



July 19, 2018

Catholic Organizations Playing a Role in the Reunification of Children

~ by Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

Some of the migrant children under age 5 separated from their families by the government were reunited with loved ones [last week] with help from Catholic organizations.

About two dozen families in all were brought back together on that date with help from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services, [Catholic Charities USA](#) and a network of other agencies from around the country.

In all, the Catholic agencies will help reunite 55 families by mid-July and provide short-term care, such as food and shelter, said Bill Canny, executive director of MRS.

"Protection of families is a foundational element of Catholic social teaching and this moment calls on all people of goodwill to lend a hand to reunite these children with their parents," said a joint statement issued the same day by MRS and Catholic Charities USA.

The children and families were separated earlier by a policy implemented by the Trump administration at the U.S.-Mexico border, seeking to deter illegal border crossings. U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in May that people risking improper entry would be subject to having their children taken away, if caught.

The Catholic Church, along with much of the country, condemned the policy and has been advocating for the families' reunification. After much public outcry and widespread condemnation of the family separation policy, President Donald Trump signed an executive order June 20 saying families would no longer be separated but may be detained together during the process of prosecution and deportation at the border.

The U.S. bishops have expressed concerns with that possibility, asking for alternatives to detention, but seemed intent on lessening the damage already done.



At a bus depot in McAllen, Texas, immigrant children react as they are released from detention.

The families of children under 5 that the Catholic organizations helped were reunited at government facilities and then transferred into the care of Catholic Charities organizations around the country, as well as the Annunciation House in the El Paso, Texas/Juarez, Mexico, border region.

They will be assisted with follow-up care for two months as many will leave the facilities and head toward a destination with family or a sponsor somewhere in the U.S.

Canny said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as well as the Office of Refugee Resettlement reached out to the Catholic organizations, as well as the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in early July to help with the reunifications.

"They know we are able to tap into a vast Catholic network across the country, which proves valuable for humanitarian and disaster response," he said. ~ *Catholic News Service*

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

Mataz and his family* are Sunni and lived in Aleppo before departing in 2012; in sum, they are a family of 14 (this excludes his mother and sister who were taken by ISIS and have not yet been found). The consistent airstrikes made them question their presence in Syria and the struggle to keep the family safe eventually forced them out.



Mataz and his father state that they are eager to resettle to the west, but their first choice would be [to relocate to] Canada because they've heard from friends and seen on the news that the Prime Minister is very welcoming to Syrians.

As Mataz sits in front of his home, which is constructed of brick and plastic UNHCR tarpaulin, he states that his family feels less than human because of the very basic needs that they struggle to fulfill day in and day out. Nonetheless, in a place where hope is in short supply, regardless of what happens with his application for resettlement,

Mataz is clear that he still has a dream to return to Syria one day. Mataz and his family wave goodbye, continue another day of waiting for an uncertain future in the Bekaa valley.

**Photo image changed to protect the family's identity.*

~ Justice for Immigrants

One Minute Meditation

Come To Me



We face many challenges in our lives and they can seem insurmountable. Jesus offers us hope in those hard times. He calls us to come to him with our burdens and fears, the things that weigh us down and discourage us. When we are overwhelmed, he promises us rest. We aren't alone. We don't have to face our problems by ourselves. Jesus is there for us in the difficult times. He invites us to accept his yoke, his teaching, and to learn from him. To speak of an easy yoke seems to be an oxymoron, but, Jesus promises that following him and his teaching will bring us rest. He offers consolation to those who follow his way. He calls us to be open and accepting, to trust in his promise. ~ *Angeline Hubert, Words of Grace*

Cabrini Health Advocates for Asylum Seekers

In March 2018, the Cabrini Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health Hub [in Australia] experienced a surge in demand with a 100 per cent increase in the number of referrals for the month.

A higher than average number of referrals were also received in April and May.

Most of these referrals are for asylum seekers receiving basic support through the status resolution support services (SRSS) program while awaiting the outcome of their application for protection.



The reason for the increase? Changes to the SRSS program vulnerability criteria have been announced, which will result in withdrawal of the basic living allowance (89 per cent of Newstart), casework support, and trauma and torture counselling from anyone assessed as 'job-ready'. Being job-ready is not the same as being able to find employment.

Many Australians are looking for work. When English is not your first language, you have had little or interrupted education, you have no employment history and only temporary work rights, you have serious barriers to employment success. Add to that the significant physical and mental health issues many asylum seekers suffer, and employment is unlikely.

How will they will pay their rent and feed themselves if they have no income?

We stand for compassionate treatment for asylum seekers. ~ submitted by Christine Elmer, Cabrini Health

Creating a Supportive Environment for All Children

A new project is providing support for children who have autism, bringing about changes in the way we care for young people in the paediatric [pediatric] unit at Cabrini Health Malvern – including the introduction of daily quiet time, a special pre-admission clinic and better communication.



The research project was led by Deakin University with collaboration from Monash University, Cabrini Health, the Royal Children's Hospital, and Amaze which is Victoria's peak body for people on the autism spectrum and their families. All shared the goal of identifying measures that could be introduced at Cabrini to provide an autism-friendly environment for children.

The study explored the views and needs of Cabrini staff who provide care to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. Children who have ASD often experience heightened anxiety, and communication and social challenges, all of which need to be taken into account by staff in a hospital environment. Hospital visits present challenges for these children such as the disruption of the child's routine, time spent waiting, dealing with unfamiliar people and strange surroundings. The 'busyness' of the hospital environment can be disrupting and upsetting for these children. Many recommendations were included in the report. ~ submitted by Christine Elmer, Cabrini Health

Cabrini Immigrant Services



Balloon animals and crazy hats were just part of the fun of the summer BBQ.

June 21st was the official start of summer and Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry began it with a barbeque. We had a BBQ for our tutors and adult students at St. Cabrini Nursing Home. The weather was beautiful, the food, which was prepared by St. Cabrini's fabulous Food Service Department, was delicious. The scenery was so tranquil on the Hudson River. Our tutors, their students and families enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, corn, potato and macaroni salads and so much more. This [menu] along with the tasty watermelon had everyone excited about summer.

On June 26th, CIS was again at the nursing home and enjoying yet another BBQ. This time, our Cabrini Kids, who attend our afterschool homework program, enjoyed a fun afternoon. Soon the tranquility that was present last week, turned into the beautiful sound of children's laughter and fun. The Kids were treated to a very delicious BBQ. After enjoying many hamburgers, hotdogs, etc., the Kids started to play the different games that were set up for them. A fan favorite was a game called Pantyhose Bowling. The Kids loved trying to knock over water bottles with a tennis ball that was in one of the legs of a pair of pantyhose. The fun part was that the pantyhose was put on their heads!

They also enjoyed the hula hoop, some ring toss games and also making different balloon sculptures. Nora Maher, one of our storytellers, was kept very busy helping the children make different shapes out of the balloons. We were also lucky to have some of our Moms, Deborah Mosley, another one of our storytellers, and Ellen Tessitore, our art teacher, help with serving the food and assisting with the games.

Before leaving for home, the Kids were treated to ice cream. They also received a party bag filled with fun gifts.

At the end of the day, I know that all the adults were exhausted, but also thrilled to share the children's happiness and see the smiles on their faces as they enjoyed a wonderful time at St. Cabrini. I know the residents at the nursing home enjoyed seeing the young children as they watched them play their hearts out with the different games.

Thank you to all who helped to make our BBQs so wonderful. It was a great way to kick off the summer. ~ submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS, Dobbs Ferry, NY



Keep that hula-hoop spinning!

From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

The overwhelming majority of those pursuing vocations in religious life in the church were born into the faith. But a small, steady stream of men and women choose first to become Catholic and then, in what is perhaps an even larger leap of faith, choose religious life itself. Twelve percent of brothers and sisters making perpetual vows weren't born Catholic, according to a [2017 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate report](#). Nine out of 10 entering religious life were raised Catholic, CARA reports.

Whereas once a change of denominations would have been called a conversion (and still is often popularly referred to that way), since Vatican II it has been called entering into full communion with the Catholic Church. Sometimes discerning a call to the religious life can take decades.



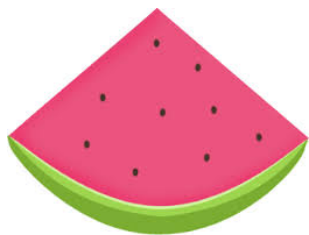
Sr. Deborah Borneman, CCSM of the National Religious Vocations Conference (NRVC).

In some cases, the journey from changing denominations to taking vows as a member of a religious community seems linear, according to accounts from the women Global Sisters Report interviewed. In others, there is a close connection between a wish to become Catholic and enter the religious life.

"There is no canonical law concerning the time to start the application process in regards to a discernor who was not born and raised Catholic yet became fully initiated into the Catholic faith," says Sr. [Deborah Marie Borneman](#), a member of the Sisters of Saint Cyril and Methodius; she is director of member relations and services for the National Religious Vocation Conference. Canon law requires that candidates show proof of baptism, confirmation and "free status" before they are admitted to the novitiate, she said in an email. The vocation conference, however, highly recommends a new Catholic wait at least two years, preferably three years, before application to any religious institute. ~ *from the Global Sisters Report*

To read the full article: <http://globalsistersreport.org/news/trends/path-religious-life-varies-especially-when-sisters-start-out-non-catholic-54971>

Wheeeee! It's Vacation Time!



A gentle reminder: this is the last edition of The Update for the summer months. The Update will resume publication on Thursday, September 6th. Prayer requests are welcome at any time and will be published on Thursdays as they are received.

**Kindly send prayer requests to cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org
May you have a safe and restful remainder of summer. Enjoy!**

Cabrini Retreat Center Hosts Students for Kairos Retreat



A small reflection group from a Kairos retreat has Mother Cabrini's watchful gaze upon them.

Thousands of Loyola students have encountered the love of Christ at Cabrini Retreat Center [in Des Plaines, IL] on Kairos Retreats. These young people are fruit of the grace of God working through Mother Cabrini.

On Mother Cabrini's 168th birthday, Loyola Academy students ended our 245th Kairos retreat. We take time to celebrate her shining example and are encouraged to follow her – recognizing we are loved sinners drawn ever more closely to a relationship with God. She “lived the 4th,” putting love into action and bringing hope to so many.

Her beautiful example has led to millions of lives being drawn into God's loving arms. Our students are striving to follow her example as they carry this experience into the ordinary of their lives.

**“Living the 4th” is an expression used by those participating in a 4 Day Kairos Retreat. The 4th Day is the response to God's faithful love in our lives that impels each retreatant to share the Gospel in daily life.*

~ submitted by Michael Gregg, Campus Minister, Loyola Academy; with thanks to Nancy Golen, Director, Cabrini Retreat Center

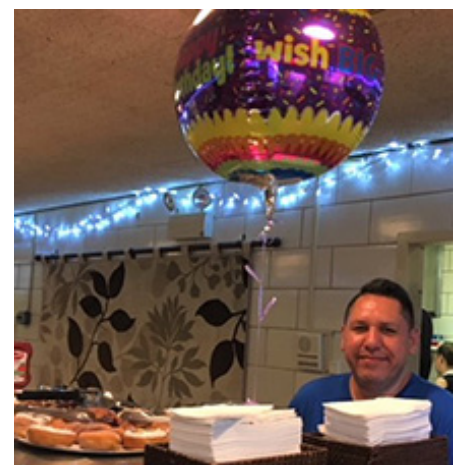
Birthday Celebrations!



On July 15th, we celebrated Mother Cabrini's 168th birthday. Cabrinian ministries worldwide join in the festivities.

Photo left: At Cabrini University, Acting Provost Dr. Mark Kiselica, (l.) assisted by Joan Kleckner (c.) does the honor of slicing the cake.

Photo right: Cabrini Retreat Center's Jose Melendez announces Mother Cabrini's big day with a bright balloon in the dining room.



Prayer Requests

Vernon Brewer

Please keep Mr. Brewer, father-in-law of Karol Brewer in the Province Formation Office, in your prayers. Please pray for his comfort and serenity at this time.

Richard Ulman

Your prayers are asked for Richard, the father of Mary Ostoich, RN, who worked with the MSC Senior Sisters in Philadelphia. Richard has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Mary would be grateful for our prayers for her father.



With a Grateful Heart

Nancy Costello, of the Province Communications Office, wishes to extend her thanks and that of her family to the Missionary Sisters and all those in the Cabrinian Community who have offered their condolences upon the passing of her Aunt Kathleen Gorevin. Your kindness and thoughtful messages have been a great comfort. We know she is now resting in God's eternal peace.

In Loving Memory

Edith “Mickey” Casey

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Edith “Mickey” Casey, the mother of Sr. Sharon Casey, MSC, who went home to God on Friday, July 13, 2018. Kindly keep Mrs. Casey, Sr. Sharon and the Casey Family in your prayers at this sad time.

Sr. Philippa Provenzano, MSC

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Philippa who returned home to God on Wednesday, July 11th at the St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY. May she rest in God's eternal peace.

