



April 12, 2018

## “Gaudete et Exsultate” “Rejoice and Be Glad”

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

God calls all Christians to be saints – real people who make time for prayer and who show loving care for others in the simplest gestures, Pope Francis said in his new document on holiness.

“Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy,” the Pope writes in “Gaudete et Exsultate”, his apostolic exhortation on “the call to holiness in today’s world.”

Pope Francis signed the exhortation on March 19<sup>th</sup>, the feast of St. Joseph, and the Vatican released it on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Much of the document was written in the second person, speaking directly to the individual reading it. “With this exhortation I would like to insist primarily on the call to holiness that the Lord addresses to each of us, the call that he also addresses, personally, to you,” he wrote.

Pope Francis focused mainly on how the call to holiness is a personal call, something God asks of each Christian and which requires a personal response given one’s state in life, talents and circumstances.

“We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer,” he wrote. But, “that is not the case.”

We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves,” he said.

He wrote about “the saints next door” and said he likes “to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God’s people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love; in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile.”

The path to holiness, he wrote, is almost always gradual, made up of small steps in prayer, in sacrifice and in service to others. Being part of a parish community and receiving the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and reconciliation are essential supports for living a holy life, Pope Francis wrote and so is time for silent prayer. “I do not believe in holiness without prayer.”



To read the entire article: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2018/holiness-means-being-loving-not-boring-pope-says.cfm>

# Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor



On April 5<sup>th</sup>, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials detained Maribel Trujillo-Diaz as she prepared to go to work, taking her into custody for imminent deportation without having the chance to say goodbye to her children. Maribel is a wife and the primary caretaker to her four children, ages 14 to 3, and remains detained in jail facing an April deportation.

Maribel is an active member and lay leader of St. Julie Billiart Parish in Hamilton, Ohio. Last year, when Maribel was close to deportation, thousands of supporters, organized by Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Social Action Office, throughout Cincinnati sent letters, pleading for her to stay. Since then, Maribel has been reporting regularly to ICE, as instructed. At her check-in

on Monday, she was told that she could remain at home as her asylum case was further reviewed.

During the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Maribel was nervous, as was her pastor who took her to the meeting. They had told her to bring a deportation plan with her, which she did. Instead, they told her to go back home and report again May 1.

Not even 48 hours later, Maribel was detained.

Maribel applied for asylum on two different occasions and was denied. She fled Mexico after she refused to work for the cartels, but after her father was kidnapped last year by the cartels, Maribel again applied for asylum, in a case which is currently pending.

Maribel's lawyer filed an emergency stay of that order, which is her last option. She hopes that her case will be heard and ruled on before the end of the month. But there are no guarantees: ICE may deport her before that.

Archbishop of Cincinnati, Dennis Schnurr, has asked for the government's leniency where he wrote, "Catholic teaching recognizes that the family unit is the highest organization of human society, and I do not believe that the common good is served at this stage by separating this wife and mother from her family. Our church and our community gain nothing by being left with a single-parent household when such a responsible and well-respected family can be kept together." ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

## Taking Care of One's Own Home *AND* the Community

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus conduct the Senior Citizen Care Program in Zone 6 of Guatemala City. As part of this program, Sister Laudir Crócoli visits homes and offers senior citizens spiritual accompaniment. During one of these visits in December 2017, she found very precarious housing conditions. She noticed that the heat and cold were affecting the health of an elderly woman in a

sheet metal home lacking any insulation. She found a safe and ecological answer to meet this need.

To do this, milk cartons are collected, opened, and cleaned, before attaching them to each other using thread taken from sacks of flour. They are then installed on the roof with wooden support beams that hold them up.

This effort was possible thanks to other members of the Senior Citizen Program, young people, women, and neighbors from the area. Approximately 200 people were involved in the project. A total of 214 milk cartons were received during the first collection, making it possible to create a first false ceiling.

The big takeaway from this project is that once the need to improve the living conditions of one member of the Senior Citizen Program was identified, various members – not just of her community, but also from other neighborhoods– pitched in to collect the materials that were needed. These actions resulted in interrelation and solidarity among neighbors, environmental awareness, improved living conditions, and proof that there are other ways to improve the quality of life while at the same time taking care of one's own home as well as the community.

Carton upon carton is stitched together with thread taken from sacks of flour to create an insulation blanket for roofs.

Ever resourceful, these volunteers work with Sr. Laudir (r.) patiently and cheerfully stitching the milk cartons – donated by members of the community – together to transform them into effective insulation.



Sr. Laudir Crocoli works with senior citizens in the community to sew together cleaned milk cartons to serve as roofing insulation for local sheet metal homes.





# We Are ALL God's Children

Pope Francis has always stressed the inclusion of all people. He stated that “although we seek or meet God in different ways, we are all children of God.” What better time than during the Easter/Passover holidays to help spread the words of our Pope!

Thanks to a grant from St. Faith's House Foundation, Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, held a special program for its Kids in Grades 1-5. The children learned through story, food and art about Easter, Passover and Ramadan. We had people present who are Christian, Jewish and Islamic. Their personal thoughts and experiences certainly added to the program.

Ellen Tessitore, a retired art teacher, created the program for the children. When the children first arrived, they completed a “Search a Word” puzzle where she used specific words that had to do with each of the holidays. She then read about each holiday and had the children do a project that was related to each one.



Sharing a meal of matzo and charoset is a Passover tradition that the children enjoyed.

After reading about Easter, the children dyed Easter eggs. They decorated them and then added them to some “Easter grass.” Following Easter, Ellen read about Passover and the special meal that is served. The children then had matzo and charoset, which is a mixture of apples, pears, cinnamon and honey. They learned about what the different foods represent and why they are used at the Seder. The children then learned about Ramadan. They learned that the ninth month of the Muslim year is called Ramadan. It is a time of strict fasting. Besides fasting, people are encouraged to do good works, to be light in the world. Our children made “Charity Jars.” A votive candle was placed inside a jar and then the children decorated the outside of the jar with diverse color tissue paper. The jar is a reminder to always do good to others and to themselves. Every time they do a good work, they can open their jars and light the candle as a reminder that they are doing good works.

The children enjoyed hearing about the various religions and also about the different traditions. The main learning that everyone took home was that it doesn't matter what religion you practice but that we are all one. What is important is what is in your heart and how you treat others. What a wonderful lesson for everyone to learn and how important it is to teach children the importance of acceptance. After all, as Pope Francis says, “We are all children of God.” ~ submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, MSW, Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY

These Cabrini Kids are intent on making their “Charity Jars” to document the good works they do – part of a Muslim tradition.

and how you treat others. What a wonderful lesson for everyone to learn and how important it is to teach children the importance of acceptance. After all, as Pope Francis says, “We are all children of God.” ~ submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, MSW, Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY

## CAVs for Life



Ryan Bomberger of the Radiance Foundation speaking at Cabrini University.

Ryan Bomberger of the Radiance Foundation visited Cabrini University on April 4. The Foundation is an educational, faith-based, life-affirming organization. Through creative ad campaigns, powerful multi-media presentations, fearless journalism, and compassionate community outreach, the Radiance Foundation illuminates the intrinsic value of each person, educates audiences about pressing societal issues and motivates people to peacefully and positively affect the world around them.

Cabrini senior Shannon Donnelly said, “Everyone loved it and was so open to Ryan’s witness. He had so much to say and the experience to back it up. My religion class talked about it in class and we’ve been relating the content to our Catholicism course. A couple students have been using the content for essays. Many felt better equipped to stand up for life in hard situations with friends and even classmates.” Ryan’s multimedia presentation was sponsored by Cavaliers for Life and a part of the University’s Unity Week. ~ submitted by Anne Schwelm, Cabrini University

---

### *From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...*



Forty-six juniors from Berks County Catholic High School attended a Gift of Mission vocation information day on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Motherhouse of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters in Reading, PA. The Gift of Mission program is sponsored by the religious congregations of the Delaware Valley Member Area of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC).

The annual program on vocation education is presented by an inter-congregational team and includes fun and informative ice-breakers, along with a variety of interactive vocational experiences, PowerPoint presentations, tours of the Motherhouse and a Q and A session in which the students can pose questions about religious life to a panel of religious sisters.

Having met the sisters, participants leave with a smile and a bag full of goodies and information on vocational discernment.

# Cabrini *Action and Advocacy* Coalition

Digital technology has made it easier than ever for sex offenders to contact potential child victims around the world, share images of their abuse and encourage each other to commit further crimes. [92 percent of all child sexual abuse URLs are hosted in five countries:](#) the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, France and the Russian Federation.

**GREAT NEWS...** This week, the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, also known as SESTA, will be signed into law. This much-needed legislation will hold websites like Backpage.com accountable when they knowingly facilitate sex trafficking online. SESTA legislation is already being felt. **The U.S. Department of Justice shut down Backpage.com – the largest online marketplace for sex trafficking in the United States.** Websites like this and dozens of others, will now be held liable for actively facilitating human trafficking. ~ submitted by Karol Brewer

---



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 x 502 or email [sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org](mailto:sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org) if you plan on attending.

*Sisters, kindly respond as soon as possible. Thank you.*



## Prayer Requests

### ***Sr. Frances Xavier Brogan, MSC***

Kindly keep Sr. Frances in your prayers. She is currently hospitalized and is recuperating. She would appreciate our prayerful accompaniment.

### ***Doris Chew***

Prayers are requested for Rosalind Yu's brother's sister-in-law, Doris Chew, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer. She is entering a clinical trial at Georgetown Hospital. Pray that all will be successful and her health will be restored.

### ***Ross Hutchison***

Your prayers are asked for Ross Hutchison, the son of Nancy Hutchison, a former Cabrini University staff member. Ross recently underwent surgery. Please pray this his recovery will be swift and uncomplicated.

### ***L.C. Nathan***

L.C. is the chef at the Cabrini Retreat Center in Des Plaines, IL. Prayers are asked for his successful recovery from surgery.

### ***Nancy Panganiban***

Please continue your prayers for Nancy as she begins her course of treatment. Pray that all will be well.

### ***Mary and Mike Short***

Mr. and Mrs. Short, friends of Sr. Grace Waters, ask prayers for patience with the aging process.

### ***Sue Villarini***

Please pray for Sue Villarini, a friend of Karol Brewer's, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

## In Loving Memory

### ***Emil E. Mallaun, Jr.***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Emil, the brother of Sr. Beryl June Mallaun, MSC, who passed away recently in New Orleans. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

