



September 6, 2018

## Advocates Prepare for Possible Cuts in Refugee Admissions in USA

~ by Maria Benevento, National Catholic Reporter

"Enlarge the Resettlement Lifeboat and Fill Every Seat" — the title of an August 21 [Justice for Immigrants](#) campaign webinar on the upcoming "presidential determination" of next year's refugee admissions — was a call to action based on the image of the United States' resettlement program as a lifeboat rescuing refugees from persecution.

In the last year, that "lifeboat" shrank. In his presidential determination for fiscal year 2018, President Donald Trump set the maximum number of refugees allowed to enter at an historic low of 45,000, despite the fact that [United Nations' Refugee Agency](#) (UNHCR) says the world is facing its worst crisis of displaced people in recorded history.

As "travel ban" executive orders and other policy decisions have barred nationals of certain countries, slowed vetting and diverted resources from processing refugees, the U.S. is also on track to fill less than half of even the reduced number of lifeboat seats.

Amid reports that this trend could continue, with a possible presidential determination of 15,000-25,000 for fiscal year 2019 when the decision is due September 30, Catholic groups are combatting misinformation about refugees and advocating to members of Congress and administration officials in an effort to convince Trump to raise the cap.

A refugee ceiling of 15,000 during an unprecedented refugee crisis "would be so low it's laughable," said Donald Kerwin, executive director of [Center for Migration Studies of New York](#), an educational institute connected with the Scalabrini International Migration Network.

During past refugee crises, "the United States' response was central to the global response and to resolving the situations of these massive levels of refugees and it's not playing that role right now," Kerwin added, calling reduced support for refugees "totally antithetical to our own history and our own values."

To read the full article: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/advocates-prepare-possible-cuts-refugee-admissions-us>



Immigrant families being released from detention in McAllen, TX.

## Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor



Carmen\*, originally from Honduras, received comprehensive case management services from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston through the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP). She was sex trafficked in Miami and fled to Houston to ensure she was not located by traffickers. Upon arrival to Houston, she had little to no support from friends or family, was suffering with symptoms of anxiety and depression due to the trauma, and also had serious medical issues. These medical problems were caused after the trafficker subjected her to plastic surgery involving injecting synthetic silicone to make her more appealing to customers. This harmful silicone caused the client to experience severe pain to the point that she could not stand or sit for more than 2 hours at a time. Surgeons had little knowledge of the type of silicone injected and the only

solution offered was to remove the entire area which would cause a major deformity. Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston's case manager assisted her client in finding better options. She and Catholic Charities staff located a surgeon that could remove the harmful silicone without causing deformities. The subsequent challenge was finding the financial assistance to cover the cost for this procedure.

The case manager at Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston refused to give up. She connected her client to Face Forward, an organization dedicated to help victims of trafficking cover costs related to medical issues caused during their victimization. The client underwent surgery on July 27, 2018. Her surgeon has offered a great prognosis.

During this difficult time, Catholic Charities' case manager provided the client with emotional support and psychoeducation. She also referred her to mental health services where she received therapy once a week, as well as established care from a psychiatrist. The client also obtained food, personal hygiene products, transportation services, donated clothing, orientation to community programs like ESL classes, and long-term housing assistance.

This past January, Catholic Charities' client received wonderful news. Her T-Visa was approved and her Employment Authorization Card arrived. Her case manager assisted her with applying for a social security number, Texas identification, food stamps (SNAP), and Medicaid benefits. The client is currently working with Catholic Charities employment services to find dignified work.

This young woman continues with mental health therapy and leverages community resources, including those at Catholic Charities. The trauma-informed case management provided by TVAP has made a difference in her life. It has empowered her to take control of her life once again and continue to pursue her dreams. She is hopeful and excited for the future. ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

*\*Name and photo image changed to protect her identity*

# Making Her First Profession of Vows

It is with joy and thanksgiving that we share the first profession of vows of Sr. Marisel Mora, MSC.

Having completed her novitiate in West Park, NY, Sr. Marisel traveled home to Argentina to make her first vows amidst many family members and Missionary Sisters on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony held was in a beautiful church at Collegio Sagrado Corazon.

*May God bless and keep you, Sr. Marisel!*



Sr. Marisel Mora, MSC (c.l.) is joined by Formation Director Sr. Lucy Panettieri, MSC (c.r.) and many other Missionary Sisters following the Mass during which she made her first profession of vows in her native Argentina.



Happy scenes from the First Profession celebration for Sr. Marisel Mora, MSC.

**Photo left:** Music and singing were an integral part of the festivities.

**Photo right:** Sr. Marisel's family – her parents and her siblings.





## Our Ethiopian Friends and Sisters

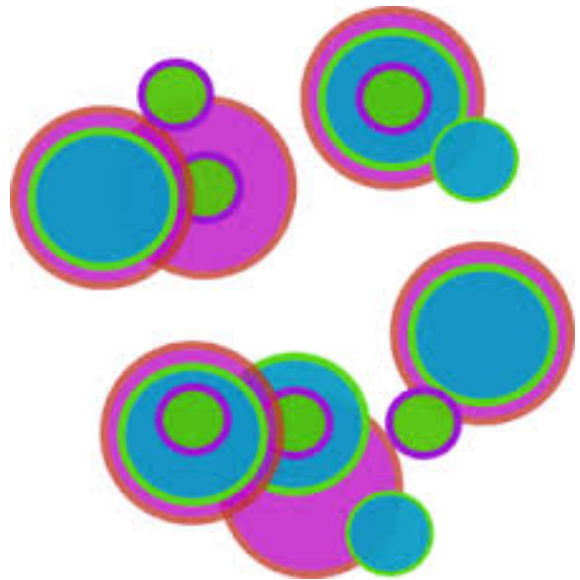


This summer five women from Ethiopia have been studying at the Cabrini-on-Hudson novitiate in West Park, NY. Please meet from left: Tigist Loma, an MSC candidate who will do her novitiate in West Park; Shitaye Esaye, a junior sister; Bekalech Basa, a junior sister; Mesert Nagam, a junior sister and Ayantu Bishaka, an MSC candidate who will continue her novitiate in West Park, as well. The three junior sisters will soon leave for ministry in Swaziland. Please keep them all in your prayers as they continue to respond to God's call.

## Reading Circles

Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, held the Saturday Morning Reading Circles program for four Saturdays this summer. Through the generosity of the St. Faith's House Foundation, we were able to offer this program to our Kids in Grades 1-6.

This year, the students read the story, The Wizard of Oz. They also learned some of the songs from the movie taught by Nora Maher, a storyteller. Rosann Russo, a teacher from Springhurst Elementary School, along with Marilyn Rogers, one of our adult tutors, and several high school volunteers helped with the program.



Our Cabrini Kids went to St. Cabrini Nursing Home to have a sing-a-long with some of the residents. The children looked adorable in their costumes and their parents were so proud as they began the show. All the residents and parents were given colorful hats to wear and were asked to be Munchkins for the show. Everyone enjoyed being a part of the production.



**Photo above and right:** *Somewhere Over the Rainbow...* the story and songs from The Wizard of Oz are classics and beguile children of all ages. The Cabrini Kids really got into the spirit of things and created their own version of the OZ characters.

After the show, the children gave each resident a card that they made and thanked them for coming to their show. Refreshments were served and the children were able to spend time with the residents, telling them about themselves and also learning about the resident.

On the last day of the program, Sr. Christi Ferrera, RSM, an amazing artist, came to CIS. She had the Kids engaged in different art activities. Some of the children painted munchkin shoes while others painted the yellow brick road. They also had large puzzle pieces where they drew the different symbols and characters from the story. The children colored the different characters from the story. The faces were cut out so the children could

put their faces in and have their pictures taken being the different characters. What a fun day it was for all!



Thank you to everyone who was involved in the program. ~ submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS, Dobbs Ferry, NY

## It Takes a Village...

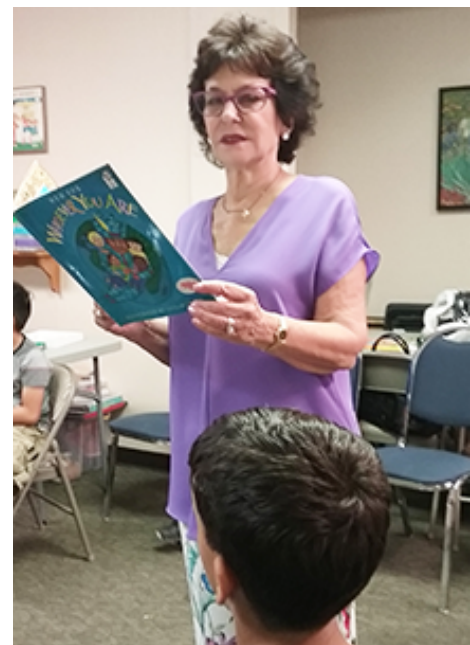
There is a Nigerian proverb that states, "It takes a village to raise a child." Thankfully, in the Village of Dobbs Ferry, NY, we are blessed to have so many resources that give of themselves to help our Cabrini Kids.



Such is the case with Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry. Every summer, graduate students come to Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS) to work with some of our Kids. Dr. Barbara Keckler, Associate Professor, Literacy and Multilingual Studies at the School of Education at Mercy College, teaches the course, Assessing and Correcting Literacy Problems: Practicum in Early Childhood and Childhood.

The graduate students attend class during the day and then in the afternoon, they come to CIS to complete the practicum component of the class. They come twice a week to work with our children. They do pre-testing, reading aloud, comprehension as well as teaching our Kids some techniques to help them with their reading.

On the last day of the program, the Mercy College students gave our Kids a party. It was a great way to celebrate the end of the semester. In addition to some party food, the Mercy students gave each of our Kids a certificate for



Dr. Barbara Keckler, Associate Professor at Mercy College instructs her graduate students in teaching a course on literacy issues. Her students work with the Cabrini Kids.

academic achievement. They also bought them some gifts such as books, crayons, pencils, etc.

Thank you to our Kids for attending the program and also to Dr. Keckler and the students from Mercy College. We look forward to having the program again next summer.

~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS, Dobbs Ferry, NY

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## Prayer Requests

### *Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC*

Your prayers are asked for Sr. Tommasina who underwent surgery yesterday. Please pray for her swift and long term recovery.

## In Loving Memory

### *Harry Albert*

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Harry Albert, the brother of Cabrini (College) University alumna and trustee Dr. Anne Marie Borneman '80. Mr. Albert passed away on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Mr. Albert, Anne Marie, her parents and their family in your prayers at this sad time.

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## A Gentle Reminder...

The Update is published most Thursdays throughout the year.

New stories and notices should be sent to:

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

To ensure publication on Thursday, kindly send all submissions no later than noon on Wednesday. Thank you.

Prayer requests can be submitted at any time.