



June 28, 2018

Hundreds of calls come in at USCCB HQ seeking to foster detained kids

by Mark Pattison, Catholic News Service

Maybe it was the request by the Pentagon for 20,000 mattresses as military bases become, at least partly, shelters for detained border crossers.

Maybe it was the federal government report that 2,352* children had been separated from 2,206 parents at the U.S.-Mexico border between May 5 and June 9.

Maybe it was the now-famous audio recording of children crying after being separated from their parents.

Or maybe it was the pictures of kids in cages.

Whatever the reason, hundreds of American adults have called the Washington headquarters of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops seeking to provide foster care for the separated children.

At first report June 20, 300 calls had come in. And the calls keep coming. "We're triaging the calls," said Katie Kuennen, associate director for children's services for the USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) office.

"We're getting flooded," Kuennen added. "It's not just Catholic Charities, but MRS-wide."

The one hitch: Most of those who have called are not licensed or certified to be foster parents. That's a process that varies from state to state, according to Kuennen. While most states can train and certify parents for foster care in two or three months, some states can take a lot longer.

Further, while many Catholic Charities USA affiliate agencies are set up to match foster families with children, not all are. MRS, Kuennen said, also partners with Bethany Christian Services in some areas of the country. Agencies wishing to add foster care to their portfolio of services can typically gain state licensing in a month or two, she added.



People rally in San Diego on behalf of the families that had been separated at the Mexican – U.S. border.

So what happens when the calls come in? "We're able to direct them to the nearest ORR foster care program that we have available," Kuennen told Catholic News Service June 22. ORR is the acronym for the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

"The programs aren't new, the process of bringing foster families on board isn't new," she said. "What's new is the public awareness of the program and the seeing of these images on television to get engaged and to open their homes to these families." ~ *Catholic News Service*

As The Update goes to press, a mandate has been enacted that all children age five and under must be reunited with their parents within the next 14 days. For those children six and older, they must be reunified with their parents no later than 30 days.

** The number of children separated has been corrected from 2,342 to 2,352*

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

I left my Central American country as a 16-year old boy, leaving behind my mother and sister in our hometown. I left because the gangs wanted to kill me and because of this I decided to travel to the United States by myself. It took almost a month to make the passage through Central America and Mexico. I traveled by buses, cars and walking, and made the decision not to take the dangerous and notorious train that migrants call *La Bestia*. It was an exhausting journey.



After being processed by an immigration official I was placed in a child shelter facility. After two and a half months, I had the great fortune to be resettled by a local Catholic Charities agency in the Northwest. Agency staff made sure I was placed in a safe home with a caring family, helped me adjust and get acclimated to my new life, and encouraged me to perform well in school.

I graduated from high school, moved on to a community college, and will graduate with my Associate of Arts degree this summer. A big-city university is providing me with a full scholarship to continue my studies next year where I plan to major in Medical Social Work. I hope to be a medical social worker after graduating from the university. As a way of giving back for the kindness and nurturing they provided, I am interning this summer with the Catholic church by working in the diocese's farmworker assistance program and helping immigrant families and kids. * ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

*Some information changed to protect identity.

Mother Cabrini Shrine Gala Celebrates its 17th Year



From left: Missionary Sisters Antonina Avitabile, Martha Lopez, Isalia Carvalho, Alice Zanon, and Eileen Currie take a moment to pause for a photo with Gala guest auctioneer former Denver Bronco Reggie Rivers.

It was a most successful night for the Shrine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccMLHHclE9c&t=16s>

During the mission moment of the evening, a new video about the Shrine was released. **See video here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccMLHHclE9c&t=16s> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bXNmIV1Ins&t=2s>

Former Denver Bronco, Reggie Rivers was the auctioneer and led a very lively and successful live auction. Additional photos can be seen here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/165432668@N08/>



Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC (l.) Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC (2nd l.) and Mother Cabrini Shrine Administrator Jeff Lewis (r.) congratulate the Spirit of Cabrini Award winners Margaret and John Kelly upon the conferring of this honor.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have been generous benefactors of the Shrine.

The 17th annual Mother Cabrini Shrine Gala took place Friday, June 15 at the Pinnacle Club at the Grand Hyatt overlooking the city of Denver and the Rocky Mountains. Chef Andrea Frizzi, owner of Il Posto and Vero restaurants received the Company for Cabrini Award. Andrea credits the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the intercession of Mother Cabrini for the success of his businesses. **See his story here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YtfyNfb6ss>

John & Margaret Kelly were the recipients of the Spirit of Cabrini Award because of their generosity to Mother Cabrini Shrine and the Denver community over the years. **See Spirit of Cabrini video here:**



Faith, Friendship, and Formation



Despite the distance of their native homes, MSC candidates Evalyn Ndunge (I.) and Bianca Huertas Perez, have formed a bond as classmates and friends.

In 2017, two students living thousands of miles apart stepped onto the Cabrini University campus not only to receive an *Education of the Heart*, but also to further their process in becoming candidates with the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSCs).

Guatemala

Bianca Huertas Perez ('21) was born and raised in Guatemala City and did not grow up religious. It wasn't until age 14 when Bianca went to receive her sacraments that she learned about Christianity and God and began to think about the possibility of religious life.



Bianca Huertas Perez

"When we started to study the gospel, they [my teachers] started to talk about this person named Jesus who wanted to change the way things were in his society and he was willing to sacrifice everything to keep doing what he believed was right," she said. "This idea of someone fighting for what he believed was right, loving others and loving those who were rejected by society. I said to myself, I want to be like him. I want to do something with this."

Kenya



Evalyn Ndunge

More than 8,500 miles away in Kenya, Evalyn Ndunge ('21) was thinking about the same possibility.

Evalyn was born and raised Catholic. She always pictured herself as becoming a musician because she loves to sing, but it was her brother who first mentioned the idea of becoming a sister to Evalyn when she was in the fifth grade.

"I remember the day, we [my brother and I] were washing our clothes and he whispered to me, 'Evalyn, I want you to think of becoming a sister and make our family proud,'" she said.

Evalyn also recalled one visit with her father's cousin, who is one of many of her relatives in religious life. "She put her veil on me and she told me I looked cute, but I disagreed and I gave the veil back. But from that point on I began to consider the possibility of becoming a sister."

That priest connected Evalyn to the MSCs and she went to stay with them for a month in Ethiopia before deciding she wanted to join them permanently. Evalyn is passionate about helping those who are oppressed or neglected. Her mother was an orphan and she also grew up befriending many who were disabled. When she found out that part of the MSCs' mission is to spread love to those who are abandoned or neglected, that's when she realized what she wanted to do with her life.

Bianca also made the decision to join the MSCs after realizing it was on her to be a part of the change she wanted to see in the world. "I want to change the world," Bianca said. "I know that I won't be able to change it completely, but if I can change someone's world, or vision of the world, that will be fine, that will be more than enough."

~ with thanks to Emily Rowan and Megan Maccherone, Cabrini University Connections

To read more about their journeys: <https://www.cabrini.edu/about/media-hub/profiles/student-profiles/msc-candidates>

Defendants in Diapers?

by Christina Jewitt, Shefali Luthra of Kaiser Health News



As the White House faces court orders to reunite families separated at the border, immigrant children as young as 3 are being ordered into court for their own deportation proceedings, according to attorneys in Texas, California and Washington, D.C. Requiring unaccompanied minors to go through deportation alone is not a new practice. But in the wake of the Trump administration's controversial family separation policy, more young children — including toddlers — are being affected than in the past.

The 2,000-plus children will likely need to deal with court proceedings even as they grapple with the ongoing trauma of being taken from their parents.

"We were representing a 3-year-old in court recently who had been separated from the parents. And the child — in the middle of the hearing — started climbing up on the table," said Lindsay Toczykowski, executive director of Immigrant Defenders Law Center in Los Angeles. "It really highlighted the absurdity of what we're doing with these kids."

"The parent might be the only one who knows why they fled from the home country, and the child is in a disadvantageous position to defend themselves," Toczykowski said.

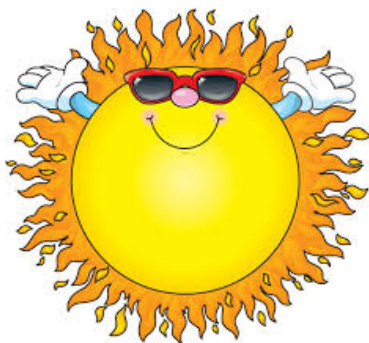
Given the trauma the children faced in their home country that spurred their families to flee and the pain of being separated from a parent, the expectation that children can mount a legal defense is "unconscionable," said Dr. Benard Dreyer, director of the [division of developmental-behavioral pediatrics](#) at New York University School of Medicine.

"It's certainly grossly inappropriate," said Dreyer, who is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics advocacy committee. "I'm ashamed that we're doing this."

Steve Lee, a UCLA child psychology professor, said expecting the children to advocate for themselves in court is an "incredibly misaligned expectation." **To read the entire article:**

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/defendants-diapers-immigrant-toddlers-ordered-appear-court-alone>

Weekly Update - Summer Schedule



Please note that due to scheduling in the Province Communications Office, **The Update will not be published on July 5th or July 26th.** We will, however, publish on July 12th and 19th.

The Update goes on vacation for the month of August, yet, prayer requests are always welcome at cabrininews@mothercabrini.org and will be published on Thursdays as they are received.

The Update will resume publication on Thursday, September 6th.

Be an Angel

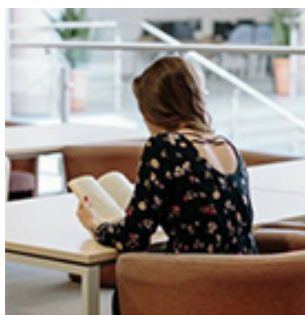
Please help Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC reach their fundraising goal and support 18 immigrant students this year through the Angel Fund Scholarship Program!

The Angel Fund Scholarship Program at Cabrini Immigrant Services provides young undocumented immigrants with the opportunity of continuing their education in the United States. CIS-NYC provides each student with comprehensive educational, social, and emotional support and a small scholarship to help cover school related expenses. We are unique in providing this funding because undocumented students are not eligible for more traditional forms of school loans and scholarships - without scholarships like this, these students would not be able to pursue their dreams. If we reach our fundraising goal of \$5,500 by the end of June, we will be able to provide 18 students with scholarships for the 2018-19 academic year.

In order to do this, we need your support!

We hope you will contribute whatever you can to our fund and share this campaign with your friends, family and colleagues! Contribute here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/cisangelfund>



"Throughout my life, I have been denied many opportunities, even after being nominated or recommended for them. The only time my immigration status didn't matter was when I applied for the Angel Fund Scholarship. This scholarship has made college a reality and reduced a huge part of my financial burden by covering my course supplies and materials. Civil engineering is a costly major, so I am extremely grateful that I am getting the chance to achieve my life goals."
- Gloria, Angel Fund Scholarship Recipient -

CABRINI IMMIGRANT SERVICES OF NYC'S ANGEL FUND SCHOLARSHIP HELPS IMMIGRANT STUDENTS LIKE GLORIA ATTEND COLLEGE & ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS.





Please join us as we honor the legacy of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini by celebrating the lives and contributions of Chicago immigrants.



You Are Cordially Invited to Attend
The National Shrine of
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini's
Annual Benefit Dinner
Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Café Brauer

2021 N. Stockton Drive

Chicago, IL 60614

6:00 PM: Cocktails and Silent Auction

7:00 PM: Dinner and Live Auction

Tickets: \$175.00 per person

Business Attire

Kindly reply by July 1

To purchase tickets and become a sponsor of our event visit:
<https://www.cabrinationalshrine.org/2018-benefit-dinner>

Prayer Requests

Gus Coutin

Cabrini High School's Vivian Coutin asks for prayers for her husband, Gus, who underwent a second successful surgery this morning for bladder cancer. The initial surgery about a month ago went well and this was a follow up to see if there is any sign of new growth. All looked well and now he can move forward with chemo, etc. Please pray for Gus, Vivian and his medical team.

Guatemala and Nicaragua

Please remember to pray for the people and the unsettled and dangerous situations in Guatemala and Nicaragua. Pray for our Missionary Sisters who are ministering to the people there during these difficult times.

Prayers for a safe and enjoyable 4th of July Holiday

As the United States prepares to celebrate Independence Day on Wednesday, July 4th, we pray for the safety of all those traveling during the holiday time and for all those attending fireworks displays, parades, concerts, fairs and other large group gatherings. May everyone have a safe and happy holiday.

With a Grateful Heart



Sr. Patricia Dunleavy, MSC wishes to express her gratitude to all those who sent their prayers, thoughts and good wishes for the successful surgery of her brother Jimmy.

As an answer to prayer, Jimmy came through surgery well and will soon be undertaking physical therapy. The Dunleavy Family is most grateful for your continuing prayerful support.

In Loving Memory

Anna Valentini

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anna Valentini, the mother of Sr. Lisa Valentini, MSC of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Reading, PA. Mrs. Valentini went home to God early this morning. Please pray for the Valentini Family at this sad time.