



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

THE UPDATE

February 22, 2018

Non-violence: Pray and Act with the Parkland Students



The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the United States express our deepest sympathy and unite our hearts in prayer with the students, parents, and teachers of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the community of Parkland, Florida.

We share their pain. We stand witness to their outrage. We support the students in their advocacy for sensible laws on gun control.

No longer can we remain silent as the children and youth of our nation are at great risk of gun violence. We must raise our voices in unison with these courageous young people.

Mother Cabrini was a woman of action, as are these students. Where there was a need, she sought to respond. Where there was injustice, she worked to right that wrong.

Today, we live in a world where hate is pervasive and conflicts are not resolved with civility but with guns. The sanctity of life is forgotten. And, sadly, we have become desensitized to the on-going violence that surrounds us.

One wonders how it could possibly be that the citizens of the United States did not demand, and Congress did not act to change gun laws when twenty first-graders and six of their teachers were slaughtered at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. What does that say about the moral compass of our nation?

The Missionary Sisters are “bearers of Christ’s love in the world.” Our charism is antithetical to those who seek to harm others. We are called to bring the Gospel message to all those whom we encounter.

As Missionary Sisters, as women religious, *children* are among our apostolic priorities. As such, we encourage you to unite with us in demanding action from legislators, state and federal; from corporations and institutions, to establish common-sense gun reform. Pray. Speak up. Call your lawmakers. Support and join gun control advocacy organizations. Vote.

Demand change...for the children. Their future is in our hands.

Immigration Advocates Hold on to Hope after Senate DACA Failure

by Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

By day's end on February 15th, members of the U.S. Senate had rejected four immigration proposals, leaving it unclear how lawmakers will address overall immigration reform and keep the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in place.

Late that afternoon, Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, said in a statement, "Time is running out for them. Congress must pass bipartisan legislation that would provide urgently needed relief for Dreamers."

"As Catholics, we believe the dignity of every human being, particularly that of our immigrant and refugee children and youth, must be protected," Archbishop Wester said in his statement. "The sanctity of families must be upheld."

Dominican Sister Donna Markham, President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, called it "deeply heartbreaking."

"While thankful for the bipartisan majority support for protecting DACA youth, it is unconscionable that nearly 800,000 will continue to live in fear and uncertainty, she said on February 15th.

"As it has for more than 100 years, Catholic Charities will continue to stand with and advocate on behalf of migrants and others in need. Not because they are migrants but because they are children of God," she said.

In Arizona, in late January, Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Tucson along with now-retired Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, declared, "We are at a moment in our nation's history that could define who we are as a people. Traditional American values of fairness and compassion are not in conflict," they wrote. "This is a situation that is a moral test for our society; we must not fail."

In a February 2nd op-ed in the New York Daily News, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, struck the same tone. "There are times that our elected leaders must act because it is the right thing to do as human beings. This is one of those times," he said. "If the Dreamers are left unprotected, it will leave a stain on our nation's character for years to come. If we pursue justice and welcome them as full Americans, it would be one of our finest hours." ~excerpts from Catholic News Service



Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

Edith* is a 19-year-old undocumented immigrant with DACA status. Edith, is a sophomore at the University of New Mexico (UNM). She has a double major in psychology and math, maintains a 4.02 grade average, and works in the university library. Her passion is helping others and volunteers at the Campus Agora Crisis Center, which handles crisis calls from the Albuquerque citywide area.

17 years ago, Edith, who was two, along with her mother and father immigrated to Santa Fe from Mexico. She has 2 younger sisters who are both U.S. citizens. Edith attended Santa Fe public schools. Her high school grades were outstanding and she graduated with a 4.28 average. She was the senior class valedictorian and awarded several local scholarships. Edith gained DACA status in 2012.

Edith's dream is to work as a Behavioral Analyst for the F.B.I. which will only be possible when she becomes a U.S. citizen. She hopes to do private consulting for them until then. Her plans after UNM are to do graduate studies to further her career goals.

Edith states:

"America is my home. I have always considered America as being a place of freedom and acceptance. Despite being born in Mexico, I had always felt at home here, where I have grown up since arriving as a two-year old. Right now it's heartbreaking to see the division and oppression that has emerged and is consuming the hearts of so many. Still, I hold on to hope. I am glad to see that a lot of people still have light in their hearts and are willing to fight with us to keep America a free and accepting home for all who seek one." ~ Justice for Immigrants



Edith* and a classmate at her high school.

**photo and identity changed for privacy purposes*

One Minute Meditation

Who Do You Say I Am?

Jesus so fully committed himself to divine love that we are still awed by his life. We can be like him. Who was Jesus? One whose awareness of the Divine Presence within him was so keen, and his response to it so full, that he was empowered to live and love so powerfully that those who encountered him were often made whole themselves and more fully equipped to say "yes" to that same Divine Presence that was also in them. We can be like him when we say "yes" to the Divine Presence that is also in us, as thoroughly as we are able. As we do that, our lives and the lives of others, will be transformed.

Philip Gulley, The Evolution of Faith

Celebrating Two New Citizens!

Cheers and congratulations filled the air at Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY in celebration of two of our students becoming United States citizens!



Sabrina Grant (l.) is all smiles after she shares the good news of her American citizenship with Sr. Damien Ciminera, MSC, her tutor.

Sabrina Grant, came to the office with a big smile on her face and announced, “I am an American citizen!” Sabrina has worked very hard with her tutor, Sr. Damien Ciminera, MSC, for about 3 years. She not only worked on preparing for her citizenship exam, she also worked on her reading, writing and even improved her skills working with money.

Sabrina is a native of Jamaica and could not wait until the day that she could call America home. Of course, Jamaica is and always will be close to her heart but now when she visits Jamaica, she will be coming home to the USA.

Sabrina’s smiling face and infectious laugh brings so much joy to CIS. Congratulations Sabrina!

Our other student, Alina Gajewska, was born in Poland. She, too, was so excited to pass her citizenship exam after a lot of hard work and study.

Alina has worked with her tutor, Mary Gallagher, for several years. She worked to improve her conversations in English, her reading and her writing skills, all the skills needed to pass the naturalization exam. It also took a lot of dedication and effort to learn the 100 questions about U.S. civics. Alina’s determination certainly helped her achieve her goal of becoming a U. S. citizen.



Mary Gallagher (l) offers congratulations to her student, Alina Gajewska, after she attains U.S. citizenship.

Congratulations Alina! We are so proud of all that you have accomplished.

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

***“What is a legacy?
It’s planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.”****

*Can we see your Hamiltons?
Even one would make a difference.*

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 **ten days**.
Two Hamiltons (\$20) and you will educate a child for **twenty days**.
Three Hamiltons (\$30) and you will educate a child for **thirty days**.
Four Hamiltons (\$40) and you will educate a child for **forty 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, culinary arts and other specialties.

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

TO DONATE:

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

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

*Alexander Hamilton, “The World was Wide Enough” from the musical “Hamilton” by Lin Manuel Miranda

Prayer Requests

Angelo Pagnotti

You are asked to pray for Angelo Pagnotti, a friend of Cabrini University, who is battling a recent diagnosis of cancer. Please remember Mr. Pagnotti in your prayers.

Betsy Rush

Former Cabrini (College) University faculty member Dr. Nancy Rush requests prayers for her daughter, Betsy, who underwent major surgery and developed a post-operative infection. Pray that she will overcome the infection and that she will be restored to full health. Please remember Nancy in your prayers, as well.

Victims of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida

Please continue to hold the survivors of the mass shooting in Florida in your thoughts and prayers. Pray for those who remain hospitalized and pray for those who are traumatized. Pray for Congress that it will have the courage to do what is right to protect the lives of innocent children and youth.

In Loving Memory

The son of Hin and Astrid

Rosalind Yu, a friend of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, requests prayers for her brother's friends, Hin and Astrid, whose 36-year-old son died suddenly. Please pray for them in their pain and grief.

Richard Dawson

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Richard Dawson who went home to God on February 3rd. He is the brother-in-law of Sr. Renee Kittleson, MSC. May he rest in God's eternal peace. Please keep the Dawson and Kittleson Families in your prayers at this sad time.

Victims of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida

Once again, we are asking for prayers for the innocent victims of a mass shooting in a school. Let us pray for those who have died and for their families who are dealing with their shock, immense grief, and simply trying to process what has happened to their children and loved ones.

