



September 20, 2018

## Immigrant Stories: Harrowing Tales at the Border

~ by Michael Brown, Catholic News Service

Dominican Sr. Donna Markham, President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, grew emotional talking about the harrowing stories she heard from immigrants about the life they left behind to seek refuge in the United States.



Sr. Donna Markham, President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA visits with immigrant families at the border in Nogales, Mexico. Photo Credit: M. Brown

"The suffering they are going through is unimaginable," she said after listening to stories from families waiting to apply for asylum at the international border at Nogales in the Mexican state of Sonora.

Markham, who recently completed a tour of a detention facility for children in McAllen, Texas, said she wanted to visit Nogales to get the whole story behind the current public debate over immigration.

"Their stories," she said, pausing to compose herself. "They are running for their lives. Literally, they left at gunpoint."

She was joined at the Nogales Port of Entry by Jesuit Fr. Sean Carroll, executive director of the Kino Border Initiative, an organization that assists mostly families who have been sent back to Mexico following deportation proceedings.

With the large influx of refugees seeking to enter the U.S., Carroll, along with other religious-based and nonprofit agencies in Nogales, Arizona, have set up temporary shelters and a check-in system for families seeking to enter the U.S. and to apply for asylum.

Were it not for those shelters, families would have to wait in line at the port of entry in the humidity and heat of 100-plus degrees for about two weeks, Carroll told Catholic Outlook, newspaper of the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona.

The first family Markham met included 11 members, four of whom were young children. They left the Mexican state of Guerrero, one of the poorest and least safe areas in the country.

Carroll interpreted their story, explaining how their lives had been threatened by a local political party during the recent presidential election. At the border, their biggest fear is that the father and

uncle would be detained, the children taken from them, and the women deported. Knowing that risk, they waited anyway because "they were threatened with death" in their hometown, Markham said.

While such conditions might easily fall into the classic example of political asylum, Peg Harmon, who is executive director of Catholic Community Services in the Diocese of Tucson and has been a Catholic Charities USA board member, acknowledged that under the current vetting system, there were no guarantees.

Another family -- two women and two young children -- also spoke to Markham. One woman held a young girl close to her who appeared to be no older than 9 and was crying inconsolably. The mother, also from Guerrero, spoke of her husband being taken and her daughter's life being threatened. She was with another woman, with a son about same age. They had tried to cross into the U.S. in January but were stopped and deported in February. Under current U.S. policy, they would not be eligible to enter the country because of the previous attempt, but have no other place to go.

Markham said that visiting Nogales was a completely different experience from her trip to visit the juveniles held in Texas. In McAllen, "they are already going through the process; there the process is very slow."

"Here, it is very painful to hear the stories, to know how people have suffered to get this far, especially the children," she said. "It's emotionally overwhelming. It's more painful than I imagined."

**To read the complete story:** <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/migration/charities-ceo-visits-border-hears-immigrants-stories-fleeing-danger-55026>

---

## Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

In Cincinnati, a 78 year-old man who grew up and survived during the Jim Crow era of his native Georgia develops a friendship with a Syrian Muslim refugee father of five despite their 42 year age difference. What brings them together is hard work, finding refuge – five decades apart – in the same town, and a shared experience as newcomers to Cincinnati looking for a safe place to work and raise a family.

"When I met him, he reminded me of myself," Clarence Howell said, 57 years after leaving the deep south. His friend, Bassam Osman, 36, came from Aleppo, where war has claimed 31,000 lives and destroyed more than 33,000 buildings. He worked in a shoe factory before it was bombed.

With the assistance of the local Catholic Charities agency and USCCB-provided refugee support funding, the two men work mending shoes at Howell's shoe repair shop and developed a bond that is more than boss and employee.

"He is a great man," Osman said. "I can tell he cares about me and my family."

To read more of this story, [click here](#). ~ *Justice for Immigrants*



Syrian refugee Bassam Osman (foreground) and Clarence Howell work together in Howell's shoe repair business.

*Photo credit: Liz Dufour, The Enquirer*

# Share the Journey: *Walking* in Solidarity



Cabrini Retreat Center staff represented all the Missionary Sisters' Chicagoland missions at the Archdiocesan Life and Justice Day on September 15th.

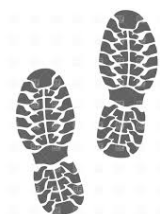
Cardinal Cupich encouraged the over 100 attendees "to collaborate with one another, and in doing so help fight for a new reality where all people are guaranteed the right to have life and have it abundantly." As Pope Francis said during his papal visit to Bolivia, *"The rights of the planet, and the right to shelter and work, for all our brothers and sisters are sacred rights worth fighting for."*

The upcoming Chicagoland Share the Journey Pilgrimage Walk of Solidarity on October 20<sup>th</sup> is an example of collaboration - with all local MSC missions partnering with the USCCB, the Share the Journey Campaign and the Archdiocese of Chicago.

To register: [www.cabrinicenter.org/walk2018/](http://www.cabrinicenter.org/walk2018/)

## Can't Get to Chicago for the Walk?

More details about the walk will be provided in The Update in upcoming weeks, including the web based "remote walker" option by which everyone can "walk in place" and unite their steps with the efforts in Chicago. Please check next week's Update for details.



Cabrini Retreat Center Director Nancy Golen and Jose Luis Melendez promoted the Chicagoland Share the Journey Walk at the Chicago Archdiocesan Life and Justice Day.

---

Join Caritas' global effort to walk in solidarity with migrants and refugees. Communities around the world are organizing walks with migrants and refugees as part of the **Share the Journey** global campaign. It is a response to the millions of people who have fled their homes because of war, poverty, climate change or because they want to build a better life for themselves and their children.

Pope Francis launched the campaign in Rome in 2017 and said "Hope is the force that drives us "to share the journey", because the journey is made jointly." The pope emphasized that all of us are on this journey together and that migrants and refugees are often bearers of hope.



You too can bring people together to walk in global solidarity with migrants and refugees and to share hopes and experiences. The Share the Journey campaign aims to bring migrants, refugees and communities closer together to build stronger relationships and communities where everyone can live in dignity.

To learn more about the global solidarity walk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeH-tV83fZc>



# Roots and Wings



Exchanging the stories of their roots and where the wings of God have brought them are MSC candidate Ayantu Bishaka (l.) and a candidate from another religious congregation.



On Saturday, September 15, Tigist Loja, Ayantu Bishaka, MSC candidates, and Sr. Lucy Panettieri, MSC, participated in an Intercultural Day titled “Roots and Wings” sponsored by the Brooklyn Diocese with Sr. Annmarie Seton LoPiccolo SC, Vicar for Religious.

Sixty religious sisters from many cultures and some [religious] brothers participated. It was held at Bishop Malloy Retreat House in Jamaica, Queens. It was a day of sharing our roots as a congregation showing that as congregations, we are all immigrants in this country. We had a very meaningful prayer service beginning the day and a closing ritual with music and dance. Each person received a butterfly to symbolize the Wings of God which carried us to the Diocese of New York. We were invited to exchange our butterfly with another person from another continent while sharing with that person: “where we were rooted and where the wings of God brought us”. It was really an enriching experience for all of us.

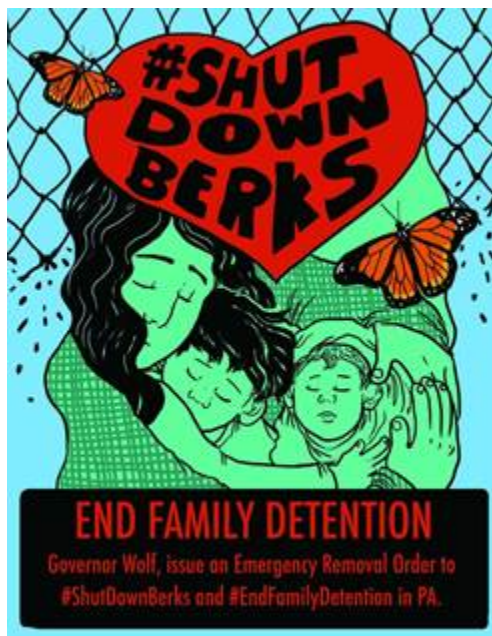
*~ submitted by Tigist, Ayantu and Sr. Lucy, MSC*



Sr. Lucy Panettieri, MSC (3<sup>rd</sup>. I.) MSC Formation Director joins the MSC candidates Tigist Loja (2<sup>nd</sup>. I.) and Ayantu Bishaka (2<sup>nd</sup> r.) at the Roots and Wings Conference in Jamaica, NY sharing cultural and congregational heritage and traditions.

# Support Detained Immigrant Families

Join with Cabrini University in a Vigil



The Center on Immigration at Cabrini University invites you to join us as we take part in a vigil at Berks County Detention Center (BCDC). The monthly vigils, organized by the Shut Down Berks Coalition, are held to support detained immigrant families and to call for closure of the detention center. Pennsylvania is one of two states in the country that detains immigrant families. BCDC, not far from Cabrini, continues to operate despite having its license revoked by the PA Department of Human Services in January 2016. The parents and children, most of whom are seeking asylum, have reported physical abuse, verbal abuse, and medical neglect inside the detention center.

The next vigil will take place outside of BCDC in Leesport, PA, on **Sunday, September 30**, from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM. A van will depart from Cabrini University at **2:30 PM** and return around **5:30 PM**.

If you would like to join us, **RSVP by Tuesday, September 25**, to Ashley Woodruff at [aw698@cabrini.edu](mailto:aw698@cabrini.edu).

## The Update - Publication Notice

Next week, due to scheduling in the Province Communications Office,  
The Update will be published on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.  
Kindly submit all news stories by noon on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

[Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org](mailto:Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org)

Just a gentle reminder that when submitting photos, please include captions.  
Much appreciated!

Also, due to the Provincial Assembly, October 7-12, there will be  
no Update on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.



**The Eighth Annual Domestic Violence Symposium: Trauma and Trafficking**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2018**  
**Grace Hall, 9:30am-12:30pm**

Co-hosted by the [Barbara and John Jordan Center for Children of Trauma and Domestic Violence](#) and the [Center on Immigration](#)

Hear from [Barbara Amaya](#), trafficking and domestic violence survivor and award-winning advocate, speaker, trainer, and author of Amazon best-selling memoir *Nobody's Girl* and graphic novel *The Destiny of Zoe Carpenter*. She will speak about her life's work to combat human trafficking and violence against women and children.

The free, half-day symposium also will include a panel discussion with experts and advocates who will examine these issues from a variety of experiences and expertise. Panelists include Anh Hua, Anti-Human Trafficking Program Manager, Nationalities Service Center (NSC); Detective Les Glauner, Upper Merion Township Police Department; Laura Clary, Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Clinical Program Manager/ Forensic Nurse Examiner, Greater Baltimore Medical Center; Julie Knudsen, LSW Pupil Services Supervisor, Norristown School District; and Abbie Newman, CEO and Founding Executive Director, Mission Kids Advocacy Center.



**Save the Date!**

**Cabrini Immigrant Services Annual Liberty  
& Justice Awards Reception**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

**Estherwood Mansion  
Dobbs Ferry, NY**

Honoring:

**Vanessa H. Merton, Esq.**  
Professor of Law and

Director of the Immigration Justice League  
at Pace University School of Law

and

**Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC**  
President and Chair of Board  
Cabrini Mission Foundation

**All Missionary Sisters are invited to be our guests  
at the reception.**

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to Susan Herceg at 914-693-6800 ext. 502 or [sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org](mailto:sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org)

---

**Join the “300” Club to  
Support Cabrini of Westchester!!**

Participation in the “300 Club” is limited to 300 members.  
Each member contributes \$100 and is assigned a number  
from 1 to 300, providing participants with the  
**opportunity to win up to \$5,000.00!**

Members will participate in a drawing for the following prizes:

1 <sup>st</sup> Number Drawn	\$5,000.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Number Drawn	\$1,500.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Number Drawn	\$1,000.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Number Drawn	\$ 500.00
5 <sup>th</sup> Number Drawn	\$ 100.00
6 <sup>th</sup> Number Drawn	\$ 100.00
7 <sup>th</sup> Number Drawn	\$ 100.00

Members are invited to the Drawing/Reception that will be held on  
Sunday, September 23, 2018 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Cabrini of Westchester,  
115 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522.

Winners need not be present.

For more information on how you can secure your lucky number please contact the  
Development Office at 914-693-6800 ext. 502 or [sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org](mailto:sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org).

**All proceeds will benefit Cabrini's Magical Moments Campaign to raise funds for  
special entertainment and recreational activities for  
both short-term patients and long-term residents.**



THE NATIONAL  
**SHRINE CABRINI**  
OF SAINT FRANCES XAVIER

2520 N. Lakeview, Chicago IL 60614 773.360.5115 [www.cabrinationalshrine.org](http://www.cabrinationalshrine.org)

**KONEVETS QUARTET**  
концерт духовной и светской музыки

**MUSIC IN THE SHRINE**



Join us for a special afternoon of sacred chants and traditional folk music of Russia and Ukraine with the Konevets Quartet.

**Sunday, September 23, 2018 at 3pm**



The Konevets Quartet was founded in 1992 by graduates of the St. Petersburg Music Conservatoire-Glinka Choral Academy, who began by singing in the Konevets Monastery. Today, they continue to present this unique musical tradition to audiences throughout Europe, Asia and the U.S.

**Free will donations will be accepted.**

[Facebook.com/CabriniShrineChicago](https://www.facebook.com/CabriniShrineChicago)  
[Twitter.com/CabriniChicago](https://twitter.com/CabriniChicago) (@CabriniChicago)

*Mark Your Calendar!*



## Open House Chicago | 10/13, 10/14

The National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini is honored to once again participate in The Chicago Architecture Foundation's city-wide event taking place on **Saturday, October 13, 2018 (10 AM-2 PM)** and **Sunday, October 14, 2018 (12 PM-4 PM)**.



# Prayer Requests

## *Noreen Elia*

Please pray for a young woman named Noreen who is undergoing medical tests. She is the daughter of Marlene and Jules Lesk, friends of the sisters in Florida.

## *Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC*

Your on-going prayers are requested for Sr. Tommasina who continues to recover from extensive surgery. Sr. Tommasina is now recuperating at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Knowing of your prayerful support will give Sr. Tommasina a boost.

## *Darcir Molon*

Kindly hold Darcir Molon, the brother of Sr. Romualda Molon, MSC, in your prayers. He is currently hospitalized with serious lung problems. Pray that he will soon be well.

## *Nancy Panganiban*

Please keep Nancy Panganiban in your prayers. She will be undergoing major surgery on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for her healing and complete recovery.

# With a Grateful Heart

## *Prayers of Thanksgiving*

Prayers of thanksgiving are offered for the good outcome of a medical test.

# In Loving Memory

## *Edith Conti*

The Cabrinian Community joins the Cabrini University Community in extending sympathy to Dr. Melissa Terlecki, faculty member, on the loss of her grandmother, Edith Conti, who passed away on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Dr. Terlecki and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

## *Max Engle*

Please pray for the soul of Max Engle who died from a tragic accident last night. He was engaged to Jaime Doran and they were to be married on October 19. Karol Brewer, in the Province Formation Office is a dear friend of Jamie's parents, Patty and Terry Doran. Please hold this family in your prayers after this devastating loss.

