



April 5, 2018

Resurrection



Easter is the old English word for spring, the time when warmth and gentle rain reawakens nature, giving rise to riots of colorful flowers. How appropriate to connect this season with the Resurrection of Jesus. On the heels of the tragedy of the Passion comes the incredible joy, Easter joy of the impossible. No wonder those who first dealt with this event were stunned. How can one explain the unexplainable?

We who have been raised on the story of the Resurrection have no idea of the intensity of amazement experienced by that first community of believers whose lives were turned upside down by the events of Holy Week and Easter. How challenging must it have been for them to go to Galilee as they were instructed! They were changed and there was no going back to business as usual, no way to reverse the effects of what they had witnessed, no way to unlearn all that they had experienced in their relationship with Jesus. They were transformed into a new identity.

Our perspective changes when resurrection brings us back from all of life's deadening effects of disappointments, heartaches and troubles. When these occur, we find ourselves questioning how we can carry on. But surviving them and moving on, we often find that we have arrived at a better place, benefitting from the detours we experienced.

Easter offers new life and hope. The Resurrection alters our perception by reminding us that nothing is impossible if we believe. Trusting in God, we can bounce back from any adversity; Jesus is proof of this. As we celebrate this great feast, may our spirits be resuscitated, like this Spring season of new life. ~ Fr. Joe Genito, OSA

Working the Front Lines of Migrant Education

By Sarah MacDonald, Global Sisters Report

Conference Connects Scholars to Real World Experiences



Notable among those attending the conference are Sr. Patricia Godoy, MSC (back, 4th r.); Maria Williams (back, r.) and Dr. Maggie McGuinness (r.)

The first conference on women religious to be held at the University of Notre Dame's Kylemore Abbey Global Centre in Ireland focused on the role of women religious in migrant education. [Last month], sisters working on the front lines in migrant education in places like Italy, the Philippines, Latin America and Nigeria exchanged information and testimonies with scholars who document sisters' work.

Kathleen Sprows Cummings oversees the History of Women Religious project, an academic organization devoted to the historical study of Catholic sisters in the United States. She told Global Sisters Report **the impetus for the gathering was the centenary of the death of St. Frances X. Cabrini in 2017.**

The title of the Kylemore conference, "A Pedagogy of Peace," comes from Pope John Paul II who **described Cabrini's role in educating migrants as a pedagogy of peace**, said Sprows Cummings, one of the organizers of the conference.

One of the presenters was Sr. Phil Kilroy of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, said, "We are all migrants. There is no pure race. Until that connection is made, we won't treat migrants properly because we see them as 'them'. [In my talk], I was trying to make the point that it is 'us.'"

Benedictine Sr. Jacqueline Leiter, who teaches English-language learners at St. Paul's Public School in Minnesota is guided by St. Benedict's hospitality rule: "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: 'I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.' Yet, I was angry that apartment managers and owners allowed the conditions in which the families lived in crumbling buildings: mold, cockroaches, cracked walls, peeling floors and leaks," she said. "I was grieved to see whole families who had to work so hard to make a life for themselves in a new country under these conditions."

Speaking on behalf of Migrant Project/Sicily run by the International Union of Superiors in General in Rome Sr. Florence de las Villeon of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus related that congregations and Catholic organizations are putting their energy into setting up centers in Sicily for female migrants to help them avoid prostitution.

Attending the conference were Sr. Patricia Godoy, MSC; Maria Williams, Cabrini research scholar; and Dr. Maggie McGuinness, former professor at Cabrini College.

To read the full account: <http://globalsistersreport.org/news/ministry-migration/working-front-lines-migrant-education-sisters-share-strategies-52926>

In a letter to Acting Secretary of State John Sullivan and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, more than 1,600 Catholic organizations, women and men religious, and lay leaders signed the letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) supporting refugee resettlement

March 26, 2018

Dear Secretary Nielsen and Acting Secretary Sullivan,

As Catholic organizations and individuals, we are deeply concerned about the status of the U.S. refugee resettlement program and our current commitment as a country to welcome and integrate refugees in this time of extreme global need. Recently, the number of refugees resettled by the United States has plummeted. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, our country set an annual goal to admit 45,000 refugees, the lowest target in the history of the refugee program, which was formally begun in 1980. At the halfway point of FY18, the U.S. has resettled 9,616 refugees, setting the program on pace to not even reach half of the year's low refugee admissions target. These low levels of refugee arrivals leave thousands of vulnerable people in harm's way. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program helps to resettle the most vulnerable of the world's refugees, the estimated 5% who cannot remain in refugee host countries that neighbor the home countries they fled and who cannot return to their homes. For personal safety, they need resettlement to a third country. These individuals are frequently women and children, and often targeted for violence due to their religion or political views.



For 37 years, the U.S. has been proud to be the world leader in welcoming and resettling these most vulnerable refugees, as Catholic organizations, priests, brothers, sisters, and lay professionals and volunteers, have been joyful partners to help accomplish this life-saving, humanitarian work. We know firsthand about the life-saving work that occurs on the ground in our communities to help welcome, accompany and integrate refugees in the United States. Refugees are more than just numbers and statistics, they are our neighbors, our friends, our fellow parishioners, and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As Christians, our concern for refugees is integral to our life of faith. The Catholic Church believes that every person is created in God's image. In the Old Testament, God calls upon his people to care for the newcomers because of their own experience as newcomers: "So, you, too, must befriend the alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt" (Deut. 10:17-19). In the New Testament, the image of the refugee is seen in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. In his own life and work, Jesus identified himself with newcomers and with other marginalized persons in a special way: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt. 25:35). Jesus himself was a refugee fleeing as an infant with his family to Egypt to avoid persecution and death (Mt. 2:15). Recently Pope Francis reminded us all to welcome and protect refugees.

In this spirit, we ask the Administration and Congress to restore America's bipartisan commitment to life-saving resettlement, including for Christian and other religious minorities. We urge admitting at least 45,000 refugees this year and 75,000 next year. We strongly suggest that DHS work to process refugees in a more robust, efficient and transparent manner. We also request the Administration to listen to our communities when we stand in solidarity to welcome refugees in this moment of global need. ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

As was the case 170 years ago with early Mormon pioneer families, Aden Batar and his family left their home in Somalia to resettle in a new area and faced the uncertainty of how they were going to re-establish their lives, build a home, and ensure a safe place to live. Batar, who was resettled through Catholic Community Services from Somalia to Utah in 1994 as a Muslim refugee, said the experiences of modern refugees are similar to those of the Mormon pioneers at the resettlement stage. "Same thing with the Mormon Pioneers – when they came to Utah, they found this new land, [they started] a new life and made this their home. I consider myself as a pioneer coming to this new community in Utah. I consider this my home now. This is a state, a community, that welcomed me and my family, took us in, and helped us to overcome all those challenges."



Religious discrimination and sacrifice are also among the experiences shared by early Mormons and current "modern-day pioneers." In the same way that Mormons were forced to flee their homes based on their religious beliefs, there are more than 65 million people worldwide who have been forcibly displaced as a result of conflict or religious persecution. This number includes 22.5 million refugees.

~ Justice for Immigrants

Read more about the refugee experience of Batar, who is also the Director of Migration and Refugee Services for [Catholic Community Services in the Diocese of Salt Lake City](http://www.catholiccommunityservices.org), and the rest of the story at <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865686025/Modern-sacrifice-carries-on-pioneer-legacy.html>





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

Claire Roth

Your prayers are asked for Cabrini College (University) alumna and trustee Claire Roth '69 who underwent surgery this week. Pray that her recovery will be swift and uneventful and that she will soon be restored to full health and mobility. Claire is grateful for your prayers.

Fr Austin Titus

Fr. Austin, pastor of Epiphany Parish NYC, was recently hospitalized for an serious eye problem. He continues to go for testing. Keep him and the parish in your prayers.

In Loving Memory

Sr. Monica Devine

Sr. Monica Devine, Sister of the Holy Rosary, who passed away suddenly before Palm Sunday of a brain hemorrhage. Keep her and her community in your prayers. The day she was buried one of their younger sisters, 44, in Kenya passed of the same condition. May they both rest in peace.

Awaken Me!

Risen One,
Come, meet me
in the garden of my life.

Lure me into elation.
Revive my silent hope.
Coax my dormant dreams.
Raise up my neglected gratitude.
Entice my tired enthusiasm.
Give life to my faltering relationships.
Roll back the stone of my indifference.
Unwrap the deadness in my spiritual life.
Impart heartiness in my work.

Risen One,
Send me forth as a disciple of your unwavering love,
a messenger of your unlimited joy.

Awaken me!

~ Joyce Rupp

