



October 4, 2018

## Sister Immigration Lawyers Ply Expertise at Border

~ by Nuri Vallbona, *Global Sisters Report*

The stories and images are powerful. Delivered into living rooms nightly, they capture the faces of crying children and parents, panicked immigrants fleeing violence and anxious students facing deportation.

Operating in that swirl are women who quietly tap into their faith to advocate for the undocumented. These are sisters from various congregations. They also happen to be immigration attorneys.



Sr. Ann Durst, SHCJ, waits at the San Ysidro port of entry between San Diego, CA and Tijuana, Mexico.

The rewards are great but the stakes are high, says Holy Cross Sister Sharlet Wagner, the new [president](#) of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). "If you lose the case, you're talking about someone's life," she says. "They'll be shipped back to a country where they may very well be killed."

Women religious advocate for immigrants, helping them resettle and find education and services in the U.S. Sisters with legal expertise are on the frontlines of changing immigration policies that brought about the separation of families at the border and that have made it more difficult for Central Americans to gain asylum. They work to educate those American citizens whose voices

against immigrants grow louder each day. Although some lawyer sisters have retired, all remain active, volunteering in a legal capacity or advocating for those trying to gain a foothold. Called to the legal profession for various reasons, the sisters spoke of the challenges they face and how their faith anchors their commitment.

"This is intrinsically redemptive work," says [Society of the Holy Child Jesus](#) Sr. Ann Durst, who has made it her mission to get legal representation for minors arriving at the southern border. "It doesn't get any rawer than this."

Nearly every child from Central America is fleeing violence, Durst said. "Whether or not they may be eligible for relief under the law is what we're dealing with constantly because the law ... and policies are in a state of incredible flux."

She [is referring to] the recent change in immigration policy announced in June by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. In a decision overturning a precedent-setting court case, Sessions said asylum-seekers can no longer use gang or domestic violence as reasons for protection in the U.S.

Despite the changes, Durst is undeterred and holds that cases are won on their individual merits.

However, Durst said she is troubled by how enforcement of immigration has changed. "It's one thing if people were discovered," Durst said. "It's a whole other thing to hunt people, and I can't tell you how that haunts me."

Durst also condemned the recent separation of families. "It's absolutely reprehensible," she said. "Can you imagine any state ... terminating parental rights, or taking children away [based on a] misdemeanor?" ~ *from the Global Sisters Report*

To read the entire article: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/ministry-migration/sister-immigration-lawyers-ply-expertise-border-courtrooms-55443>

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## Synod on Youth Opens in Rome

~ by Joshua McElwee, National Catholic Reporter

Pope Francis opened a month-long worldwide meeting of Catholic bishops on October 3 by exhorting the hundreds of prelates taking part to guard against "falling into moralistic or elitist postures" as they discuss the needs of young people today.

During his homily for the opening Mass of the Synod of Bishops, which will continue through Oct. 28, the pontiff also asked the prelates to listen to one another "sincerely and prayerfully, as free as possible from prejudice and conditioning."

Francis' remarks were part of a short and direct 11-minute homily during a Mass with thousands in St. Peter's Square for the opening of the 15th ordinary general assembly of the Synod.



During the four-week gathering, 267 bishop and priest members are being joined in Rome by 72 lay auditors and eight delegates from other Christian denominations to consider the theme "Young people, the faith, and vocational discernment." Those taking part include 50 cardinals, 145 bishops and archbishops, 37 auxiliary bishops, and ten priests and brothers from religious orders.

Learn more: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/vatican/francis-warns-youth-synod-bishops-against-falling-moralistic-or-elitist-postures>

## Chicagoland: Share the Journey



From left: Nancy Golen, Cabrini Retreat Center Director; Kayla Jacobs, Program Director for the Office of Human Dignity, Joliet Diocese, and a friend of theirs proudly display the banner promoting the Share the Journey Walk.

Cabrini Retreat Center staff participated in the Diocese of Joliet's Share the Journey Fundraiser Walk on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018.

Funds raised on the Walk will assist in partnering refugees with volunteers who are trained and supported by Exodus Refugee Service in Park Ridge Illinois.

Exodus Volunteers build relationships with their refugee partners with a special focus on practicing English. Improved English language skills positively impact every aspect of a refugee's life, from better employment to better housing and the ability to self-advocate for medical needs.

The Chicagoland Share the Journey Walk on October 20th will accept donations to be shared between the Missionary Sisters needs in Nicaragua and the Archdiocese of Chicago's Immigrant Ministry programs.

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

All are invited to join the Chicagoland Walk / Pilgrimage in person or as "remote walkers" [by registering on-line](http://www.cabrinicenter.org/walk2018/) (in English or Spanish) at <http://www.cabrinicenter.org/walk2018/>

We encourage all to explore the "remote walker" option by which everyone can "walk in place" and unite their steps with the efforts in Chicago.





Share the  
Journey  
#sharejourney

The answer is love.

Love Your Neighbor

Every minute, 20 people around the world are forced to flee war or persecution. Reach out with love.

SHAREJOURNEY.ORG  
#sharejourney



### Join Cabrini of Westchester in Sharing the Journey:

**October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**

Prayer service located in Chapel of Cabrini of Westchester.

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30pm**

Join us for a "Share the Journey" Walk to demonstrate our support and concern for the many refugees and migrants throughout the world with a symbolic journey. As a ministry founded by Mother Cabrini who is the patron of immigrants and refugees, Cabrini of Westchester and Cabrini Immigrant Services are committed to advocate and support those who have left their homes to find a better life.

Walk from Cabrini of Westchester to Cabrini Immigrant Services (121 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry) and return to Cabrini of Westchester for a reception.

## And the Winner is...

On Sunday, September 23rd, Cabrini of Westchester held a cocktail reception to select the winners of the “300 Club,” a fundraiser that raised money to support Cabrini’s “Magical Moments Campaign.” Each individual who donated \$100 to the “300 Club” had the opportunity to win one of eight prizes, the first prize being \$5,000!



The Magical Moments Campaign was established in 2012 to raise funds for special entertainment and recreational activities for both short-term patients and long-term residents. Over the past five years, these funds have provided an abundance of live entertainment, music therapy programs, in-house plays, themed meals and events, as well as bus trips to the movies and shopping malls.

The “300 Club” reception was held outside on the patio of Cabrini of Westchester and was attended by those who contributed to the fund. Attendees enjoyed wine and light hors d'oeuvres as well as the crisp, autumn weather.

There was excitement in the air as each number was drawn to announce the winners of the prizes. It was fortunate that a number of the winners were in attendance, including donor, Barbara Pennipede, who won the \$5,000 Grand Prize!

The fundraiser was a great success, raising over \$10,000 for the Magical Moments Campaign.

*~ submitted by Susan Herceg, Cabrini of Westchester*

## Adding Some Autumn Beauty



Dig we must! From left: Dr. Maliha Zaman, Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC; Emily Rowan; Megan Norris and Joan Kleckner prepare to assist with the fall plantings. Also lending a hand with logistics is Lechia Taylor seen in the background.

The change of season means it's time for Campus Beautification Day at Cabrini University in Radnor, PA.

Faculty, staff and students are invited to pick up their shovels, trowels and their gardening gloves and fan out across the 112 rolling acres to plant mums and new shrubbery to lend a touch of fall color to the historic campus.

Everyone gets in the spirit of the day which is capped off with a celebratory brunch further deepening the sense of community.



Faculty and staff volunteers pitch in to brighten the campus with mums.



## Cabrini Mission Foundation Extends Welcome

Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, Provincial, Guadalupe Province, is pleased to announce that as of September 17, 2018 Christopher A. LaBianco joined the Cabrini Mission Foundation as the Executive Director. Christopher will be attending the upcoming Provincial Assembly. The Guadalupe Province extends a warm welcome to Christopher and wishes him every success.



## Niharika Jaiswal Receives Employee of Distinction Award

Niharika Jaiswal, Chief Clinical Dietician at Cabrini of Westchester, was presented with the 2018 Employee of Distinction Award from LeadingAge New York, part of a national association of 5,500 not-for-profit organizations. With her husband at her side and a baby on the way, Ms. Jaiswal graciously accepted the award on September 20<sup>th</sup> at a celebration held in her honor. This prestigious award is given to an employee who excels in her/his profession and who has served with distinction and made significant contributions to the betterment of services for the aged and infirmed.

James Clyne, President and CEO of LeadingAge New York presented the award to Ms. Jaiswal noting: "There are 600 agency members of LeadingAge in New York State so to be recognized at this level is quite exceptional." New York State Assemblyman, Thomas J. Abinanti, made a special trip to Cabrini to join the festivities and personally congratulate Ms. Jaiswal.

Joseph Bisaccia, Assistant Administrator, spoke about Ms.

Jaiswal's dedication, professionalism, and desire to create successful outcomes for Cabrini, within the community and throughout her many professional affiliations. In his letter of recommendation to LeadingAge New York, Joe wrote: "Niharika leads our clinical team by example, always one to solicit input, research alternatives and develop action plans to stay abreast of ever-changing regulations, guidelines and educational incentives... Niharika she has enhanced our clinical nutrition program immensely."

From developing new policies and procedures to providing nutrition education to residents, as well as, staff members, Ms. Jaiswal takes into consideration each individual's specific cultural, religious or ethnic needs, and joins forces with all disciplines to foster a team approach. Niharika exemplifies a very positive desire to make everyone better." Patricia Krasnausky, President and CEO of Cabrini of Westchester added in her remarks at the reception: "I couldn't think of anyone more deserving of this honor." Congratulations, Niharika, on your well-deserved recognition!



From left: New York State Assemblyman Thomas J. Abinanti; Cabrini of Westchester Administrator and VP of Operations Bonnie Burke; honoree Niharika Jaiswal; Cabrini of Westchester President and CEO Patricia Krasnausky; and James Clyne, President and CEO of LeadingAge, New York are pictured during the recent awards ceremony.

~ submitted by Lorraine Horgan, Cabrini of Westchester





**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

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*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)**.

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# Prayer Requests

## *Sr. Frances Xavier Brogan, MSC*

Sr. Frances has been transferred to St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY.

It would be lovely if cards and greetings could welcome her there:

**St. Cabrini Nursing Home**

**3 South Unit – Room 362**

**115 Broadway**

**Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522**

**Phone: 914-478-4036**

## *Sr. Celia Cid, MSC*

Please keep Sr. Celia in your prayers. She is currently hospitalized and doing alright, but, she would be grateful for our thoughts and prayers.

## *Guadalupe Province Provincial Assembly*

Kindly unite in prayer for the Missionary Sisters and Cabrinian lay leaders as they gather this coming week October 7 – 12<sup>th</sup> for the Provincial Assembly. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will be present to them and guide the proceedings. Please pray also that all those in attendance will have safe and uneventful travels to and from the Assembly.

## *Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC*

Sr. Tommasina continues her recovery and is getting better with each day. She remains thankful for our prayerful accompaniment.

# In Loving Memory

## *Felix J. Avitabile*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Felix J. Avitabile, the father of Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC. Mr. Avitabile went home to God unexpectedly on the morning of September 30<sup>th</sup>. Kindly keep his wife Francesca, his children Antonina, Alex and Libby (Thomas Hinchin) and grandchildren Naomi and JT Hinchin in your prayers at this sad time.



## *Paul T. Schwab*

The Cabrinian Community joins the Cabrini University Community in extending sympathy to Maria Schwab, Ed.D. on the loss of her husband, Paul T. Schwab, who passed away on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Our hearts go out to Dr. Schwab and her family as they grieve their loss. Please remember them in prayer.

*Just a gentle reminder that due to the Provincial Assembly  
The Update will not be published next week.*