



December 6, 2018

## Religious Sisters Continue to Report on the Plight of the Asylum Seekers

*by Dan Stockman and Michele Morek, Global Sisters Report*

Religious sisters have been helping immigrants and refugees at the United States' southern border for years, but a caravan of thousands of people from Central America hoping to seek asylum in the United States heightened attention to the issue and has sparked a widespread response from women religious.

Sister of Loretto Claudia Calzetta wrote of working at one of the shelters operated by Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas:

"Little did I know that each day usually between 50 to 75 asylum seekers are literally dropped off [by ICE] in late afternoon. After a shower and a hot supper, everyone is given a chance to go to the clothes room for "new" clothing.

"Each day when seekers leave for travel to meet up with relatives, there is sometimes a scramble for jackets and coats for those who will travel to states in colder climates.

"Many donations are sized medium, large/extra large, extra long or 'grande, grande' as the women would say, and not appropriate for most of the asylum seekers who come from countries where the average size is 5 ft. and smaller.

In addition to the need for appropriately sized clothing, so many things have touched her and have been life changing:

- The smiles of the asylum seekers when they walk through the doors to the Nazareth Center after being dropped off by ICE and the many efforts to communicate how happy and thankful they were even after a long journey.



Shelves at border shelters overflow with donated clothing, much of it too large for the Central American asylum seekers.

- The woman who came in looking for clothes for herself and young baby, a beautiful, gentle woman in her 30s who eventually broke down and cried because she was separated from her husband and other children. The fear that was visible in her uncontrollable sobbing that she would never see them again; her overwhelming sorrow, fright and her vulnerability.



- The dreadful, painful ankle monitors on swollen legs – women crying, volunteers trying to soothe; the humiliation most feel at having to wear these cumbersome and inhumane monitors. The term ankle bracelet takes on a new meaning for me – it is not a piece of jewelry.
- The fear, the anxiety, the longing for security, yet the tangible hope that was inexplicably present in all of the seekers for a better life for themselves and for their children. The courage, simplicity and humility of a gracious people willing to believe in the goodness of others.
- The anxiety of those getting ready to leave by buses, and planes to places unknown – holding tight to their bags of snacks, blankets, food and clothing for their journeys, the sincere request for prayers and blessings. The constant “gracias, gracias, gracias” to volunteers for food, clean beds, showers and clothes.

“How many times I heard sweet and sincere “gracias” and felt energetic hugs when I could find clothes [for them] that fit. I became part of something so genuine and experienced the reality of everyone joining hearts and hands across cultures and lands.”

To read the entire article: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/blog/gsr-today/migration/sisters-continue-report-plight-asylum-seekers-amid-caravan-headlines-55668>

## Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

Jonah\* was adopted from Seoul, Korea at the age of two by a Southern Baptist preacher and his wife. He grew up riding bikes and playing with neighborhood friends. When Jonah thinks of the U.S., he thinks of freedom, pride and Christian values. As an IT manager married to a Filipino woman, Jonah understands why people are attracted to our nation’s promise of opportunity and freedom. His greatest fear is that America is drifting away from its moral foundation and putting freedoms at risk. He particularly fears losing his own freedom.

*\*Image changed to protect his privacy.*

*~ Share the Journey, Images of Fear and Hope*



**JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS** – On October 10, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a proposed rule on the "**public charge**" eligibility requirement that the federal government considers when determining whether to admit an immigrant into the United States or allow an immigrant to adjust status and become a lawful permanent resident (receive a Green Card). The public charge has always sought to ensure that arriving legal immigrants and nonimmigrants as well as those who adjusted their status were economically self-sufficient and not relying on government resources. For many years, the public charge analysis undertaken by the federal government focused on only use of certain government benefits, such as cash assistance. Through the proposed rule, however, the Administration is seeking to significantly expand the public benefits-and number of immigrants and nonimmigrants-considered in its public charge analysis.

Essentially this proposed rule is a wealth test, discounting the contributions of certain immigrants. It will negatively affect many immigrant families - making them face the terrible choice between accessing important health and welfare benefits and facing possible separation from loved ones.

**Public comments on the proposed rule are due by December 10, 2018.** USCCB/MRS will be submitting comments in conjunction with USCCB/DSD and Catholic Charities USA. We also ask you to submit your own comments to stand up for immigrant families and children. Read the [proposed regulation here](#) and learn more about public charge generally [here](#). ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

### **DOWN TO THE WIRE – ACT NOW!!**

December 10 is the final day for public comments on the federal ruling, *Inadmissibility on Public Grounds*, known commonly as "Public Charge". While there was a 60-day window for the public comment period on the ruling, this final week is the CRITICAL TIME to send in comments. Federal agencies must review all comments they receive before creating a final rule, which then becomes law. While it's not a voting on the rule, the sheer volume of comments can sometimes help slow the process or otherwise create change from insights gleaned from the comments.



From left: Sr. Patricia Ann Koschalke, CSFN, Sr. Danielle Jacob, CSFN, and Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, of the Cabrini Retreat Center, discuss plans for creating awareness of the pending Public Charge legislation which would greatly affect immigrants.

Previously the government only restricted immigration applications on public charge grounds if it determined an immigrant would likely depend on public cash assistance or need long-term medical care in an institution at the government's expense. This new rule would make access to legal status a privilege only of the wealthy. Those who need temporary help will be forced to choose between keeping their family fed, healthy and sheltered or deportation.

**For more information or to send in your comment, go to:**

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCIS-2010-0012-0001>

**This is your chance to speak up for families who desperately need you not to remain silent.**

**You can make a difference.** ~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, Cabrini Retreat Center



# Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12th is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, unborn children, and the New Evangelization and for whom our Province is named.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is unlike any other apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. First, it is the only apparition where Our Lady left a miraculous image of herself unmade by human hands. Second, it is the only universally venerated Madonna and Child image where Our Lady appears pregnant instead of holding the Infant Jesus.

## The Guadalupe Story

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in the 16th century in present day Mexico City, Mexico. Juan Diego saw an apparition of the Blessed Virgin on the Hill of Tepeyac on December 9, 1531, which happened to be the feast day of the Immaculate Conception in that time. Our Lady requested that a church be built on that site, which Juan Diego dutifully relayed to the bishop.

After a request by the bishop to prove her identity, Our Lady asked Juan Diego to gather roses that were growing on the hill (which were neither native to the area nor in season) and take them to the bishop. Juan Diego obeyed and placed the roses in his tilma (or cloak) to carry back to the bishop as evidence of Our Lady's appearance.

Upon opening the tilma to reveal the miraculous roses to the bishop, there was something even more miraculous present in the tilma—a striking image of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the image Our Lady wears the traditional garments of an Aztec princess. A black sash around her waist was a cultural tradition among the Aztec women that indicated pregnancy. All the elements of the image point to Our Lady as being above the gods the Aztecs worshiped, while at the same time showing that she herself was submissive to the true Creator God while being pregnant with the Divine God-man that grew in her womb.

By using only cultural symbols and no words, which the Aztec people could read as a codex, the miraculous image on the tilma spoke the truth of the Christian faith that the Spanish Catholic missionaries proclaimed.

A church was built at Our Lady's request on the Hill of Tepeyac to mark the apparition site, and today it is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage shrine in the world. Venerated in this cathedral is the original tilma of St. Juan Diego, which still displays the miraculous Our Lady of Guadalupe image. The image has been subjected to scientific testing to prove its authenticity and miraculous properties. ~ by Gretchen Filz, *The Catholic Company*



**To learn some fascinating facts about Our Lady of Guadalupe:**

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/our-lady-of-guadalupe-feast-day-facts-celebration-ideas/>

THIS SATURDAY!



19 Days 'Til Christmas!

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 Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018



## Second Sunday of Advent

For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. – 2 Corinthians 1:5

### Reflection

*All suffering has a hidden quality, a quality of strangeness. Our temptation is to look at suffering as big, spectacular, noisy, and very imposing. But in the center of all the hunger, homelessness, violence, torture, war, there is a hidden anguish, a silent agony, an invisible loneliness that nobody wants to touch. Jesus touched it, lived it, and carried it into the grave where he lifted it up to a new life.*

Loving Jesus, let me not hide from my suffering, but let it raise me up to new life.

~ Henry J.M. Nouwen



## The Update Publication Schedule

Next week's edition – Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – will be the last edition of 2018.

The Update will resume publication on Thursday, January 10, 2019.

The Province Communications Office wishes you the good news of the coming of the Christ Child.



# Prayer Requests

## *Elizabeth Riley Bell '69*

Your prayers are invited for Elizabeth, a member of the Cabrini College Class of 1969, who underwent knee surgery this week. The procedure was successful and Elizabeth should soon be recovering at home. Please keep Elizabeth in your thoughts.

## *Cabrini University community member*

Prayers are asked for a member of the Cabrini University family who is recovering from breast cancer surgery.

## *Margrit Boyle Corcoran '69*

Please remember Margrit Boyle Corcoran, Cabrini (College) University Class of 1969, who will be undergoing kidney transplant surgery on Friday at Duke University Hospital. Please pray for the medical team performing her procedure. Pray that Margrit will come through surgery well and that her recovery will be complete.

## *John Flaherty III*

Your prayers are invited for John Flaherty III, the nephew of Geraldine Flaherty, the Administrator at the Sacred Heart Convent. He will be undergoing brain surgery today. Pray that this surgery will be successful and he will recover well. The Flaherty Family thanks you for your prayers.

## *Melanie Heraty*

Melanie Heraty, Assistant to the President at Cabrini High School, is undergoing surgery today. Please pray that her surgery will go well and that she will quickly return to full health.

## *Judy Paiste*

Cabrini University staff member Joan Kleckner has requested prayers for her cousin, Judy Paiste, who is recuperating from a stroke that occurred last Sunday. Her left side is affected. She is in Bryn Mawr Rehab undergoing Physical and Occupational Therapy to regain strength and mobility. Please pray that Ms. Paiste's return to health will be swift.

## *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.

## *Sherree Santivasi*

Your prayers are asked for Sherree Santivasi, the niece of Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC, who will be at Mayo Clinic for tests this week.



A prayerful heart is a  
watchful heart.



*Lechia Taylor*

Please keep Lechia, the wife of Cabrini University President Dr. Donald Taylor, in your prayers. She is struggling with back problems and may have to receive a further injection to relieve her pain.

## In Loving Memory

*Marian Hamilton Conway*

The Cabrinian Community joins the University Community in praying for the repose of the soul of Marian Hamilton Conway, mother of Dr. Thomas Conway, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education. Mrs. Conway passed away on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the Conway Family in your prayers.

*George Lowy, M.D.*

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Dr. George Lowy, the husband of Cabrini (College) University alumna Vera Stella Lowy '69. Dr. Lowy passed away this weekend. Kindly keep Vera and her family in your prayers at this sad time.

