



July 12, 2018

Women Religious Shelter and Support Asylum Seekers in U.S.

By Maria Benevento, Global Sisters Report

Global Sisters editor's note: *More than 68 million people* had been displaced from their homes because of factors such as war, threats from gangs, natural disasters, and lack of economic opportunities at the end of 2017, the *highest number of displaced* since the aftermath of World War II. Of those, the United Nations considered 25.4 million to be refugees: people forced to leave their countries because of persecution, war or violence. At every stage [in their journey], Catholic women religious are doing what they can to help.

Toting a sheet of smiley-face stickers and a wagon filled with toys, 3-year-old Jocelyn was fearless. As she played in the living room, covering everyone she encountered with stickers, her mother, 18-year-old Andrea, occasionally paused from cooking to admire her handiwork. Meanwhile, 7-month-old Carlos demonstrated the crawling skills he had acquired that morning.



Pictured above is a common living space in the Bethany House of Hospitality in Bartlett, IL, a shelter for young women seeking asylum. The house is sponsored by 28 congregations of women religious.

This happy family scene might not have been possible without [Bethany House of Hospitality](#), a shelter in Chicago's western suburbs, where Andrea, Jocelyn and Carlos (identified by pseudonyms for their protection) currently live. Andrea, who arrived in the United States from Guatemala when she was 17, is seeking asylum for her and her children.

The house, which is sponsored by 28 congregations of women religious and serves female asylum-seekers who arrived in the United States as unaccompanied minors but risked aging into adult detention, doesn't usually shelter minors. But when the

staff and board realized that on Andrea's 18th birthday, the small family could be separated or, at best, subjected to poor conditions in family detention, they made an exception.

"Her need was so great and to think of separating her from those two little children, we all had to say, 'We can't say no to this,' " said Sr. Peggy Geraghty, a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin

Mary and a Bethany House board member. "We couldn't bear to split one family, let alone all the families that are being split now."

Andrea is one of eight women currently staying at Bethany House. Fleeing dangerous conditions in their home countries, they arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border and were initially put in children's immigration detention — most of them in Chicago or Texas.

The house opened in October 2017 after Sr. Patricia Crowley of the [Benedictine Sisters of Chicago](#) called a meeting of her contacts from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Region 8 in Illinois to discuss how sisters could address immigration issues. It has already housed 17 women (including the current eight) and three children for periods ranging from a week to several months until they are able to support themselves or move in with relatives.



As religious congregations shrink and their members age, collaborative projects might be the future of religious life, Crowley and other board members suggested. With multiple congregations funding the operation and a board made up of eight sisters, Bethany House was able to rent a building with large common spaces and 10 bedrooms, and hire several staff people to manage the house and connect the young women to resources.

This model is one of the many ways that Catholic sisters around the country are supporting asylum-seekers — through services including legal aid, shelter and assistance adjusting to life in the United States.

Asylum-seekers benefit from such intensive support because they face multiple challenges in their efforts to thrive in the United States. Like other refugees, they arrive fleeing persecution and often suffering from trauma, then have to assimilate and support themselves in a new country.

Unlike refugees who are vetted in their home countries by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, asylum-seekers aren't preapproved to migrate and must navigate the court system to prove their right to remain while attempting to integrate and survive with little or no government assistance. ([Learn more about the difference between a refugee and an asylum-seeker.](#))

To read the entire article: <http://globalsistersreport.org/news/migration/seeking-refuge-sisters-shelter-support-asylum-seekers-they-adapt-us-54806>



Update Publication Schedule

Just a friendly reminder that our final edition of The Update for the summer will be on Thursday, July 19th. The Update goes on vacation during the month of August and will resume publication on Thursday, September 6th. Prayer requests are always welcome and will be published as they are received: cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org

Have a safe and relaxing summer!

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

On Saturday June 17, 2017, Jorge Taborda spoke publicly for the first time since his wife, Francia Elena Benitez-Castaño, was deported to Colombia. Jorge, in addition to his wife, Francia, has also faced apprehension by ICE agents. Before the arrests, Taborda and his family lived in Las Cruces for nearly two decades, and the family grew and thrived. Taborda, a computer technician, and Benitez-Castaño, a housekeeper, were both self-employed, and had two sons. Last year, their oldest son, Jefferson, graduated from New Mexico State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Four years after arriving in Las Cruces, Taborda, Benitez-Castaño and youngest son, Steven, received deportation orders when their application for asylum was denied by an immigration judge. But they continued to live in Las Cruces, building lives connected to their faith, church and community. The family was active with Our Lady of Health in Las Cruces.

On May 9, 2018, Benitez-Castaño and Jefferson were arrested by immigration agents at their home. But Jefferson – who was eligible for an Obama administration program that shields young immigrants from deportation, DACA – was released three days later.



Benitez-Castaño, however, was deported one month later. Taborda has kept an extremely low profile since the arrests. But, on the day before Father's Day, he broke his silence at the Holy Cross Retreat Center, pleading for a reprieve from the government and the reunification of his family. "I'm here praying to the Lord for his mercy on us," Taborda said after Mass at the retreat center. "But (I'm) also asking for the community – for our bishop, for our church, for our friends – to ask the government of the United States (for) one pardon, one stay, one give to my family, especially to my wife (and) to my kids."

Taborda's supporters include Bishop Oscar Cantú of the Las Cruces Catholic Diocese and Father Tom Smith of the Holy Cross Retreat Center. ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

** Images changed to protect their identity*

For more information about Jorge, please read: <http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/local/2017/06/18/immigrant-father-sought-authorities-speaks-out/406647001/>

Things are Really Blooming in Francesca's Garden!

Two months after planting, the veggies are beginning to burst forth in Francesca's Garden at The Cottage on the campus of Cabrini University in Radnor, PA. Tomatoes, peppers and mini-eggplants are well on their way to ripening. All produce will be harvested and brought to area shelters and homes for rescued victims of human trafficking and for at-risk senior citizens.



Reflections on a Rally



One of the many rallies held around the nation on June 30th to protest the separation of families who have crossed the border into the United States occurred in the sleepy village of East Quogue, in the Town of Southampton, NY. Organized by MoveOn.org. during the weeks following the news of the separation of children from parents, this peaceful rally attracted a few hundred people and some local politicians.



Many rally participants carried homemade signs indicating support for those parents and children who had been separated at the border.

On this hot Saturday afternoon attendees gathered in the park carrying home-made signs and flags, and wearing T-shirts and other symbols of disagreement with the separation of children from parents. Surprising to me was that virtually all those present were apparently Caucasian, and that many came as families with young children. Clearly it was a teaching moment for the parents who could be overheard explaining what it means to protest something, and how to conduct themselves during the speeches being delivered by a victim of the policy, a town official running for re-election, and the organizers.

The Hamptons rely heavily upon new immigrant laborers for the many restaurants and resorts, as well as for lawn care and construction, among many other work opportunities. Recently, deli's serving ethnic food have sprung up, and churches are welcoming laborers with services in Spanish. Immigration and other needed services are being offered, as well. Sadly, housing is a major issue:

many were found camping in the woods through the winter months.

It was moving to see the white villagers and, maybe vacationers, out in support of uniting families, but it was concerning that the population most affected was absent. Were they all working to keep lawns manicured, meals prepared and served, and homes cleaned on this sweltering Saturday? Were they afraid to gather in public? Maybe it was a combination of these and other motives. I'm glad we were there to represent ourselves, US citizens who know that our nation is above the the current policies coming out of the White House, and to represent them, the victims of the hate being disseminated by some. ~ by Patricia Krasnansky, President and CEO, Cabirni Eldercare



A Belated Birthday Celebration for Sister Romualda Molon, MSC



Two years ago when Sister Romualda's family in Brazil told her to be sure to make her visit home on her 80th birthday, April 19th in 2018, she happily complied. What followed was a wonderful celebration of liturgy and dinner with more than 100 family members and friends. Conducted in the parish church where Sister was baptized and received

First Communion, the liturgy was both festive and touching – and fully recorded, as was the party that followed.

When Sister Romualda returned to her Dobbs Ferry, NY home, she was full of news about the grand event and offered to share her videos. A date was set, and unknown to her, another birthday party was planned with her friends on the administrative team of Cabrini of Westchester. On June 27, after several delays, the belated party was held.

Viewing the videos, staff were amazed to learn of and see Sister's many sisters and brothers as well as her extended family, the beautiful parish church which has been recently renovated - only minimally - because it is a treasured landmark with ceilings painted by a renowned Italian artist, and the festive meal with homemade delicacies and several speeches acknowledging Sister Romualda's birthday and visit to her home town. Her sister, whose birthday is the same, was co-celebrant in all the festivities.

A few days after that party, Sister Romualda was off again, this time to Golden, Colorado where we hope she will celebrate her 80 years and her videos again!



Sr. Romualda Molon, MSC, birthday girl, blows out the candles on her cake with a little assistance from Cabrini of Westchester President and CEO Patricia Krasnausky.

Sr. Romualda shows Lorraine Horgan, Cabrini of Westchester Vice President of External Affairs, where her family home is in Brazil.

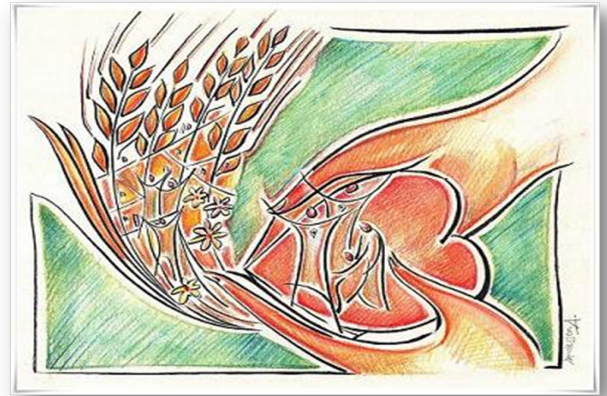


A.M.G.SS.C.J

“Lord, your LOVE is better than life itself”

(Psalm 63,4)

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Mora Family
joyfully announce the First Religious Profession of:
Sister Delia Marisel Mora



Prayer Requests

Buck

Prayers are requested for a gentleman named Buck who has experienced a return of cancer. Please keep him in your prayers.

Bishop Louis DeSimone

Please keep Bishop DeSimone, a longtime friend of the Missionary Sisters, in your prayers. The Bishop was recently hospitalized and is now undergoing physical therapy on an outpatient basis. He is expected to return to home St. John Vianney Parish in Gladwyne, PA in the near future. We know he would especially appreciate the prayers of the his dear Missionary Sisters.

Jerry Dunleavy

Your prayers are asked for Jerry, the brother of Sr. Patricia Dunleavy, MSC, who was re-hospitalized at Stoney Brook Medical Center and was immediately brought into neuro-surgery. He came through the surgery well, and now is intensive care for a least a week. It is anticipated that Jerry will have a long recovery, so let us pray for his wife, Stephanie and his children, Chris and Cheryl and the whole Dunleavy Clan, who are asking the sisters for their prayers.

Lauren

Sr. Grace Waters, MSC requests prayers for Lauren, the daughter of her good friend, who was recently assaulted and severely beaten and is currently on life support. Pray for a good outcome of her injuries.

Fr. George McGee, OSA

Fr. George, a good friend of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, will be celebrating his 50th Jubilee of his ordination. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he marks this significant milestone of his service to God's people.

David Merandi

Kindly keep David, the brother of Sr. Therese Merandi, MSC, in your prayers. David was in a serious car accident in North Carolina this past weekend, sustaining multiple injuries and fractures and is in guarded condition. The doctors are not too sure if there has been damage

to the spinal column and cervical vertebrae requiring many more tests. Please pray for David during this stressful time and the Merandi family.

Mimi Moore

A graduate of Cabrini University, Mimi Moore has been hospitalized and is battling Lupus and is in need of our prayers.

Sr. Philippa Provenzano, MSC

You are asked to keep Sr. Philippa in your prayers in a special way at this time. Please pray for her comfort and her serenity.

Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC

Sr. Roselle is recovering from recent knee surgery in Colorado. The surgery went well and she should be discharged in a day or so. We pray for an uneventful and speedy recovery for Sr. Roselle.

In Loving Memory

John “Jack” Borneman

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John “Jack” Borneman, the father-in-law of Cabrini University alumna and trustee Anne Marie Borneman, '80. Please pray for Anne Marie's husband, Jay, and his siblings as they mourn the loss of their father.

Mr. Borneman's visitation will be on Tuesday, July 17th at 9:00 am with a Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 11:00 am at St. Norbert's Church, Paoli, PA.

Sr. Eileen Egan

Your prayers are asked for Sr. Eileen whom God has called to her eternal home. Pray for the repose of her soul and for her religious community.

Kathleen Gorevin

Kathleen, the aunt of Nancy Gorevin Costello in the Province Communications Office, went home to the Lord on Monday, July 2nd, at the age of 105. Her funeral will be on Friday, July 13th, at St. Thomas of Villanova – Rosemont Chapel, Rosemont, PA. Visitation from 9-10 am; Mass of Christian Burial, 10 am. The Gorevin-Costello Family gives thanks for your prayerful accompaniment at this time.

Gloria Mattia

A longtime friend of the Missionary Sisters, especially of Sr. Julie Toto, MSC, has returned home to God. She faithfully baked cookies and made candies for the Missionary Sisters and her neighbors, especially at holiday time. She will be remembered fondly. Please pray for the repose of her soul.

*Happy 168th Birthday,
Mother Cabrini*

July 15, 1850

