



February 8, 2018

BUDGET DEAL OMITTS DACA

~ by Andrew Taylor from the Associated Press, appearing in the Philadelphia Inquirer

U.S. Senate leaders brokered a long-elusive budget agreement Wednesday that would shower the Pentagon and domestic programs with an extra 300 billion dollars over the next two years. But both Democratic liberals and GOP tea party forces swung against the plan, raising questions about its chances just a day before the latest government shutdown deadline.

[The measure] represented a bitter defeat for many liberal Democrats who sought to use the party's leverage on the budget to resolve the plight of immigrant "Dreamers" in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program who face deportation after being brought to the United States illegally as children. The deal does not address immigration.

DEPORTING DACA STUDENTS NOT IN PUBLIC INTEREST

~ by Dennis Coday, NCR

*In a recent edition of the **National Catholic Reporter (NCR)**, the newspaper noted that it had received the following statement for the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Conference of Education Deans which was signed by 19 members of that conference which is comprised of deans and professors for schools of education at Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States:*

"As the education deans of the nation's Jesuit colleges and universities, we are compelled to join our university presidents and others who have raised their collective voices to support our DACA students. Through our work, we prepare the teachers, principals, and other education support providers for the youth of our nation. The Jesuit education tradition values the right of all peoples to a meaningful and quality education, which is transformative for both the learner and the teacher. Our DACA students are no exception. Through no fault of their own, they came to the United States in search of opportunities. They have been documented and thoroughly vetted, are among our most successful students, and are preparing for positions of leadership and service in various industries in the United States. Deporting these young people just as they are poised to make strong contributions to this country – after investing so many resources to educate them in our public schools – is poor public policy and not in the public interest.

"As education leaders, we are aware of the unintended consequences that deportation, or even the threat of deportation, has on an entire school community. For example, in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) – the second largest in the country – roughly one in four students is

undocumented or has a parent who is undocumented. This reality forces the question – what are the unintended consequences for our school communities under a constant threat of deportation?

“DACA students contribute greatly to the common good of American society. The United States of America is their home. They participated in the DACA program in good faith and have much to offer this country through their hard work and talent. We cannot betray them by ending the DACA program and sending them to countries they do not even know. As a society, we cannot afford the unintended educational consequences such policy actions would have. We urge our leaders to find a permanent solution for the DACA program for the benefit of our youth and our country.”

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

The *National Catholic Reporter* (NCR) featured a *LA Times* story of Yuleni and her sister Fatima, young students in the Los Angeles schools and the daughters of Romulo Avelica-Gonzalez, which helped to put human faces on the dire consequences of deportation. Immediately after Romulo, an undocumented immigrant, dropped off Yuleni at school last February, he was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as Fatima caught the arrest on camera.

Romulo is a taquero - a taco vendor. He worked at a modest Mexican restaurant near his home in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Lincoln Heights. Like most immigrants in the country illegally, Avelica Gonzalez kept his head down. He had his job making tacos, the love of his wife Norma, and four daughters, and not much else the outside world would probably care to know about.

Then he was arrested.

This parent’s arrest at the school house door for being undocumented had a chilling ripple effect on the whole school community, even prompting the school to tell students whose parents are in the U.S. illegally to develop family plans for what to do if a parent is detained or deported. No child should have to bear this burden.

Taken to an immigrant detention facility, he remained there for six months until last September. The cook has become an activist. At least that is what his attorney called him. Avelica Gonzalez, 49, balks at the label, but not the burden.

“We have to do something to stop that – the separation of our families,” he said. “Because it is not just those in [jail] who suffer. Our kids also suffer. They’re citizens.” ~ *The Los Angeles Times*

To read Avelica’s full story, please visit: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-1n-romulo-immigrant-activist-20170831-story.html>



Romulo Avelica-Gonzalez, his wife Norma and two of their four daughters following his release from an immigrant detention facility.



St. Josephine Bakhita, former slave, is Patroness of Trafficking Victims

February 8th is her Feast Day

As human trafficking continues to be a supremely important issue during Pope Francis' pontificate, with an estimated 20 million victims worldwide, St. Josephine Bakhita, enslaved during her own childhood, undergoing immense suffering throughout her adolescence before discovering the faith in her early 20s. She was baptized, and after being freed entered the Canossian Sisters in Italy.

“Seeing the sun,
the moon and the
stars, I said to
myself: ‘Who could
be the Master of
these beautiful
things? And I felt a
great desire to see
Him, to know Him
and to pay Him
homage.’”

St. Josephine Bakhita

February 8th, St. Josephine's feast day, marks the fourth international day of prayer and reflection against human trafficking.

Born in 1869 in a small village in the Darfur region of Sudan, Bakhita was kidnapped by slave traders at the age of seven. So terrified that she could not even remember her own name, her kidnappers gave her the name, “Bakhita,” which means “fortunate” in Arabic.

This was the last time she saw her natural family, being sold and resold into slavery five different times.

Eventually, she was purchased by the Italian consul Calisto Legnani, who later gave her to a friend of the family, Augusto Michieli, who brought her to Italy as a nanny for his daughter. In the Italian families it was the first time she was not mistreated.

After being freed, and remaining with the Canossian Sisters in Italy, she dedicated her life to assisting her community and teaching others to love God. She died on February 8, 1947. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized in 2000 by St. Pope John Paul II.

~ by Hannah Brockhaus, Catholic News Agency

The Missionary Sisters of the Stella Maris Province have a Corporate Stance against human trafficking. The Sisters stand in solidarity with the victims of human trafficking within the territories of the province and around the globe.

“Just as we welcome the immigrant in our midst, we condemn the use of violence, abduction, fraud, deception, coercion, or debt bondage to transport women and children from their homes for prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced labor and/or real or virtual slavery.”

To learn more about the Corporate Stances: <http://www.motherscabrini.org/who-we-are/corporate-stances/stop-human-trafficking/>

Prayer Requests

Anita Catalanotto's friend

Anita, a staff member at Cabrini University, requests prayers for a friend who is experiencing health problems at this time. Let us hold her friend in our thoughts and prayers.

Nina Dapalitto

Prayers are requested for 11-year old Nina who is being evaluated at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) for a serious health issue. Nina is the daughter of a friend of Kevin Dolan, CFO, for the Stella Maris Province. Please pray for a favorable diagnosis for Nina and a quick return to good health.

Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC

Kindly keep Sr. Yolanda in your thoughts and prayers during the month of February. Sr. Yolanda will be having surgery on Wednesday, February 21st.

Sr. Therese Merandi, MSC

Your prayerful accompaniment is requested for Sr. Therese as she continues to recuperate from her recent surgery. She is doing well and gives thanks to everyone for their continued support and prayers.

Sr. Adelaide Pereira, MSC

Please remember Sr. Adelaide in your prayers. She will be undergoing surgery sometime in the near future.

With a Grateful Heart

I wish to thank the Missionary Sisters and all those in the Cabrinian community for your prayers and thoughtful good wishes for my son, Tim, during his recent emergency surgeries and hospitalization. We could feel the powerful, prayerful support we were receiving. The good news is that Tim has been discharged from the hospital and is now recuperating at home. Each day has brought greater strength and recovery. I have been forwarding your e-messages to him so that he can know how many people have been united in prayer on his behalf.

With love and appreciation, Nancy Costello, Province Communications and Vocations Offices.

A graphic of the words "thank you!" in a colorful, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are multi-colored, with "thank" in shades of blue, green, and yellow, and "you!" in shades of orange, red, and blue. The exclamation point is a solid blue.

In Loving Memory

Elizabeth Gallagher

The Cabrinian community joins the Cabrini University community in extending sympathy to adjunct professor Trinidad Gallagher on the loss of her mother-in-law on January 27th. Please keep the Gallagher Family in your prayers.

Gloria Olmstead

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gloria Olmstead, the mother of Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, who was called home to God this past weekend. Please pray for Mrs. Olmstead, her husband Bob, Sr. Diane, and her family at this sad time.

Rose

You are asked to pray for Rose, the mother of Gloria, a friend of the Missionary Sisters in New York, who passed away in Africa. Please keep this family in your prayers at this sad time.

Elsa Tabjie's brother

Please remember the brother of Elsa Tabjie, a friend of the Missionary Sisters in New York, in your prayers

As we anticipate Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season, here is a brief meditation to consider:



Spiritual Practice

Spiritual practice, the work of our transformation, is the means of inner growth and change toward human maturity glimpsed in the best of religious experience. Through this disciplined habit of relating to the divine, the living, transformative power of inner reality takes hold. Without a spiritual practice of some kind, spirituality is a hollow affair; it has no substance and is reduced to the formalism of external religiosity.

Only such intense forms of inner discipline lead to the interior breakthroughs that provide real progress in religious life. They change us within and make this inner change consistent without actions in the world in our daily lives.

Seekers and saints of every tradition have cultivated a spiritual practice and thus cultivated a profound self-knowledge.

~ Wayne Teasdale
The Mystic Heart
Words of Grace