



January 18, 2018

## Do Not Let Fear Lead to a Refusal to Help Those in Need

by Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

Being afraid and concerned about the impact of migration is not a sin, Pope Francis said, but it is a sin to let those fears lead to a refusal to help people in need.

“The sin is to allow these fears to determine our responses, to limit our choices, to compromise respect and generosity, to feed hostility and rejection,” the Pope said on January 14<sup>th</sup>, celebrating Mass for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.



While fear is a natural human reaction, he said, “the sin is to refuse to encounter the other, the different, the neighbor, when this is in fact a privileged opportunity to encounter the Lord.”

According to the United Nations, an estimated 258 million people are living outside the country of their birth. The number includes 26 million refugees and asylum seekers, who were forced to flee their homelands because of war or persecution.

“His invitation ‘Come and see!’ is addressed today to all of us, to local communities and to new arrivals,” the Pope said. “It is an invitation to overcome our fears so as to encounter the other, to welcome, to know and to acknowledge him or her.”

For the migrants and refugees, he said, that includes learning about and respecting the laws and customs of their host countries. “It even includes understanding their fears and apprehensions for the future,” he added.

For people in the host countries, he said, it means welcoming newcomers, opening oneself “without prejudices to their rich diversity,” understanding their hopes, fears and vulnerabilities and recognizing their potential.

“In the true encounter with the neighbor, are we capable of recognizing Jesus Christ who is asking to be welcomed, protected, promoted and integrated?” Pope Francis asked.

“It is not easy to enter into another culture, to put oneself in the shoes of people so different from us, to understand their thoughts and their experiences,” the pope said. That is one reason why “we often refuse to encounter the other and raise barriers to defend ourselves.”

People in host countries may be afraid that newcomers “will disturb the established order (or) will ‘steal’ something they have long labored to build up,” he said. And the newcomers have their own fears “of confrontation, judgment, discrimination, failure.”

Both set of fears, the pope said, “are legitimate, based on doubts that are fully comprehensible from a human point of view.”

Sin, he said, enters the equation only when people refuse to try to understand, to welcome, to see Jesus present in the other, especially “the poor, the rejected, the refugee, the asylum seeker.”

*~ Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service*

## The Faces of Migration – Meet Our Neighbor

The Central American Minors (CAM) program has provided a legal and safe avenue for children in the Northern Triangle of Central America (El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala) to access necessary and life-saving protection. Ana is one such child.



Ana was only a young teen, living in the Northern Triangle, when the local gang began to target her. The gang would harass Ana on her way to and from school. They would accost her and try to force her to become their “girlfriend” or property. As Ana continued to deny them, she lived in constant fear for her safety and that of her family. She reached a point where she no longer felt safe anywhere she went.

Ana’s father, who was living in the U.S., helped her apply for the CAM program so that she could escape this constant persecution. With the help of USCCB/MRS and its affiliates, Ana’s application was accepted, and she was reunified with her father in the U.S.

While it was difficult for her to leave her home behind, Ana is deeply thankful for the security and safety that the CAM program provided her and notes that seeing her father “is an everyday blessing.” Since her arrival, Ana no longer feels fear and anxiety living her everyday life. She attends high school and dreams of going to college.

**Unfortunately, on November 8, 2017, the Administration announced that it would be terminating the CAM program.** Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, Texas, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, expresses his opposition, stating: “Terminating the entire CAM program will neither promote safety for these children nor help our government regulate migration.”

Read the full statement at: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2017/17-216.cfm>.

## Special Liturgy brings the Centenary Year to a close



The Missionary Sisters join Cardinal Timothy Dolan at the closing liturgy for the Centenary Year at the Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini in Upper Manhattan.

Photo credit: Anthony Jalondi

St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York City rang with the voices of friends, volunteers and Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who gathered to celebrate the end of Mother Cabrini's Centennial year. On December 16, sisters from Cabrini missions in Argentina, Central America, Australia, and all over the Eastern United States gathered in the Cabrini Shrine Chapel, greeting each other with open arms, wide smiles and many stories of their ministry around the world.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan officiated at the Mass in both English and Spanish. During the Mass, Cardinal Dolan said of Mother Cabrini, "We love her. We need her. We thank God for her... She herself became an immigrant, in search of the immigrant."

The centennial theme song from Argentina, "¡Y Emprendemos un Viaje!" and the Cabrini Shrine song, "Go Where I Send You" were loudly sung by the happy congregation.

The immigrant community that joined with the sisters for the Mass was encouraged and uplifted by their continued commitment to the work that Mother Cabrini began among us so long ago.

It was a glorious day.

Here is a link to the story in Catholic New York:

<http://www.cny.org/stories/centenary-mass-cites-mother-cabrinis-care-for-immigrants,16604>

*~ with thanks to Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, Dee Campos, Miriam King and Cherie Sprosty*



# Cabrini Immigrant Services

## Brings the Season of Giving to Life



Christmas is truly about the wonder of children. Excitement and expectation dances in their eyes.

On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC (CIS-NYC) held its annual Christmas celebration and gift distribution. We were joined by approximately 80 families for a day of festive fun and a distribution of nearly 700 gifts. Families enjoyed games, arts and crafts, face painting, food, drinks and Santa even came by for a visit!

This was a wonderful opportunity for our clients to spend time together and to get to know others in their community.

Thank you to all of our wonderful donors and friends who made this event such a success.

*~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, CIS-NYC*



This little elf gives a big hug to his new stuffed animal friend at the CIS-NYC Christmas celebration.



Members of the CIS-NYC staff and their dedicated volunteers take a well-deserved pause for a photo after bringing so much joy to so many people.

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### One Minute Meditation

The heart is the core of our being. It includes the deep recesses of our psyche, our moods and feelings, our emotions and passions, and also our intuitions, insights and visions. The heart is the place where we are most human. A listening heart therefore means a heart in which we stand open to God with all we are and have. That is a great act of trust and confidence. God is not in the distant heavens or in the hidden depths of the future, but here and now. God has pitched a tent among us. Even more than that, God has made a home in us so that we can make God's home our home. We find our way home to the heart by following Jesus.

*~ Henri J.M. Nouwen, A Spirituality of Homecoming*

## From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...



**Let GOD**  
speak to your heart...

**Come and See Weekend**  
for men and women,  
21 - 45, who are  
wondering  
if God is calling them  
to religious life.

**February 2 - 4, 2018**

**Mount Saint Joseph Convent**  
9701 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

3:00 - 6:00 Arrival on Friday with  
until 2:00PM on Sunday

Offering for the Weekend: \$60.00 (Deposit is 30.00).  
Spaces are limited.

For more information or to register for the weekend:  
Go to <https://vuc.formstack.com/forms/discernmentretreats>

**JESUS invites: "Come and follow me".**

Sponsored by an intercongregational team of vocation directors, the Delaware Valley Member Area of the National Religious Vocation Conference is hosting a discernment weekend for men and women ages 21-45 on February 2 – 4 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent in Philadelphia. If you know any young man or woman who might be open to religious life as a vocational path, please encourage them to attend. The cost of the weekend is \$60 dollars, however, NRVC will help to defray the cost.

For more information, please contact Nancy Costello:

[mscvocations@mothercabrini.org](mailto:mscvocations@mothercabrini.org)

610-902-1039

# Prayer Requests

## ***Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC***

Please continue your prayers for Sr. Yolanda who is now at home recuperating and feeling much better.

## ***Sophia Guray***

Please unite in prayer for 7-year-old Sophia Guray, the grandniece of Cabrini Lay Missionary Vicky Lucio. Sophia, a resident of the Philippines, is in need of a liver transplant. Pray that this medical procedure will come about in the near future.

## ***Sr. Juana Irigoyen, MSC***

Sr. Juana is recovering from surgery and doing well. She would be grateful for our prayers.

## ***Sr. Frances Italiano, MSC***

Sr. Frances has a bad case of the flu. Please pray for Frances and for all the Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent where she resides since this year's strain of flu is very dangerous.

## ***Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC***

Please remember Sr. Tommasina in your prayers. She is now at St. Cabrini Nursing Home and is recuperating. She is most grateful for your prayerful support.

## ***Bob and Gloria Olmstead***

For the parents of Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, please pray for their continued healing.

## ***Doreen McFarland Pribis***

Please keep Doreen Pribis in your prayers. She is experiencing some medical issues and would appreciate our prayers.

## ***Steven Pribis***

Your prayers are requested for Steven Pribis who will be undergoing surgery today. Pray that his procedure will be successful and that his recovery will be speedy.

## ***Sr. Archangel Turco, MSC***

Sr. Archangel is a new resident at St. Cabrini Nursing Home where she is settling in nicely and quickly making new friends and visiting with longtime friends. Remember her in prayer.



# In Loving Memory

## ***Frances Bradley***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Frances, the sister of Cabrini (College) University alumna Cassie Bradley Woestman, '67, who passed away on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. May she rest in God's eternal peace.

## ***Gary Cook***

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Gary Cook, the father of Nicole Ficaro, a staff member at Cabrini High School in New Orleans. Mr. Cook died in a house fire on the morning of January 13<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for him and please keep this family in prayer.