



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

THE UPDATE

February 15, 2018



When Jesus' disciples were worn out from their ministry and burdened by the cares of their discipleship, Jesus invited them to come to him, to go apart from the crowds and the hustle-bustle of their daily lives and to rest and refresh themselves.

Lent is our time to do the same. We can take the opportunity during this holy season to draw near once again to Jesus through our prayers, our engagement with the Scriptures, our Lenten fasting and abstinence and other practices that bring us closer to Jesus and deepen our commitment to him and his desire to build God's kingdom of justice and peace for all in our world today. As we turn once again to God this Lent, we will be invigorated and empowered through the power of God's Holy Spirit working in and through us. Now is the time to "draw near to God and God will draw near to us" (James 4:8).

## Almsgiving, Fasting, Prayer

The purpose of the three ancient practices of Lent – almsgiving, fasting and prayer - is to open oneself more fully to the presence of God.

Lenten practice encourages acts of mercy, reading of Scripture, meditation, special devotion and special acts of self-denial. These central Lenten practices function primarily not to limit or to shrink the self, but to concentrate effort on important things, and to remember that humans have a short time to live and that they must, therefore, live it well. According to the faith, this means living in the continual remembrance of God, in the pursuit of the divine mandate for justice and peace and in doing the good things that God has set before God's people.

*~ The Little Black Book and Draw Near to God*



# Pope Francis: 'Come back to the Lord with all your heart during Lent'

by Sr. Bernadette Mary Reis, fsp ~ Vatican News

*Pope Francis' 2018 Lenten Message is inspired by the words Jesus spoke on the Mount of Olives near the end of His life regarding the end of time: "Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12).*

False prophets who Pope Francis calls "snake charmers" and "charlatans" lead us astray. They mesmerize God's children who then mistake true happiness for momentary pleasure ending in slavery to profit or become trapped in loneliness. Many young people enticed by other "swindlers" buy into the "panacea of drugs," disposable relationships," "dishonest gain," or a "virtual" existence. Thus, people are robbed of "what is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love," he says.



## A Cold Heart

After recognizing the false prophets to which each of us has fallen prey the question Pope Francis would like us to reflect on this Lent is: "What are the signs that indicate that our love is beginning to cool?" Above all else, he says, "what destroys charity is greed for money." Rejection of God follows, and "we prefer our own desolation rather than the comfort found in his word and the sacraments." As a result, even creation bears "silent witness" to hearts gone cold. Refuse litters the earth, the seas are polluted with the bodies of "countless shipwrecked victims of forced immigration," and the heavens meant to sing God's praises "are rent by engines raining down" instruments of death.

## What are we to do?

The Church offers us the Lenten practices of prayer, almsgiving and fasting which Pope Francis calls a "soothing remedy". **Prayer** allows us to eradicate "secret lies" and "self-deception," and we find the "consolation God offers," he says. **Almsgiving** frees us from greed; it helps us regard others as brothers and sisters. "How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us!" **Fasting** "weakens our tendency to violence" reviving "our desire to obey God," who alone can satisfy our hunger.

## 24 Hours for the Lord

The Pope reminds us that although the flame of charity may die in our hearts, it never dies in God's. He invites us to participate in the "24 Hours for the Lord", on Friday and Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March.

To learn more about the "24 Hours for the Lord" please visit: <http://www.pcpne.va/content/pcpne/en.html>

To read the full text of Pope Francis' message:

<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2018/02/06/180206c.html>

# Immigration Reform is Not Just about Dreamers

by Maria Benevento for the National Catholic Reporter (NCR)



Young immigrants and their supporters gather outside the U.S. Capitol on February 6<sup>th</sup> to pray for recipients of DACA who face an uncertain fate as the DACA program is set to end March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Photo credit: CNS/Catholic Standard/Jaclyn Lippelmann

but, that there are other undocumented persons in the country who have been here for years...that also need a solution,” said Kevin Appleby, senior director of international migration policy for the Center for Migration Studies. “We can’t lose sight of that in our advocacy.”

For Catholic advocates, this means opposing efforts to make anti-immigrant measures a condition of protecting Dreamers, and promoting comprehensive immigration reform that is in accord with Catholic Social Teaching.

Appleby emphasized that Congress must find some solution for undocumented immigrants already in the U.S.

“We’re not going to deport all of them,” he said. “We might try or we might say we are, but that’s not going to happen. That’s what I would say: keep in mind that there are millions of others that will be left out in the cold under any deal for the Dreamers and that we need to keep pressing to get a solution for them.” ~ *National Catholic Reporter*

To read the full article, please visit: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/immigration-reform-not-just-about-dreamers-advocates-say>

As the U.S. Senate begins an open-ended debate about immigration, Catholic advocates will be hoping not only for a deal that protects people with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status (DACA) also known as Dreamers, without harming other immigrants, but also for indications that Congress can eventually tackle other deep-seated issues with the U. S. immigration system

“We need to be mindful that the Dreamers need and deserve a solution,

## Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

On a warm fall morning, Syria natives Mohammad and Bisan Alazzam excitedly recounted their visit to New York City the previous night. The 14 and 13-year-old siblings had traveled with school friends from the southwestern Connecticut town of Wilton to see their first Broadway show.

That kind of opportunity - a carefree outing – was just what their mother, Manal Mohammad Alazzam, hoped for when she began working toward resettling her family in the United States. Since March 2016, Alazzam and her five children have lived on the campus of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The housing arrangement reflects a community living out the Gospel call to welcome the stranger, a Christian imperative the sisters see increasingly urgent amid the global refugee crisis and current anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies.

“It was never a question of whether we would take them in. They were a family who needed help,” said Sr. Lenora Tucker, who coordinates the congregation’s work with Alazzam and her children. They partner with the Wilton Interfaith Action Committee (Wi-ACT) in assisting the family.

More than 100 volunteers provide transportation, medical care, English lessons, babysitting and other types of support. They stop by the cream-colored house across the yard from Villa Notre Dame, home to about 100 retired sisters, dropping off food or picking up the children for school or an activity.



Manal Mohammad Alazzam and two of her five children.



Mohammed and Bisan

Alazzam is grateful for the support and has grown to trust the volunteers and the sisters. She still speaks English haltingly. She tells the story of her journey from war-ravaged Syria to this quiet corner of Connecticut almost mechanically, in short, emphatic phrases.

“My kids were scared of the bombs,” she said. “My house was bombed. [I left] so my children would be safe.”

The 30-year-old widow and her children, then ages 5 months to 10 years, walked from their home in Syria to Jordan for 15 days.

“Sometimes we slept in the grass,” she said. “Sometimes sick. We needed medicine.” They had little food, but we “stopped to eat, then walk again.”

Alazzam kept her eyes down and avoided interactions on the trip. She knew she and the children were especially vulnerable traveling without a man in a Muslim country. In Jordan, they lived in a refugee camp. She cleaned toilets to earn money.

She filed paperwork seeking refugee status, dreaming of a life where her children would be safe, well-fed and educated. After three years, she got word the family would be resettled in the United States.

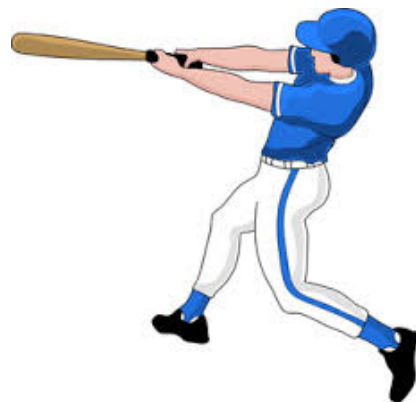
~ *Global Sisters Report*

To read more of Alazzam’s story: <http://globalsistersreport.org/news/ministry-migration/syrian-refugee-family-lives-thrives-school-sisters-connecticut-campus-51281>

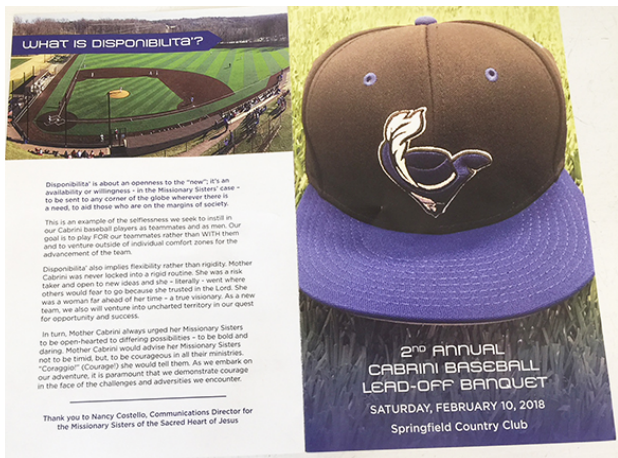


# Nothing Heralds Spring like...*BASEBALL!*

Have you noticed? The days are getting longer. The birds have resumed their morning serenade. And, pitchers, catchers, infielders and outfielders are reporting for Spring Training. Cabrini University is no exception. This past weekend, the baseball team at Cabrini held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lead-Off Banquet and fundraiser.



Now in its second year, the men's baseball program, under the leadership of Coach Nick Weisheipl, is poised for a successful season. In mentoring his players, Coach Weisheipl, has instilled in them the Cabrinian 'disponibilita' - that openness to the new; an availability or willingness – as in the Missionary Sisters' case - to be sent to any corner of the globe wherever there is a need, to aid those who are on the margins of society.



As was stated in the Lead-Off Banquet program, “this [disponibilita] is an example of the selflessness we seek to instill in our Cabrini baseball players as teammates and as men. Our goal is to play FOR our teammates rather than with them and to venture outside of individual comfort zones for the advancement of the team.

“Mother Cabrini always urged her Missionary Sisters to be open-hearted to differing possibilities – to be bold and daring. She would advise them not to be timid, but, to be courageous in all their ministries. “Coraggio!” (Courage!) she would tell them. As we embark on our adventure, it is paramount that we demonstrate courage in the face of the challenges and adversities we encounter.”

*~ excerpts from the Cabrini University Baseball Lead-Off Banquet program*

Surely, these student athletes could have no more inspirational role model than Mother Cabrini!

*~ submitted by Nancy Costello*



The 2018 Cabrini University baseball team with Coach Nick Weisheipl at the helm (2<sup>nd</sup> r.) anticipate a successful upcoming season.

## *Let's See Hamilton!*

We are now in the season of Lent.  
What are you doing for the next 40 days?  
**During Lent don't give up! Please give.**

This Lent, we are asking you, our Cabrini friends and family, to give the gift of education to a young student at Technical Institute La Inmaculada.



### **MAKE A GIFT of:**

**ONE HAMILTON (\$10)** and you will educate a child for 10 days.  
**TWO HAMILTONS (\$20)** and you will educate a child for 20 days.  
**THREE HAMILTONS (\$30)** and you will educate a child for 30 days.  
**FOUR HAMILTONS (\$40)** and you will educate a child for 40 days.  
**TWENTY-SIX HAMILTONS (\$260)** and you will educate a child for one year.  
**FIFTY-TWO HAMILTONS (\$520)** and you will educate a child for two years.

Please give hope for a child's future.

**Can you make a gift of \$1 per day for each day of Lent?**

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus serve over 1,200 students who would otherwise not have access to technical education. Students at La Inmaculada can be trained in computer science, accounting, culinary arts and other specialties.

Your Hamilton(s) can help these young students rise about the economic devastation of their region.

### **TO DONATE:**

<http://cabrinifoundation.org/donate/lets-see-hamilton-lenten-campaign/>

Cabrini Mission Foundation  
222 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 5E, New York, NY 10003  
212-228-8608

# Prayer Requests

## ***Laura Arand***

Laura, a former Cabrini Mission Corps missionary, and current Campus Minister at Cabrini High School in New Orleans, has asked for our prayers. Laura has health condition that is currently under treatment, which, thus far, has been unsuccessful. Please pray that the medical professionals will be able to effectively treat Laura's condition.

## ***Louisa Chan***

Please pray for the successful outcome of the surgery for Louisa. She was operated on yesterday, February 14th. Remember her in your prayers as she recovers.

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

Please keep Sr. Yolanda in your prayers; she will be undergoing surgery next Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. May her surgery go well and may she recover very quickly.

## ***Tony Marinaro***

Please remember Tony, husband of Fran Marinaro, a lifelong friend of the Missionary Sisters, in your prayers. Tony will be undergoing a corneal transplant on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Pray that the surgery will be successful and that Tony's recuperation will be swift.

## ***Michael Mew***

You are asked to keep Michael Mew in prayer as he recovers from major surgery which took place on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Michael is the husband of Sr. Pat Dunleavy's sister-in-law. Please pray that his recovery will be uneventful and he will soon be restored to full health.

## ***Prayers for a friend***

Prayers are requested for a friend of the Missionary Sisters in Chicago who is undergoing medical tests. Please pray that all the tests will have a good outcome.

## ***Special Intention***

Prayers have been requested for a special intention for MBR and MCR.

## ***Irene Stancato***

Cabrini Lay Missionary Patricia Stancato asks prayers for her mother Irene. Patricia and her mother would welcome our prayerful accompaniment at this time.

# In Loving Memory

## ***Margaret Celiberti***

Your prayers are requested for Margaret Celiberti, the mother of Cabrini of Westchester Board of Trustees member Richard Celiberti. Please remember the Celiberti Family in your prayers.

### ***Mary Graham***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Graham, the mother of Bobby Graham, who would so faithfully provide musical entertainment for the Missionary Sisters at the former Senior Sisters' Residence in Philadelphia. Mary went home to God on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the Graham Family in your prayers.

### ***John James***

Please pray for the family of a young man, John James, who died tragically when a fire swept through his home this past weekend. John James is the nephew of Cabrini Lay Missionary Marianne McGowan's brother and sister-in-law. This family would appreciate your prayerful support during this time of tragedy.



## **More Time for Prayer**

Do not forget your prayers. These may be short as you wish if you find long prayers too hard, but do not forget them. Even a sign can be a prayer. Meditation is never to be omitted. It may be brief if it cannot be longer, but it must be alert, intelligent and tranquil.

The time I give to active work must be in proportion to what I give to the work of God, that is, to prayer. I need prayer to give character to my life. So, I must give more time to meditation, and stay longer in the Lord's company, sometimes reading or saying my prayers aloud or just keeping silent. I want an inner life spent in the search for God in myself and for close union with him.

**Pope St. John XXIII**

*~ Journal of a Saint  
Draw Near to God*

*What will most help me find more time for prayer this Lent?*