



MISSIONARY SISTERS
of the SACRED HEART of JESUS
Bringing Christ's love to the world

THE UPDATE

January 17, 2019

During Presidential Border Visit, Women Religious Kept Their Vigil

~by Dan Stockman, *Global Sisters Report*

Sr. Norma Pimentel, a Missionaries of Jesus sister, made news on January 10th when she was invited to a roundtable discussion of border issues as President Donald Trump visited the U.S. southern border. She had invited him in a public letter the day before to visit the [Humanitarian Respite Center](#) she runs.

But Trump had dismissed that border visit beforehand as a waste of time and mere photo op, [The New York Times reported](#). Pimentel's presence at the roundtable was just that — [she was in the audience](#), not at the table, and not allowed to speak. All those speaking praised Trump administration policies.

Yet, behind Pimentel's witness for more humanitarian treatment of asylum-seekers by the administration is a host of women religious who have traveled across the United States and Canada to volunteer at the border in recent months. The wave of volunteers comes in response to information and a call to help issued in October by the [Leadership Conference of Women Religious](#).



Sr. Norma Pimentel, a Missionaries of Jesus sister, at the border wall last year. She runs the Humanitarian Respite Center. Last year, she was honored for her work by the University of Notre Dame with their Laetare Medal, the oldest and most prestigious Catholic award in the U.S.

Photo: CNS Photo/Barbara Johnson/courtesy of University of Notre Dame

"Every day of the year from morning to evening, families coming over the border are welcomed at our center, with smiles, a warm bowl of soup, a shower and a place to rest."

~ Sr. Norma Pimentel of the
Humanitarian Respite Center

At least 286 sisters have volunteered at the border, and congregations have sent more than \$340,000 to the agencies working there, such as the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, and [Annunciation House](#) in El Paso, Texas, and many others, said Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ, [executive director](#) of LCWR.

Zinn, a Sister of St. Joseph of Philadelphia, said those are only the volunteers and donations LCWR knows about, and

that she wouldn't be surprised if the true number was more than 500 volunteers and more than \$500,000 donated, and the volunteers and donations continue to flow south.

President Trump made a pitch for the wall in an address from the Oval Office on January 8, a speech the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas said in a [statement](#) was "rooted in untruths, fear and division."

"Make no mistake, there is a humanitarian crisis on the border, but it is one of the Trump Administration's own making," the statement said.

It concluded: "We are at a pivotal moment in history, one that asks our nation to reflect and act justly upon what it truly means to welcome the stranger. Our faith demands that we not be on the wrong side of history."

To read the full account: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/ministry-migration/trump-visits-border-pimentel-and-other-sisters-keep-their-witness-55781> To read a related article: <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/building-bridges-border>



Immigrant children are pictured at a bus depot in McAllen, Texas. Photo: CNS/Reuters/Loren Elliott

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

From May 12th to August 8th 2018, Alana Murphy biked 4,380 miles across the United States in order to meet with and interview people who came to the U.S. as refugees. Her project is called the Beautiful Crossing – a digital archive presenting participant stories and photos, as well as snapshots of Murphy's cycling tour and additional resources for those seeking more information about the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

Although Murphy is only 26 years old, she has spent the past 8 years working with refugee and migrant populations in Jordan, Morocco, the Philippines, Ecuador, and the United States. She was particularly inspired by her experiences working as an employment counselor with World Relief Chicago, helping resettled refugees prepare for interviews and find their first jobs in her home city.

The Beautiful Crossing was born out of the realization that very few people have had the opportunity to actually meet individuals from a refugee background. This lack of personal connection enables us to often put refugees in two different categories – either villain or victim. The Beautiful Crossing seeks to humanize the issue and bring refugees' stories and opinions to those who have not had the chance to hear them in person. Rather than focusing on why someone became a refugee, Murphy chose instead to open up the floor for participants to talk about starting life over in the United States as well as to express their opinions about U.S. culture and values. She hopes the project will present a more nuanced and personal perspective on the now politically divisive word "refugee." ~ *Justice for Immigrants*



Alana Murphy

To read the full article: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/faces-of-migration/stories-of-migration/>
To learn more about Beautiful Crossing: www.beautifulcrossing.com

Building Communities of Welcome...

Investing in the Immigrant Community in Chicago



Nancy Golen, Director, Cabrini Retreat Center, (seated l.) and Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, (seated 2nd r.) join the Cabrini Retreat Center staff for an Epiphany prayer service and celebration.

Spiritual retreats are central to many immigrant faith traditions and Cabrini Retreat Center is privileged to welcome many immigrant groups. But, even with subsidized fees, the demands of daily life as an immigrant prevent many others from a traditional retreat experience.

Introducing Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN

The desire to respond more widely to the needs of the immigrant community, led to Sr. Catherine Fedewa, CSFN, joining the staff at the Retreat Center as Coordinator of Immigrant Outreach and Advocacy.

Sr. Cathy takes the spirit of Cabrini beyond the door and into the community and brings back valuable insights.

A Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Sr. Cathy comes to Cabrini with a wealth of

experience. She serves on the Board of Bethany House of Hospitality for Women, is a member of Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, and Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants. Tutoring a Chinese student through Aquinas Literacy Center and making regular visits to detained immigrants are now part of the outreach the Retreat Center provides through Sister Cathy's passion for the immigrant community.

Increasing Our Cabrinian Responsiveness

Using the methodology of Asset Based Community Development, Cabrini Retreat Center is now in the process of identifying unrecognized assets that can assist us in responding to challenges immigrants face in new and creative ways through partnerships.

An early impact of this approach was the Chicagoland *Share the Journey Walk* in October of 2018. Sr. Cathy took the lead on this project and was able to partner with the Archdiocese of Chicago, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, The National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the Mother Cabrini League, St. Anthony Hospital and Maryville Academy.

~ submitted by Nancy Golen, Cabrini Retreat Center



*Illinois ranks 5th in the nation for immigrant (non-native born) residents with an estimated 1,800,000 out of a total population of 12,800,000.

How I wish that all of us would hear God's cry: 'Where is your brother?' (Gen. 4:9). Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing each day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labor? Let us not look the other way."

- Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium

Human Trafficking

Despite its global reach, human trafficking takes place locally—in a favorite nail salon or restaurant; in a neighborhood home or popular hotel; on a city street or rural farm. Local communities face the realities and consequences of modern slavery, including weakened rule of law, strained public health systems, and decreased economic development, while traffickers profit from the exploitation of others.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration has designated February 8th as an annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking. February 8 is also the feast day of **St. Josephine Bakhita**, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. St. Josephine was beatified in 1992 and canonized in 2000 by St. John Paul II. She is the first person to be canonized from Sudan and has emerged as a patron not only for her home country of Sudan, but for all victims of trafficking. ~ submitted by Karol Brewer, Province Formation Office



St. Josephine Bakhita
Patroness of Trafficking Victims

Let each of us pray, especially on February 8th, for the emotional, physical and spiritual healing of victims, and make a personal commitment to work against human trafficking, to learn more and to share that knowledge with others...

Prayer to End Human Trafficking

O Lord, you said you came: "to set the captives free."

In our world young men and women who are trafficked are modern day slaves.

Help these young people not to lose hope.

Give the grace for elected officials to grow in awareness of and to take active steps
to eradicate this horror.

Teach them not to prosecute the victims of trafficking but to bring to justice those
who perpetrate this crime.

Lord, give the grace of conversion to those who mistreat unfortunates
for their own personal gain.

May demand decrease as people realize that prostitution is a crime against human dignity, forced upon
these people, who are more victim than anything else.

May the awareness of this horrendous crime spread throughout the world and may many join the
efforts to stop trafficking and help the victims begin anew, filled with hope.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

~ **Sr. Veronica Piccone, MSC**



Join us in celebrating Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC's 20th Anniversary in 2019!

Twenty years ago the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus noticed a need for immigration services in the Lower East Side and began offering any support they could. Over the past two decades CIS-NYC has grown into an organization that supports and advocates for hundreds of immigrant families each year, providing a range of vital services in the spirit of Mother Cabrini, Patron Saint of Immigrants.

Throughout the year **we will be celebrating this milestone by releasing stories and photos from CIS-NYC community members and clients**, each of which capture the spirit of our work. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter at @cisnyc, or Instagram at @cis.nyc to make sure you catch all of these beautiful stories as they are released! Please feel free to share so that others can learn more about our immigrant community members and the work we do. You can view our first two stories here: <http://bit.ly/cisnyc20>



“I have become Cabrini and Cabrini has become me because I believe so deeply in the work. I think Cabrini has allowed me to put my faith into action. Cabrini is not only an organization that is helping immigrants, but one that is helping all of us to have a stronger faith, regardless of our faith.”

ANGEL DIAZ

Photo Credit: Diana Bejarano, Los Herederos, Inc.

P.S. As a 20th birthday gift to us, we are asking our supporters to commit to making monthly donations of \$20 to our work. By becoming a monthly sustainer, you are helping to ensure that we can continue providing vital services, resources and advocacy for immigrant families! You can make a donation at this link: <http://bit.ly/donatecis20>

~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, LMSC, Cabrini Immigrant Services

From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

LIFE AWARENESS



RETREAT for all Young Adults

Seeking God's Will in a Time of Decision-Making

March 8–10

Arrival: Friday from 5:00–6:00PM

Departure: Sunday at 2:00PM

Sliding Scale Fee: \$90 – \$170.00

Location: Mother Boniface Center
3501 Solly Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19136

**For more Information or to register,
contact sisterceleste@ssjphila.org**

Offered by the NRVC Delaware Valley Vocation Directors

Celebrating a Faithful and Dedicated Friend



Gerri Castagna (c. in plaid) is feted on the occasion of her retirement from the St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine in New York. Among those friends attending the celebration were Sr. Catherine Garry, MSC (l. 1st row) Sr. Veronica Piccone, MSC (3rd l. 1st row), Sr. Mary Ann Hawes, MSC (2nd r. 2nd row), Cherie Sprosty, (2nd l. 2nd row), Miriam King (c. standing behind Gerri), Sr. Amada Liboro, MSC (4th r. 3rd row), Sr. John Giani, MSC (3rd r. 3rd row) and Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC (2nd r.)

Cabrini Shrine NYC staff and friends gathered to celebrate Gerri Castagna's retirement from twelve years of serving as bookkeeper to the St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine in New York. Gerri grew up in the neighborhood and is a proud graduate of Mother Cabrini High School. Previous to working at the Shrine, she served the Missionary Sisters as a teacher in Philadelphia, New Orleans, Burbank and Kearny. Gerri looks forward to having more time to develop her skill at bowling, when she isn't visiting her cousins in sunny California. She will also be helping the Sisters when needed. Happily, she promised to continue helping out during the Feast Day Celebration, so we will still see her smiling face. Thank you Gerri, we appreciate your hard work and dedication! ~ *submitted by Miriam King*

Prayer Requests

In Loving Memory

Walter Gutstein

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Walter Gutstein, the husband of Lane Behr Gutstein. Lane is an alumna of Mother Cabrini High School in New York City. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

Roger Sullivan

The Cabrini University community has learned of the passing of Roger Sullivan, a gentleman who served in an interim capacity as the leader in the Office of Enrollment. Roger was a warm and kind gentleman who embodied the Cabrinian charism. His wife Henrietta wrote to inform us of his passing. Please keep her and their family in your prayers at this very sad time.