



November 29, 2018

## Catholic Migrant Advocates Express Mixed Reaction to Tijuana Border Events

*By David Agren, Catholic News Service*



In a photo widely distributed by news outlets, woman and children flee the tear gas at the border. *CNS/Kim Kyung-Hoon, Reuters*

The chaotic scene in Tijuana on November 25<sup>th</sup> - when migrants, including women and children, were repelled from the U.S. border with tear gas - prompted the closure of one of the world's busiest border crossings. It also showed the increasing impatience and despair of thousands of caravan participants, who could spend months in uncomfortable camps as they wait to present asylum claims to U.S. officials.

And while some Catholic migrant advocates criticized U.S. reaction as excessive, some who work with migrants through a network of shelters stretching the length of the country, said they tried warning the caravan participants and a migrant advocacy group accompanying it, Pueblo Sin Fronteras, that - unlike past years, when smaller caravans would cross Mexico - times had changed. Resources for sustaining thousands of migrants in

Tijuana are stretched thin and the current U.S. government has shown few signs of speeding up the process for accepting asylum applications.

Press reports from Tijuana described a peaceful protest, in which the migrants planned to present their case: that they had come only to work and save their own lives. But the protest was met by a wall of Mexican police officers, prompting the migrants to detour the barricade and head to a train border crossing.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a tweet that some migrants, "threw projectiles." In response, "Border Patrol agents deployed tear gas to dispel the group because of the risk to the agents' safety. Several agents were hit by the projectiles."

The caravan has crossed closed borders and pushed past police barricades since departing San Pedro Sula, Honduras, in mid-October. Parishes have assisted the original caravan and several subsequent caravans as they passed through southern Mexico; a group of religious has offered medical attention, and diocese have taken up collections.

But now the migrants have run up against the U.S. border and a U.S. administration that has warned that the caravan will not enter the country. The U.S. has allowed fewer than 50 claims to be made daily, even as thousands await their turn in Mexico.

Taking that many people to one border crossing and organizing a march “can’t be a good idea. It’s a horrific one,” said Fr. Alejandro Solalinde, who operates a migrant shelter in southern Oaxaca state. “I ...gave them this advice, but they ignored it because the leaders (the activists) taking them made them believe they were going to be able to do it, when in reality, it wasn’t like that,” said Solalinde. They wouldn’t take into consideration the current political climate.

“They truly thought that God was going to move the heart of this person [President Trump] but, no! no! no! It wasn’t like that,” said Solalinde.

To read the full account: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/catholic-migrant-advocates-have-mixed-reaction-tijuana-border-events>

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## Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbors

A few weeks ago, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that they would no longer be detaining apprehended individuals in holding cells for any length of time. Instead, ICE would release immigrants, some with ankle monitors, with instructions to report for their asylum hearings at a later date. Shortly after ICE’s announcement, the call for help went out from those staffing respite centers at the U.S./Mexico border. Respite staff working along the U.S./Mexico border knew that if they couldn’t provide needed hospitality, ICE would simply release people onto the streets. The response from congregations of U.S. women religious to assist with that call to accompany at the border has been tremendous.



More than 10 Catholic sisters and their colleagues are volunteering with [Annunciation House](#) in El Paso, Texas; [La Posada Providencia](#) in San Benito, Texas; Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley’s [Respite Center at Sacred Heart Church](#) in McAllen, Texas; and Catholic Charities’ [Las Alitas](#) in Tucson, Arizona. These Catholic women are serving meals and cleaning rooms, providing rides to bus stations and packing care packages for travelers. They are helping with medical needs and communication with family in the U.S. and assisting with language interpretation and travel arrangements. They are also making beds and sorting clothes; reading to children and praying with parents.

In addition, religious congregations throughout the country have been very generous in their financial support. To date women’s religious congregations have contributed close to \$220,000 to help purchase food and supplies for the centers, provide legal assistance and care packages for immigrants, and to help hire extra staff to assist asylum seekers. With their combined on-the-ground and financial assistance, these women are demonstrating compassion while providing hope to individuals and families simply looking to live in peace. ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

*This week’s Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor feature was written by Sr. Ann Scholz, SSD, PhD. Sr. Ann is the Associate Director for Social Mission at the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.*



# News from the National Shrine

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## Surprise unveiling honoring Mother Cabrini

On Thursday, Oct. 18, more than 140 people gathered at the National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini for a documentary screening of Frances Xavier Cabrini: The People's Saint.

The film presents a living portrait of Mother Cabrini that attempts to showcase her relevance in an ever-changing world.

The evening began at 6 p.m. with light refreshments followed by the 7 p.m. screening. The director and producer, Lucia Mauro and Joe Orlandino, were present for the event.

The night did not end after the screening: Attendees were surprised with an unveiling of the special city tribute marker recently created to honor Cabrini on the parkway near her national shrine on Lakeview Avenue.

Her tribute marker was made



Sr. Frances Xavier Cabrini: The People's Saint Writer/Director Lucia Mauro and Shrine Director Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC.

by a local graphics designer and portrays Mother Cabrini's contributions to the city and world.

Ald. Michele Smith [43rd] unveiled the marker, and deacon Bill Pyrek offered a blessing.

Much is transpiring at the National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini.

The National Shrine recently held a screening of the Mother Cabrini documentary.

The screening was followed by an unveiling of a Mother Cabrini city marker. On hand at the ceremony was Alderman Michele Smith, who did the honors of unveiling the marker.

Additionally, below is a link to an interview with Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC, the Shrine Director, which was featured in The Chicago Sun-Times. See photo below. In the article, Sr. Bridget discusses the need for Mother Cabrini's resolve and spirit on behalf of immigrants now more than ever:

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/mother-frances-xavier-cabrini-american-saint-immigration-shrine-lincoln-park/>



Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC, the Director of the National Shrine of St. Cabrini, was interviewed and featured in an article that appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times.

## A PROUD AND GRATEFUL NEW U.S. CITIZEN



Sr. Alice Zanon, MSC offers her congratulations to new U.S. citizen Prabath Dombavale, following his citizenship ceremony.

Mother Cabrini, Patroness of Immigrants, accompanied Prabath Dombavale, during the process of his application for United States Citizenship over these past two years. Prabath has been visiting Mother Cabrini Shrine in Colorado on a daily basis:

praying in the Chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, stopping at the Grotto to light a candle and then praying the Stations of the Cross while climbing up the 373 steps to the Sacred Heart Statue. Having migrated from Sri Lanka, Prabath would sometimes confide in Sister Alice Zanon, MSC, that Homeland Security officials were giving him “a hard time.” However, Prabath never gave up, never stopped smiling, but continued to pray and have confidence that Mother Cabrini would one day open the door to his application being accepted. Then, finally, he received a letter from Homeland Security, informing him to attend a United States Citizenship Ceremony at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS!



Prabath was one of forty persons from eleven countries who declared their Allegiance to the Nation at this happy event which was followed by a meal at an Indian restaurant where Prabath was joined by many of his co-workers and friends, including Sister Alice. ~ submitted by JoAnn Seaman

### Weekly Update – Publication Schedule

Given scheduling in the Province Communications Office, The Update will be published on Thursday, December 6th, and Thursday, December 13th, which will be the final edition for 2018.

When submitting news items and event notices, please indicate **“UPDATE NEWS - ITEM”** in the subject line and please email to:

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

**AND**

Please also copy [ncostello@cabrini.edu](mailto:ncostello@cabrini.edu) Thank you!

# Synod Examines the Needs of Young Adults

The synod of bishops held in Rome October 3-28, 2018 focused on outreach to young adults. The young adults who gave input to the synod emphasized several pastoral needs within the synod's theme of "young people, faith and vocational discernment." Among the concerns they outlined – and which drew the attention of the attending bishops – were:

- A desire for the church to listen to, accept, and reach out to young people where they are
- A desire for authentic witnesses and mentors
- A desire for the church to respond to their concrete life concerns, including things like emotional wellness, employment, and sustainable development.

Other themes that emerged at the synod included church sexual abuse, migration, women, secularism, digital media and the challenge of communicating the church's teaching on sexuality.

**Find more information on the synod at:** [synod2018.va](http://synod2018.va)

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## *From the Province Vocation Team...*



Norwich, England

### *Reflecting on the Fray*

Excerpts reprinted from HORIZON, FALL 2018, by Carol Schuck Scheiber, Editor

In her editor's column in the Fall 2018 edition of HORIZON, the journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference, the editor, Carol Schuck Scheiber, refers to a cover photo of a storm in Norwich, England, home of the famous mystic, Julian of Norwich. "While Julian's theological heft goes far beyond her famous "All shall be well," what stays with Scheiber is her solid foundation in God's providence during a time when society was falling apart. The black plague killed at least *one half* of the population in her region, and the

church was suffering under a papal schism. Yet, she was able to say with confidence, "All shall be well."

"Our church in recent months has been experiencing the ecclesial equivalent of Julian's turbulent times. Corruption, violence, cover-up, betrayal: it is ugly, deep-seated, and overwhelming to anyone paying attention." Scheiber goes on to say that many, herself included, question our affiliation with an institution so broken and a scandal so sordid.

"And vocation ministers are asking people not only to stay Catholic but to give their lives to the church. That's a hard sell. It would seem absurd if we didn't believe that vocation directors are not really "selling" anything but rather helping discerners uncover their true calling.

"Reflecting on the fray, religious themselves have taught Scheiber to continually go deeper. Look beneath the surface. Go to the authentic core and see the "root of the root and the bud of the bud," as poet E.E. Cummings put it, where our treasure lies. We must rebuild from that good root and set aside what leads to rot." ~ *Carol Schuck Scheiber*



# University Graphic Design Department Hosts High School Art + Effect Poster Contest on Immigration

The Graphic Design and Fine Arts Department at Cabrini University sponsored its second poster contest for high school students, the Art + Effect Poster Contest. Students in grades 9-12 submitted conceptual posters using traditional media or computer-generated graphics that focused on this year's theme of immigration. The Department chose this theme because of Cabrini's emphasis on advocating for universal human rights and social justice for all.



Associate Professor of Graphic Design Jeanne Komp, (back row, l.) and Graphic Arts Department Chair and Associate Professor Don Dempsey (back row, r.), welcome the high school students to Cabrini University and congratulate them upon their winning designs on the theme of immigration.

"Each year we assign a different social justice topic for students to tackle [in their design]," said Jeanne Komp, Associate Professor of Graphic Design. "Immigration was chosen as the theme since issues related to this topic have been widely publicized in the media this year. In addition, it connects to Mother Cabrini's work with immigrants."

The Department received 74 submissions from six different high schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

"The Art + Effect Contest was created to give high school students a forum to showcase their graphic design skills and utilize their voice to become makers of change," Komp said. "It is also used to build awareness for Cabrini's Graphic Design program among area high schools."

On Sunday, Nov. 18, the work of the 18 contest winners was revealed at the Art + Effect Poster Exhibition in the Grace & Joseph Gorevin Gallery. The work will remain hanging until December 10. ~ *Cabrini.edu website*

To view all the winning entries: [https://www.cabrini.edu/globalassets/pdfs-website/gra/ac2018\\_winners.pdf](https://www.cabrini.edu/globalassets/pdfs-website/gra/ac2018_winners.pdf)



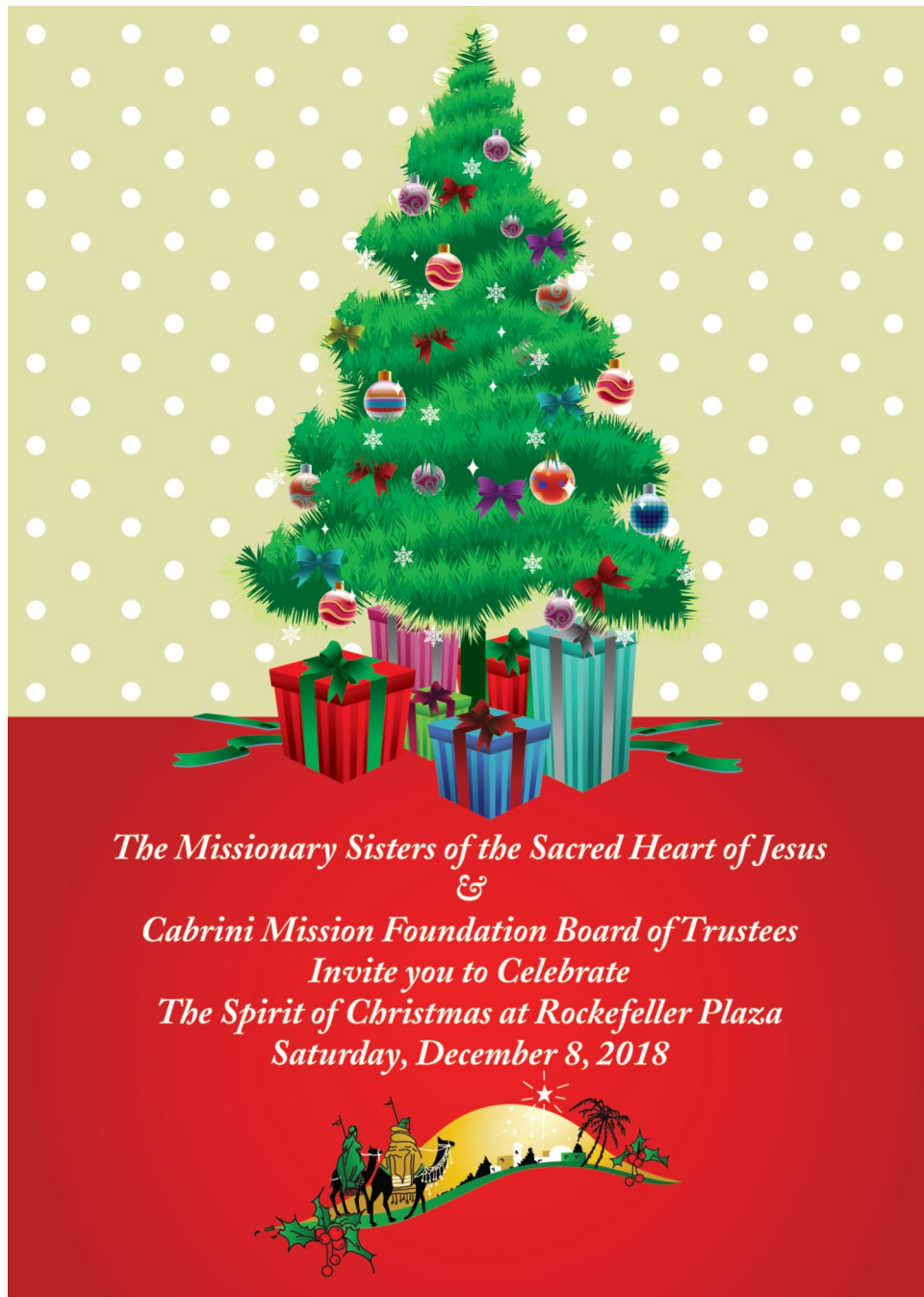
Dominic Allizzo  
Triton Regional High School  
Grade 12



Sherlyn Antonio  
Triton Regional High School  
Grade 11



Shohag Kabir  
Triton Regional High School  
Grade 11



**For information on tickets and sponsorships, please contact**

**Ellen Cunningham, Cabrini Mission Foundation:**

212-228-8608

[Ecunningham@cabrinifdn.org](mailto:Ecunningham@cabrinifdn.org)

## Christmas is Getting Nearer...

*Help us bring a smile  
to a child's face!*

CABRINI IMMIGRANT SERVICES OF NYC IS ACCEPTING  
MONETARY DONATIONS, GIFT CARDS & NEW TOYS FOR  
OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & GIFT  
DISTRIBUTION!

PURCHASE A GIFT FROM OUR  
WISHLIST: [TGT.GIFTS/CIS-NYC](https://tgt.gifts/cis-nyc)

OR MAKE A DONATION:  
[BIT.LY/DONATECIS](https://bit.ly/donatecis)





# The Season of Advent

“Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance.”

~ Blessed John Henry Newman

The Season of Advent is a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the ‘Light’ to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. This light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters us and focuses us every day of our lives. ~ [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

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First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018



You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. – John 15:16

## Reflection

*O, Lord, all you ask of me is a simple, “yes,” a simple act of trust, so that your choices for me can bear fruit in my life. I do not want you to pass me by. I do not want to be so busy with my way of living, my plans and projects, my relatives, friends and acquaintances, that I do not even notice that you are with me, closer to me than anyone else.*

Lord, you are the YES to God’s promised. Help us to express our “yes” to you in works of love and service.

~ Henri J.M. Nouwen

# Prayer Requests

*Continued prayers are requested for:*

*Sr. Celia Cid, MSC*

*Sr. Lucy Panettieri, MSC*

*Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC*

Please hold these Missionary Sisters in your prayers as they recover and regain their strength.

*Jim Currie*

Your prayers are asked for Jim Currie, the brother of Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC. Jim has recently been placed in palliative care. Please pray for his comfort and peace of mind at this time. Please also keep the extended Currie Family in your prayers.

*Wayne Dennis*

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC is asking for prayers for her brother-in-law, Wayne Dennis, who has had a recurrence of cancer. He will have a procedure on December 10th. Please pray that all will go well.

*Dr. Joseph Romano*

Dr. Romano, Professor Emeritus at Cabrini University, has asked for our prayers for a successful hip surgery which will be on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please pray that his surgery will go smoothly and his recovery will be uneventful.

*Mary Young*

Your prayers are asked for Mary Young, the sister of Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC, who had minor surgery on Wednesday to put in a medical port. The doctors are concerned about the potential of bleeding post-operatively. Let us hold Mary and her family in our prayers.

# In Loving Memory

*Bill Argus*

The Cabrini High School (CHS) community mourns the loss of Bill Argus, a longtime member of the CHS President's Advisory Council. Mr. Argus has three daughters who are alumnae of Cabrini High school and two daughters who are currently faculty members at CHS. The family is grateful for the prayers and support of so many. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

