabrini community and their support of the cause. Though she admits that it is a lot of work, Karol finds it all to be exceptionally “gratifying...[and] wonderful that [we] get to do this.”

All proceeds will go directly towards the Coalition to provide funds and gift cards for trafficking victims, and to Dawn’s Place, a shelter in Southeastern Pennsylvania for women who are victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse.

*~submitted by Danielle Perez, Cabrini College freshman and MSC Communications Office intern*



## A Lenten Reflection

When we take a “loving look at the real” in our lives we begin to see God’s hand at work amid the ordinariness of our lives. God is in the details, after all. Not only in the details of a Michelangelo masterpiece, not only in the details of the lives of well-known saints, but, in the details of our lives right now, this minute. Where has God shown up in your life today? Do you often shrug off ordinary moments of grace, assuming they are too mundane or too “real” to mean anything of mystical proportions? What if you are no different from the saints and sages, save for the realization that holiness is all around you? Today, take a loving look at all that is “real” in your life. ~ Mary DeTurris Poust





## Handbags, Scarves & Shoes!!

Many Designer items

Wednesday, March 16

**Cabrini College**

Grace Hall Atrium

610 King of Prussia Road, Radnor, PA 19087

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

New and Like New Accessories  
at Very Low Prices

### Sale to benefit Cabrini **Action & Advocacy** Coalition

**Rescued Trafficked Victims Need Our On-Going Help**

Proceeds from this sale will help support our  
"Cabrini Closet" efforts to supply rescued victims of human trafficking  
with much needed items.

Part of the proceeds will also benefit

Dawn's Place in Pennsylvania - [www.ahomefordawn.org](http://www.ahomefordawn.org)

**(Cash & Checks Only – ATM onsite)**

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## Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC

*Justice for Immigrants*



Dennisse, (l.) a Cabrini Justice for Immigrant advocate, speaks at a rally for immigrant rights.

On Tuesday, February 23, members of the Justice for Immigrants campaign at Cabrini Immigrant Services participated in an action asking President Obama to stop the raids of Central American refugees. Right after Christmas, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began a spree of arresting and deporting refugees from Central America who came to the United States fleeing violence. Of all the people who have been deported since 2014, we know at least 83 have been killed in their home countries.

The February action asked President Obama and the Department of Homeland Security to treat these people like the refugees they are. At the action, several people, including our member Dennisse, spoke about the challenges facing undocumented immigrants and their fear about being sent back to violence. After they spoke, we participated in a "die-in", despite the rain, to recognize and mourn the 83 people who have been killed.

You can read about the action here: <http://nydn.us/1OyqZYR>

~ submitted by CMC missionary Madison Koenig

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## Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC

### *Advocating for Food Banks*

Cabrini Mission Corps missionary Rebecca Wyss visited the New York Statehouse in Albany with other members of the Food Bank for New York City to advocate for more funding for emergency food. Since 2007, funding for food banks in the state has remained the same, even though the need has grown every year. Rebecca and people who work at other food pantries spoke with elected officials about how they have to try to feed more people every month with the same amount of funding from the state. We pray that the representatives heard their request and will offer more support to food pantries like ours!



Cabrini Mission Corps missionary Rebecca Wyss (2<sup>nd</sup> r.) was part of a group that went to the Statehouse in Albany, NY to ask legislators for more funding for food pantries.

~ submitted by

CMC missionary Madison Koenig

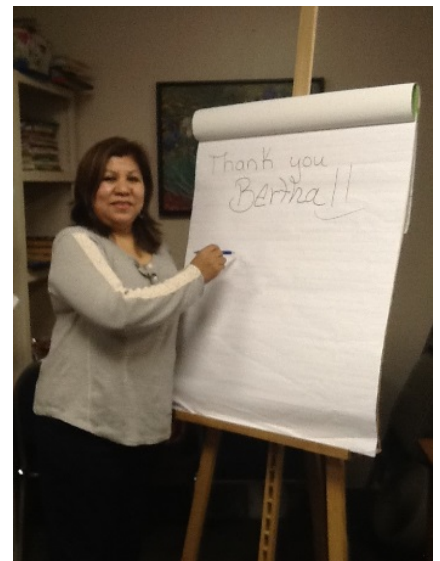
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## Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY

### *Knowledge is Empowerment Against Domestic Violence*

Domestic Violence has become a very serious problem in the USA. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in our country have experienced some form of physical violence by their spouse or partner. **On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls.** The only way to help end this problem is to educate and empower people about this topic. With this in mind, Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, offered a workshop to those living in the community.

On February 25th, Ms. Bertha Diaz, a social work intern at Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), presented a Domestic Violence





Workshop. The workshop, which was given in both English and Spanish, explained what domestic violence is as well as what to do if you are in this situation. As Bertha explained, “It is so important to get the word out there about this issue.” Materials were distributed that gave information about domestic violence as well as important phone numbers and safe places to go if you are a victim or know someone who is a victim of this violence.

As the participants left, someone wrote a note to Bertha, which simply said, “Thank you, Bertha!!” The words tell how much they learned and enjoyed the presentation.

~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS, Dobbs Ferry, NY

## Please Save the Date National Shrine of St. Cabrini

Chicago, IL



Easter Season Organ Recital: The Italian  
Influence on Sunday, April 10

Join us in the Chapel at 1:30pm for a concert featuring Organist Corrado Cavalli; Free-will donations will be accepted. [Click here for more information](#)

## Prayer Requests

### ***Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC***

Please continue your prayers for Sr. Toni who is still recuperating from recent knee surgery.

### ***Sr. Joaquina Costa, MSC***

Prayers are requested for Sr. Joaquina who is recovering from knee surgery.

### ***Roger Moore Decoyna***

Please pray for God's gracious healing for Roger Moore Decoyna who will have a craniotomy to remove a large brain tumor next week. Roger is one of Jovie Decoyna's 5 brothers and a father of 3 young children.

### ***Sr. Barbara Leonardo, MSC***

Your prayers are asked for Sr. Barbara who suffered a stroke over the weekend. Pray that she experiences a full recovery.

***Pam Mascari***

Please pray for Pam a trustee and alumna of Cabrini High School, New Orleans who will be having serious surgery tomorrow, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

***Sr. Marie Murphy, RDC***

We ask your prayers for Sr. Marie Murphy, RDC, a Sister of Divine Compassion, who was seriously injured in a car accident this weekend.

## In Loving Memory

***Sr. Barbara Heil, RDC***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Barbara Heil, RDC, who died over the weekend following a fatal car accident. Please remember her community, the Sisters of Divine Compassion, at this sad time.

***Norlynne Mercoles***

Former CMC missionary Crystal Catalan informs us that Norlynne Mercoles has passed away. She was a Save Our School Children Foundation, Inc. (SOSCFI) scholar and was one of the young women from the Philippines that Crystal brought to World Youth Day in Madrid. Please keep Norlynne and her family in your prayers.



Dear Jesus, help us to recognize you in the details of daily life. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear above the din of a world that tells us to doubt, to denigrate and to dismiss what is not extraordinary.