



March 15, 2018

Catholic School Students Join Other Schools in Walkout to Protest Gun Violence

by Brian Roewe, National Catholic Reporter

Thousands of students in the U.S. exited their classrooms on Wednesday as part of a series of nationwide walkouts protesting an action by lawmakers on gun violence in the wake of the mass shooting one month ago at a Florida high school.

The walkouts marked the anniversary of the February 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where a 19-year-old former student armed with an AR-15 semi-automatic assault rifle killed 14 students and three school officials.

Each walkout was set to begin at 10 a.m. local time and last 17 minutes in remembrance of the 17 people who died.

More than 3,000 walkouts across the country have been registered. The effort was organized by Women's March Youth EMPOWER, a group of young people affiliated with the Women's march organizers.

At least 30 Catholic high schools and a dozen Catholic colleges had listed walkouts on their websites.



Students from Notre Dame High School in Belmont, CA prepared signs for their walkout in solidarity.

Jeffery Van Deven, a junior and one of the students who helped to plan St. Borgia's walkout said he and two classmates, Sean Bierman and Grace McKennis, were inspired to initiate the walkout at St. Borgia by the students at Stoneman Douglas.

"Enough is enough. That really made an impact," Van Deven, told NCR.

In the Chicago Archdiocese, nearly 200 of its schools, consisting of upward of 80,000 students, staff and teachers, planned to hold peace-building activities in solidarity with the walkouts.

At Notre Dame High School in Belmont, California, students at the all-girls school were prepared to walk out and march outside the school before holding an assembly that would include a prayer service, student speeches and discussions. They would also have tables to register students to vote.

"We have encouraged our students to become active in the political dialogue and process. ... We support and celebrate our students as they organize to make their voices heard," Maryann Osmond, head of the school, said in a statement. ~ *National Catholic Reporter*

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

Juan*, a Honduran teen, recently shared his resettlement journey:

My family and I are originally from a small town in the southwest of Honduras, where my parents worked as farmers. My family is Catholic and has been Catholic for generations.

My parents worked hard to put me in school and sent me to school to a big city because there are no schools in our town. They didn't have the money to send me to college, so I was forced to leave the country because the gangs were pressuring me to join them. I had to escape because I did not want to participate in that life of crime, of hurting others. I just wanted to be able to go to school and onto college.

I left my country when I was twelve with two other boys, ages twelve and fourteen. We took a bus to the border of Guatemala. I was scared we would be followed by the gangs. We walked through the mountains to pass the border. Then we hitched rides to the border of Mexico. We had no food or water and we ended up drinking cow urine. Both of my friends died on the journey.

Once I got to the border I stayed for two and a half years living in a migrant house and had to beg for food. I managed to cross the border but a smuggler said he wanted \$4,000 to release me from a stash house. I called the family I had in the U.S. but no one responded. In the end, the man took me to California to work in a furniture factory where I worked 12-hour days, six days a week. I worked there for two years and he paid me \$120 every two months.



Eventually, a different man helped me to leave, gave me a place to live and helped me find work. But, related to the trafficking situation, I was arrested and put in a detention center for eighteen months. The court appointed a lawyer for me and got me out of detention. An organization helped me navigate the legal system. I don't know where I would be now if they hadn't helped me. Deported? In jail? Dead?

Five years after leaving Honduras, I had the privilege to build a new life in the U.S. I am so happy I have a better life and am also getting a better education which my country never offered me. The U.S. gave me the opportunity to resettle. I am part of the community and I am helping to bring justice to more victims and survivors like me.

~ *Justice for Immigrants*

*Not his real name or photo image

New York Archdiocese ‘Encuentro’* focuses on outreach, engagement

by Peter Feuerherd, *National Catholic Reporter*

Evangelization is so important to Pope Francis that he’s run out of words in the dictionary to express it.

The baptismal call for Catholics to be missionaries, whether they are lay or clerics, is the Pope’s fervent message, Archbishop Octavio Ruiz Arenas told 600 parish representatives from the New York Archdiocese. He was the keynote speaker at the archdiocesan *encuentro* * conference recently at Mount St. Vincent College.



Over 600 people attended the *encuentro* which focused on transformation in the Catholic Church.

Pope Francis has coined words to make his point about mission, Arenas said, particularly about transforming a church that is less absorbed within and more willing to take risks to reach those beyond the church sanctuary.

Misericordear is one word, roughly translated as “to practice mercy.” *Misionareidad*, to have a mission mentality, is another, both borrowed from Francis’ native Spanish but never to be found in a dictionary.

The archbishop offered other Francis-like points, including the obligation of the church to reach the peripheries where the poor and the marginalized are. Reaching that segment was a regular theme of the day-long meeting which brought together Latino Catholics in the New York boroughs of Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island, as well as seven upstate and suburban counties that comprise the archdiocese. ~ *National Catholic Reporter*

**Encuentro* = *meeting or encounter*

To access the complete article: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/parish/new-york-archdiocese-encuentro-focuses-outreach-engagement>

Anti-Human Trafficking Symposium

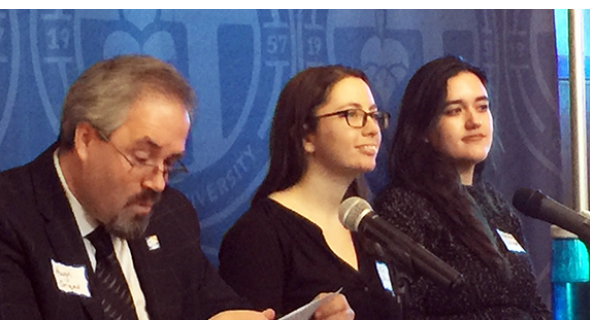
The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus hold a Corporate Stance against Human Trafficking, which states, “the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus stand in solidarity with the victims of human trafficking. We condemn the use of violence, abduction, fraud, deception, coercion, or debt bondage to transport women and children from their homes for prostitutions, sexual exploitation, forced labor and/or real or virtual slavery.” In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights that would reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit.”

To further illuminate the horrors and prevalence of human trafficking an Anti-Human Trafficking Symposium was held yesterday at Cabrini University, co-sponsored by the Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition of the Missionary Sisters chaired by Karol Brewer and the Engagement with the Common Good (ECG) 200 Class of the University. The symposium was held to educate and raise awareness about human trafficking and featured many experts who are working against human trafficking.

An invocation and opening remarks were presented by Sr. Bernadette Casciano, MSC. The keynote address was given by Pearl Kim, JD, who is the former Senior Deputy Attorney General for Public Engagement within the Executive Office of the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General and a fierce advocate in the fight against human trafficking and sexual assault. Ms. Kim offered an overview of the hierarchical trafficking and prostitution culture that exists in the U.S. She spoke of Asian massage parlors in the U. S. that many times are fronts for trafficking operations. many of those who are trafficked are immigrants from other countries. In addition to sex trafficking, labor trafficking is even more prevalent. She also spoke of the legislation that is pending with regard to trafficking.



Keynote speaker Pearl Kim, JD.



Panel members from left: Hugh Organ, Katrina Stopfer and Stephanie Blakeman spoke to the support they provide victims of trafficking.

Following the keynote address, a panel of experts: Hugh Organ from Covenant House, which offers services to meet the complex needs of homeless, runaway and trafficked youth 21 years of age and under; Katrina Stopfer, from the Salvation Army's New Day Drop-In Center in Philadelphia through raising awareness, training and direct services for victims of human trafficking; and Stephanie Blakeman, a case manager from the Nationalities Service Center, who works directly with survivors of human trafficking and is responsible for coordinating and locating services for clients in their path toward independence.

The symposium was rounded out by William Johnson, a deputy with the Philadelphia's Sheriff's Office and who works on a FBI task force aimed at combatting human trafficking and crimes against children.

All those in attendance were encouraged to get more involved in the fight against human trafficking. Donations of gift cards to (Target, Walmart), items such as underwear, feminine hygiene products and toiletries can be donated to the Cabrini Closet as a resource for those who are trafficked.

~ *Anti-Human Trafficking Symposium program*

From the Province Formation Team...

The Delaware Valley Member Area of the National Religious Vocations Conference (NRVC) recently held a workshop and retreat at the Emmaus House in Ocean Grove, NJ. The presenter was Sr. Chris Koellhoeffer, IHM. The theme of the day was “Pursuing Our Questions in Good Company.” As Sr. Chris shared, “much of our time is waiting, listening and accompanying the emergence of the Holy as we companion the questions of others.”

What about our own questions?

Where do we go, how are we called to be, how might we find balance as we carry questions significant for the life of religious congregations, the cries of our world and the need to nurture our imagination in a healthy rhythm of life? Such were the questions that were considered during the retreat and workshop. The day was marked by dialogue, small and large group discussion and prayer.



Sr. Chris Koellhoeffer, IHM, (standing r.) led the vocation directors and representatives of the NRVC Delaware Valley through a day of prayer and mindfulness.

One Minute Meditation

St. Patrick Finds God

“After I was taken to Ireland [as a slave], I was forced to tend flocks of sheep in the pasture. As I did so, many, many times throughout the day I prayed. The love and awe of God grew strong within me more and more, and my faith was strengthened also. I must not hide God’s gift which he generously gave me in the country of my captivity. Because then I sincerely sought him, and there I found him. God protected me from evil because I fervently believe his Spirit lives within me and works within me even to this day.”

St. Patrick, *Confessions, Words of Grace*



***“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



We would like to invite the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be our guests at this event. Please RSVP to Susan Herceg at (914) 693-6800 ext. 502 or sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org if you plan on attending.



Prayer Requests

A friend of Anita Catalanotto

Anita, a staff member at Cabrini University, requests prayers for a friend who just had surgery and is asking for prayers for her recovery and that the biopsy results are good news.

Renee Bossier Hymel

Please unite in prayer for Renee Bossier Hymel. She is a 1982 graduate of Cabrini High School in New Orleans, LA.

Jayme Diehl

Please pray for Jayme, the daughter of Anne Lynn, who suffered 2nd degree burns on her forearm, side and feet after an accident in which she spilled boiling water. Please pray for her swift healing.

Dr. Nancy Rush and her daughter

Prayers are requested for Dr. Nancy Rush, a former faculty member at Cabrini University, and for her adult daughter. Both are experiencing health-related issues and would be so grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.