



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

THE UPDATE

March 1, 2018

## An Important Announcement from the Missionary Sisters

It is with a grateful heart that I inform you of the newly appointed Provincial Councilors for the new province which will include Australia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and the United States of America.

The new Provincial Councilors are:



Sr. Maria Elena Plata Alvarado, MSC



Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC



Sr. Xochilt Calero Hernandez,  
MSC

Let us join together in prayer, trusting in the Wisdom of God to be with each one of us as together we continue our journey as one Province.

United in the Heart of Jesus,



Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC  
Provincial





## *Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

Dear Sisters, Staff, CLMs, Cabrini Companions, Board of Trustees, Lay Collaborators and Friends,

Happy Lent! May this Lenten season be for each of us a time of many graces and a movement inside ourselves to conversion.

Our country once again has experienced a tragedy in the shooting that took place in Parkland, Florida. So many innocent children and adults killed unnecessarily. What is the answer to this terrible violence? I believe as a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus we need to pray for an end to this violence, not only in our country but throughout the world. I believe love and generosity is the only answer of how we are to live our lives so that others, by our example, will live that way, too.

I am in the process of cleaning out the office where I have ministered for the last nine years and in doing so I find myself grateful to all of the sisters and lay people who minister in our ministries, boards of trustees, and staff who have supported the work of this province. I have been privileged to walk with some of the holiest men and women who have been an inspiration to me and who have enriched my life.

I share with you this prayer of Father Pedro Arrupe (1907-1991) that has given me encouragement and helped me in my ministry over these years:

***Nothing is more practical than finding God,  
than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way.***  
*What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.  
It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning,  
what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends,  
what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart,  
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.  
Fall in love, stay in love and it will decide everything.*

So, with a heart full of gratitude, I say "Thank You" to Jesus and to all that have walked this journey with me over these past nine years. Let us have faith in all that will be, giving our full support to Sr. Diane Olmstead and the Council. I ask for your prayers and I assure you of mine.

Your sister in the heart of Jesus,

*Sr. Pictina Raccuglia, MSC.*

# We Continue to Walk with the Students from Parkland, Florida

This week, the courageous and articulate students from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida returned to class. They are now much different young people than they were only two weeks ago. Their outrage continues. Their advocacy for changes in gun laws continues. Yet, they also seek a return to normalcy, to be teenagers, once again.

But, what their activism has brought about in the two weeks since violence struck their school and forever changed their lives, is nothing short of remarkable.

Cardinal Cupich of Chicago yesterday said, “the nation’s young people are “shaming the adult world into action” on gun violence. Their voices are a wake-up call that should have been heard years ago.”

“The time for words is over, our children are telling us.

What is now required is action. It is now up to those we elect to serve the common good to act to stop the rampant gun violence that has turned our schools, churches, theatres and streets into places of slaughter.”

“Our elected officials...must begin the process of walking away from the moral compromises that doom our society to inaction,” he said. ~ *excerpts from National Catholic Reporter*



Students returned to class at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

## Making an Impact on Corporations

Yesterday, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Inc., one of the largest retailers of its kind in the United States, is taking new steps to curtail the sale of firearms, including ending assault-style rifles and banning the sale of guns to people younger than 21, the company announced.

“Based on what’s happened and looking at those kids and those parents, it move us all unimaginably,” company Chairman and CEO Edward Stack said yesterday on “Good Morning America,” referring to the shooting in Parkland, Florida.

“To think about the loss and the grief that those kids and those parents had, we said, ‘We need to do something,’” Stack, whose father, Dick, started the business 70 years ago, explained. “And we’re taking these guns out of all our stores permanently.”

When asked whether there is a chance the company will reverse its position on the newly announced ban, Stack replied, “Never. We’ve just decided that based on what’s happened with these guns, we don’t want to be a part of this story and we’ve eliminated these guns permanently.”



Dick’s Sporting Goods, Inc.  
Chairman and CEO Edward Stack  
as seen on Good Morning America on Feb. 28

## Prepared for the Backlash

In addition to the steps Dick's has taken to improve gun safety and mitigate the harm associated with gun products, more than a dozen companies, ranging from hotel operators to insurance providers, have announced plans to stop offering discounts and cost-saving programs for members of the NRA in light of the Florida shooting.

Students who survived the attack are lobbying for tougher gun laws, and many have demanded companies stop doing business with the NRA.

Discussing the possible repercussions for Dick's, Stack pointed to the courage of those students, many of whom are responsible for mobilizing and organizing gun control rallies, marches and social media-inspired boycotts.

"When we take a look at what those kids and the parents and the heroes in the school, what they did, our view was if the kids can be brave enough to organize like this, we can be brave enough to take these [assault style weapons] out of here, he said of the guns. "Not everyone will be happy [with our corporate decision]."

~ ABC News



## Corporations Pulling Their Ties to the **NRA**

As of today, the following corporations have altered their business practices and/or corporate relationship or business practices with the National Rifle Association (NRA) as a result of the Parkland, Florida mass shooting.

**Alamo-Enterprise-National Car Rental Group** – ending discount programs for NRA members

**Allied Van Lines** – discontinued their affiliation with NRA.

**AVIS - Budget Car Rental Group** – ending discount programs for NRA members

**Chubb Insurance** – discontinuing NRA special programs

**Delta Airlines** – no more discounted travel for NRA members. Asked for their name to be removed from the NRA website.

**Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.** – will no longer sell assault rifles/ raised age for gun buyers to 21

**First National Bank of Omaha** - discontinued special rates and discounts for NRA members

**Met Life Insurance** – ending discount program for NRA members

**North American Van Lines** – no longer will have an affiliation with NRA.

**Simply-Safe** – discontinuing their existing relationship with the NRA.

**Starkey Hearing Technologies** – ending discount rates for NRA members

**Symantec Cyber Security** – ending discounts for NRA members

**True Car** – ending its car buying service relationship with NRA members

**United Airlines** – no more discounted travel rates for NRA members

**Walmart** - will no longer sell assault rifles/raised age for gun buyers to 21

# Supreme Court Blocks Administration's Effort to End DACA in March

*by Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service*

The U.S. Supreme Court has dealt a blow to the Trump's administration's effort to end a program in March that protects young adults brought to the U.S. without legal permission as minors.

On Monday, February 26, the court declined to hear and rule on whether the administration has the right to shut down the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA program.

Two federal judges have blocked the Trump administration's efforts to end the program, ruling the government must continue to accept renewal applications for DACA. In turn, the administration asked the Supreme Court to hear and rule on one of those decisions, from a judge in California in an effort to bypass the process of an appeal going through the 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals based in San Francisco.



That means the March 5 deadline is essentially no longer of any significance and those benefiting from DACA can keep applying to renew permits that protect them from deportation and allow them to have a work permit and other documents, as long as they meet certain criteria.

In a brief unsigned comment, the court said it expected the Court of Appeals “will proceed expeditiously to decide this case.”

The decision was announced the day the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called for a “National Call-In Day for the Protection of Dreamers,” encouraging Catholics to call their representatives in Congress to urge support for the young adults called “Dreamers.”

The court's decision may delay the end of the DACA program, stated in 2012 by President Barack Obama via executive order, but immigrant advocates continued to urge action to provide the youth with permanent relief.

“Although the Supreme Court decision buys Congress time to address the situation of undocumented youth, it should not give them an excuse to delay action,” said Kevin Appleby, senior director of international migration policy for the Center for Migration Studies in New York. “These young people remain at risk and deserve permanent protection and a chance to plan their futures. Catholic advocates should continue to push Congress and the president to grant them a path to citizenship.” ~ *Rhina Guidos, National Catholic Reporter*

To read the complete article: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/supreme-court-blocks-trump-administrations-effort-end-daca-march>

## Share the Journey: Meet our Neighbor



Jean\* recently arrived in the United States with refugee status. After waiting for almost two and a half years, he was happily reunited with his wife and two kids living in the Atlanta area.

Jean spent many years living in Rwandan refugee camps. The conditions of the camps were often unstable, and Jean was required to relocate frequently for fear of being caught in a dangerous situation. Life was not easy even when he was not on the move. Running water and electricity were non-existent. It was very difficult having to be dependent upon food arrivals for long stretches of time, especially when essential food shipments did not arrive regularly. Finding medicine was also a significant challenge, with some medicines being almost impossible to find.

Jean is incredibly grateful to be in the United States now. He is very grateful that his children are enrolled in school, an option they were denied while in Rwanda. They have a chance to get an education and he is very thankful for that. His children now have access to utilities and technology. He does not have to worry about where his food and medicine will come from. He is thankful that America is a place where laws are followed and enforced, and he feels safe because of that. And, he is thankful for the people who have helped him and his family to make this transition. \* The name and photo identity have been changed for privacy reasons.

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## Sr. Barbara Staley, MSC pays a visit to Cabrini University



Sr. Barbara Staley, MSC, MSC General Superior (3<sup>rd</sup> I.) paid a visit to Cabrini University this week and some spent time with (from l.) MSC candidate Evalyn Ndunge, Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, Dr. Mark Kiselica, and MSC candidate Bianca Huertas.

# Collaboration = Cabrini



Joan Mooney, (3<sup>rd</sup> l.) a member of Cabrini of Westchester's Board of Trustees, joined youngsters from Cabrini Kids, students from Mahopac Middle School and the MSCs from Sacred Heart Convent in New York City in putting together packets for the Midnight Run to assist those who are experiencing homelessness.

What happens when people from Mahopac, NY, New York City and Dobbs Ferry, NY get together? Wonderful things! This was just the case at Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY.



MSCs (left, clockwise) Sr. Damien Ciminera, Sr. Lucille Souza, Sr. John Giani and Sr. Frances Galiano make packets for the Midnight Run.

Thanks to a grant from the St. Faith's House Foundation, the Cabrini Kids have been able to take part in a 'Giving Back' Program. The grant money has allowed us to get materials that are given to agencies that help others. In October, our kids made packets for victims of Domestic Violence. The packets were donated to My Sisters Place in White Plains, NY. During that program, the children in Grades 3-6, asked if they could help the homeless by making packets for Midnight Run.

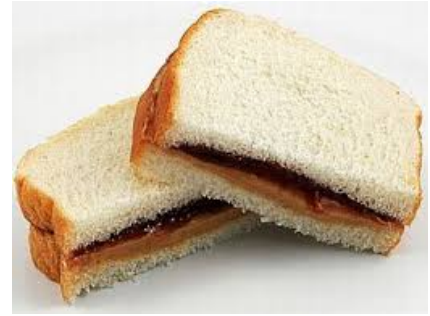
Araceli Chavez, a social work intern at CIS, quickly organized the event for Midnight Run. Items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, facecloths, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, lip balm and combs were ordered. Sr. Damien Ciminera, MSC, who is a volunteer at CIS, thought it would be wonderful to have the Cabrini Sisters from Sacred Heart Convent in NYC get involved. The Sisters made 100 'snack packs' for Midnight Run. Fruit cups and cookies filled each bag. In addition, they donated 100 hard-boiled eggs! As word spread about the Run, Angela Mante, the beautician who comes monthly to cut and style hair for the clients at CIS, asked if her son and his friends could get involved. Angela, along with a group of students from Mahopac Middle School, made 100 sandwiches! In order to tell which type of sandwich was in each bag, our Cabrini Kids in Grade 2-3 colored

pictures of turkeys, hams and jars of peanut butter and jelly which were pasted to each bag. We were also blessed to have Joan Mooney, a member of Cabrini of Westchester's Board, join us. She too, enjoyed working with the kids and also helping to pack the bags of goodies. Truly this was a community event!

Justin Pellegrino, another social work intern at CIS, is involved with Midnight Run at Iona College. He was so happy to be able to deliver so many sandwiches, snacks and hygiene products on their February 22<sup>nd</sup> Midnight Run. God bless all those who will be the recipients of the packages and may God bless everyone who helped to make this program such a huge success.

Despite the distance between Mahopac, New York City and Dobbs Ferry, we were able to work together and create a wonderful and heart-felt program that not only taught our kids about giving back but it also showed how everyone can work together for the greater good.

*~submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, MSW, CIS-Dobbs, Director*



Young people carry the Missionary Cross from World Youth Day to the Dispensary "Madre Cabrini".

## Lift High the Cross!

On January 31, 2018, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Guatemala had the joy of receiving the Missionary Cross and the icon of Mary that St. Pope John Paul II gave to young people as symbols of the World Youth Days. The Dispensary "Mother Cabrini" located in Bárcena, Villa Nueva, was chosen by the organizers of the pilgrimage of symbols for being an institution at the service of the poor, which is one of the criteria to

determine the places where the Cross and the icon will be viewed.

It was a day of celebration! The young people of the youth ministry of the parish, the ecclesiastical community of Bárcena, staff and members of the Dispensary programs walked the streets of the village with these symbols and took them to our headquarters where they were received in an environment of rejoicing.

It was a very intense faith experience where we all felt overwhelmed with emotion and at the same time feeling that something extraordinary was happening. We were able to experience what St. John Paul said to the young people when he delivered the Cross 34 years ago: "Dear young people, I entrust to you the sign of the Cross of Christ! Take it to the whole world, as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity and announce to all that only in the dead and risen Christ is there salvation and redemption " ~ *submitted by Sr. Maria Elena Plata, MSC*



Near the clinic Sr. Xochilt Hernandez and Sr. Maria Elena Plata pray at the foot of the Missionary Cross.

## Cabrini High School Introduces New Creative Handmade Theater Puppets for Mardi Gras



Cabrini High School students and the puppets they created get ready to march in a Mardi Gras parade.

The Cabrini High School Theater Arts Puppet Project, a new school club that creates handmade parade puppets, unveiled their unique works of art on parade routes this Mardi Gras season.

Under the direction of Cabrini English and Theater Arts teacher Todd Schrenk, the Theater Arts Puppet Project was founded at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. “As an artist, over the past three years, I have been exploring both mask and puppet design, construction, and performance. My work in these areas has been very gratifying for me personally, and I wanted to share some of the techniques I have been exploring with my students.”



Much thought and creativity as well as time and effort went into creating the Mardi Gras puppets.

The puppets they made for the parades combined paper Mache’ techniques, as well as rod puppet techniques Schrenk learned from working with local artist and puppeteer, Jacques Duffourc.

Several recycled materials were used in constructing the puppets, including cardboard boxes, newspapers, paper grocery bags, discarded pool noodles, and wire from lawn signs. They also used a substantial amount of masking tape and aluminum foil to add detail.

It is satisfying to see the students exposed to the positive feedback and enthusiasm we have seen from parade goers on the routes, said Schrenk. “I think the students feel as though they have participated in something special and to see them realize their creations.”

*~submitted by Katelyn Gross, Cabrini High School*





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## Prayer Requests

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

Please pray for Sr. Yolanda who will be undergoing surgery tomorrow. Pray that her procedure will go smoothly and her recovery will be swift.

### ***Sophia Zabrine Guray,***

Your prayers are invited for Sophia, the 7-year-old grandniece of CLM Vicky Lucio. She is now in India and has undergone a liver transplant. Her father was the donor. The doctor said that there is no guarantee for the liver transplant but the next ten days will be the most crucial stage after the surgery. They will also be in India for the next three months for her recovery and close monitoring by the medical team.

## In Loving Memory

### ***Peggy Sullivan***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peggy Sullivan, a longtime friend of the Missionary Sisters in Seattle, WA. May she rest in God's eternal peace.