



January 24, 2019

Accurate Number of Children Separated at Border is Unknown

~ excerpted from an article by the Catholic New Service

A report published January 17 by the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services says the number of immigrant children separated from their parents at the border last year is unknown and the number given out by government officials at the end of 2018, saying that 2,737 children were separated, is not accurate. The number may be much higher.



A migrant child sleeps in the arms of a family member as part of a caravan heading to the U.S. border in Tijuana, Mexico.

CNS photo/Leah Mills/Reuters

The separations officially reported were those that took place between July and November 2018, when then-U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced what he called a zero tolerance policy, which meant that undocumented migrant parents caught crossing the border with their children would risk being separated from them. After some lawsuits were filed and much public outcry, the policy was reversed.

The report says the real number of separations may [extend] into the thousands, but it's hard to pin down accurate information because of a poor tracking system and poor communication among the agencies that were involved. The office took on the task of looking at the numbers of children separated, the inspector general report said, "given the potential impact of these actions on vulnerable children."

In October, the same office that issued the report said DHS, the department tasked with implementing the policy, "was not fully prepared to implement the administration's zero tolerance policy or to deal with some of its after-effects. Faced with resource limitations and other challenges, DHS regulated the number of asylum-seekers entering the country through ports of entry at the same time that it encouraged asylum-seekers to come to the ports. During zero tolerance, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, also held alien children separated from their parents for extended periods in facilities intended solely for short-term detention."

"Finally, DHS provided inconsistent information to aliens who arrived with children during zero tolerance, which resulted in some parents not understanding that they would be separated from their children, and being unable to communicate with their children after separation."

"Refugee children belong to their parents, not to the government or other institution. To steal children from their parents is a grave sin, immoral (and) evil," said San Antonio Archbishop

Gustavo Garcia-Siller via Twitter. "Their lives have already been extremely difficult. Why do we (the U.S.) torture them even more, treating them as criminals?" he continued.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, also said via Twitter that "separating immigrant parents and children as a supposed deterrent to immigration is a cruel and reprehensible policy. Children are not instruments of deterrence, they are children. A government that thinks any means is suitable to achieve an end cannot secure justice for anyone." ~ *Catholic News Service*

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

The Faces of Migration story this week is courtesy of Sister Richelle Friedman, PBVM. Sr. Richelle represents the Conference of Presentation Sisters, Justice for Immigrants' newest core member organization, and shares reflections from her recent participation in the [Nuns on the Bus](#) tour. You can read Sr. Richelle's entire post [here](#).

Sr. Richelle Friedman joined 10 other Catholic Sisters on a cross country bus tour to combat the myth that the tax bill passed last year benefits everyone, and that cuts in programs critical to the most vulnerable are necessary to pay for it. Participants in their tour's town halls, rallies and press conferences were aware of the cuts being proposed to safety net and humanitarian assistance programs. **The concerns they voiced focused on a variety of issues, including immigration.**

Amazing and brave people shared their stories with

Sr. Richelle and her tour mates. In Beaver, Pennsylvania, a farmer named Don expressed his concern about U.S. immigration and refugee policies. A group he is part of, Ananias Mission, raised money to give to Canada in support of six Syrian refugees whom the United States would not accept.

Sr. Richelle and her tour mates. In Beaver, Pennsylvania, a



Robert*

Nuns on the Bus also held site visits, including a memorable one in Kearney, New Jersey where they encountered the group First Friends which was started in 1999 to provide compassion and hope to detained immigrants and asylum-seekers through volunteer visitation, resettlement assistance, and advocacy. **One newly released detainee who had just been granted asylum recounted to the sisters his overwhelming sense of loneliness and despair in the ICE detention facility. He told them that no one ever referred to him by his name, but rather by his bed number.** When someone from First Friends came and called him 'Robert' *, it was the first time he heard his name uttered in months. Staff at First Friends are beloved by the detainees who think of them as family.

The coming of the tour bus and its passengers seemed affirming and energizing for those waiting for them. For those on the bus, it was equally energizing and humbling. ~ *Justice for Immigrants* *Image changed to protect his identity.



January 22 – 27, 2019

World Youth Day 2019

~ by Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

Pilgrims wore the flags of their respective countries like a cape on their backs: Australia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and though World Youth Day had not officially started, it seemed as if it unofficially began January 21 on the observation deck overlooking the locks of the Panama Canal, where the young -- and the

young-at-heart -- formed a conga line as some beat the drums and others chanted or cheered to honor the Catholic Church, Pope Francis or Mary.

It's a time when "you feel good about everything," said Soto, attending his second World Youth Day, an experience he said helps him meet an international cast of thousands of young Catholics and find meaning in life and in his faith.

For 16-year-old Charlie Martin of Australia, the event presents the opportunity to come in contact with a physical reality of a Catholic Church that was alive in the Americas centuries before his native country became an independent nation in 1901, one told by the many historic buildings where Catholics in the region worship and where they have built lives of faith. But he also experienced different expressions of that faith than he's used to.

"It's been amazing, you feel like a celebrity," he said, explaining the warm greetings expressed by Panamanians when they see the pilgrims walking about. "We walk into shopping centers and people are clapping for us."

"Que viva la virgen!" some of the Mexican pilgrims began shouting, cheering on the Virgin Mary. "Que viva el papa!" they shouted, cheering on the pope. Lined against the observatory deck, they also began shouting into the warm winds near the canal "Esta es la juventud del papa!" or "This is the pope's youth."

Their joy made seminarian Hien Vu, 30, of Xuan Loc, Vietnam, smile. "I want to experience this enthusiasm," he said. "And see the hope of the Catholic Church."



A young couple prays after receiving Communion at the WYD opening Mass. CNS Photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, Catholic Standard

**The theme for this World Youth Day is "I am the servant of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your Word."**

In a Cabrinian footnote to this story, the Guadalupe Province will be represented at World Youth Day by two groups. Sr. Martha Lopez, MSC is accompanying a group of 140 youths from Denver. Sr. Emperatriz Canales, MSC and Sr. Juana Clarivel Mendoza, MSC are accompanying three young people from Nicaragua. Our prayers are with you, Sisters and young people !

Vaya con Dios.

Sharing Much More than Our Name



Students gather outside the St. Frances X. Cabrini Regional Catholic School in Philadelphia. The school was formerly St. Donato's School.

On January 2, 2019, the School of Education at Cabrini University welcomed 25 staff members from St. Frances Cabrini Regional Catholic School in Philadelphia to campus for a Professional Development Day. School Principal, Julie Pickhaver worked with her staff and Dr. Ron Whitaker, Cabrini School of Education Assistant Dean/Professor, and Director of the Center for Urban Education, Equity and Improvement on preparing an engaging day on the University campus.

Throughout the day, the staff from the Cabrini Regional School were able to connect with several folks on campus, including Dr. Beverly Bryde, Dean for the School of Education; Maria Small, Associate Director of Student Teaching and Certifications; Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC and Sr. Grace Waters, MSC. The partnership between the Cabrini School and the University had developed over the years and continues to grow in opportunities like this day to connect with each other.

~ submitted by Dr. Beverly Bryde, Cabrini University

March for Life 2019

My heart was moved by this wonderful event, it was so amazing that thousands and thousands of people showed up from all over the USA to be there. It was so empowering, to see the crowd and [witness] how everyone was determined to end abortion and support the unborn babies.

This was my first March for Life [in which I] have ever participated and I strongly agree that life is a precious gift from God and should be protected. I believe that God gives life with a reason and purpose and that marching to protect each, and every innocent life was, is and will be worth it.

It was truly a long day full of experience and lessons, being in the midst of the crowd taught me a lot. Thanks to Anne Schwelm, Director of the Holy Spirit Library at Cabrini University, who thoughtfully introduced me to the March for Life by explaining what it was all about and later invited me to go with her to Washington DC.

~ submitted by Evalyn Ndunge



MSC candidate Evalyn Ndunge (r.) and Cabrini University library director Anne Schwelm attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 18th.

Welcomed with Joy!



Photo above: Sr. Diane Dalle Molle, MSC (.) confers a blessing upon newly accepted novices Tigist Hailemariam (c.) and Ayantu Abera.

Photo right: Following the prayer service Sr. Tigist (l.) and Sr. Ayantu (r.) take time for a photo with the Director of Novices Sr. Genet Henok, MSC



At a prayer service on Saturday, January 19th at the Sacred Heart Convent, Sr. Ayantu Abera and Sr. Tigist Hailemariam were accepted as novices in the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this "Journey of Fidelity".

May God bless you, Sr. Ayantu and Sr. Tigist.



One Minute Meditation

Politics has so divided us today that, in some families, where members are on opposite sides of the spectrum, there is limited (or, sad to say, no) communications.

We live in a world that, like the Gospel says, is "divided against itself."

What is the solution to this dilemma?

Salvation can only come through Christ, who offered himself for all, no matter what their political persuasion. The new covenant that Christ established can only bear fruit if we are willing to listen to one another, even if we don't agree

with one another. ~ Dorothy Jonaitis, Words of Grace

Missionary Sisters in Australia

We've come a long way in 70 years!



Photo in Malvern, Australia on the campus of Cabrini Health shows some of the Missionary Sisters including: Sr. Josephine Migliore, MSC, (front 3rd l.); Sr. Chiara Graselli, MSC, General Superior, (front c.); Sr. Grace Waters, MSC (back row, 4th l.) and Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC (back, r.) Photo circa 1967 +/-

When Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1880, her mission was to relieve the suffering of those in need. Since then, her legacy has spread across the world.

The Cabrini story in Australia began in 1948, when ten Sisters arrived in Melbourne from Italy to take over St Benedict's hospital in Malvern, on the invitation of Archbishop Mannix.

They were tasked with caring for Italians arriving in Australia following the Second World War. The Sisters embraced this mission in recognition of the canonization of their founder, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, who was later named the Universal Patron Saint of Immigrants.

As Cabrini marks its 70th anniversary in Australia, [as of December 2018], we reflect on the pioneering spirit of those Sisters, who laid the foundation for a small suburban hospital to become one of Victoria's largest Catholic health services. Many things have changed since those humble beginnings but our commitment to helping the vulnerable in our community with compassion and respect has not wavered.

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~ Cabrini Health

We continue to place our patients at the centre of everything we do, as we strive to provide them with the highest-quality care.

Our mission today spans health, technology and social services as we respond to the call: "Let your love for one another be real and from the heart" (1 Peter 1:22).

~with appreciation to Christine Elmer and Samantha Robin, Cabrini Health. This article first appeared in the Cabrini Health Connect.

*From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...
For young adults ages 18 - 40*

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

Prayer Requests

All Those Affected by the Government Shutdown

As the U.S. Government shutdown continues into its second month, let us pray for all those workers and their families whose lives are being seriously impacted. Let us pray for our governmental leaders that they will recognize and acknowledge the sacrifices and hardships of those who are going without their wages. May our leaders overcome their differences, and in good faith and in a spirit of bipartisanship, seek a resolution to the issues that divide them for the benefit of all citizens.

Cabrini University Student's Family

The father of a Cabrini University student was picked up by ICE and is being held in a detention center. The family asks for prayers for his release and return to them.

Bruce Galva

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC asks prayers for Bruce Galva who is facing a serious illness. Please pray that his treatment will be successful and he will recover fully.

Liddy Hanemann

Your prayers are requested for Liddy Hanemann, wife of former Cabrini High School President Ardley Hanemann, Jr., who underwent surgery earlier this week. Please pray that her procedure was successful and that her recovery will be swift.



Kindness is like snow ~ it beautifies everything it covers.
Kahlil Gibran

Gabriel Maciolek

Please pray for Gabriel Maciolek, who is serving in the U.S. Navy in Afghanistan. Gabriel is the nephew of Cabrini (College) University alumna and trustee Mary Kay Burke '69. Mary Kay's sister, Antoinette, mother of Gabriel, asks that 'we pray for all the service men and women on duty in these chaotic and dangerous places. Our family prays for his safe return as we know full well that he is in danger every day.' Let us storm heaven for Gabriel and all those in our armed forces.

World Youth Day 2019

Catholic youth from across the globe are gathered in Panama this week for World Youth Day. The Missionary Sisters have a presence there with young people from Denver and Nicaragua. Please pray that they will have a grace-filled experience and that all will return home safely.

In Loving Memory

Betty Franco

Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC requests prayers for her aunt, Betty Franco, who went home to God yesterday. Betty was just shy of her 101st birthday. Please pray for the Franco and Anello Families at this time. May she rest in God's eternal peace.