

O Holy Night!



A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn...

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his Gospel is peace.

*May your Christmas be filled
with the wonder of Christ's birth.*

Migration Better with Collaboration than Isolation

By Carol Glatz, Catholic New Service

The Vatican praised the adoption by more than 160 nations of a key agreement on global migration, saying today's migration challenges are better tackled together than with "isolationist" stances.

The U.N. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration "includes a comprehensive framework of best practices and policy instruments to increase international cooperation and sharing of responsibility in the governance of migration," Cardinal Pietro Parolin, head of the Vatican delegation told government leaders.



The agreement, which is not legally binding, gives countries "the space to respond to their national circumstances and priorities, in full respect of international law and of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their status," he said at the gathering on December 10.

"Its implementation will help all governments, as well as nongovernmental entities, including faith-based organizations, collectively to manage migration in a more safe, orderly and regular manner, something no state can achieve alone," said the cardinal, who is the Vatican Secretary of State.

More than 160 nations formally adopted the agreement December 10th at an international conference in Marrakech, Morocco. The United States, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Chile and a handful of European countries were among the more than a dozen nations that did not support the pact and its provisions.

Cardinal Parolin noted the refusal of some nations to take part in the conference or in the process of drafting the agreement. The Vatican, however, "is convinced that the enormous challenges that migration poses are best faced through multilateral processes rather than isolationist policies," he said. While the Vatican supported the compact, he said, it will present "its reservations in due time." Nonetheless, the global compact is still a "significant advance in the international community's shared responsibility to act in solidarity with people on the move, especially those who find themselves in very precarious situations," he said, as it allows states to "improve their respective migration policies and, together, the international management of migration."

"The Global Compact on Migration attempts to assist the international community to prevent crises and tragedies," he said, "at the same time, it also seeks to improve the governance of migration which is bound to increase as the international community grows more economically, socially and politically interconnected."

To read the full article: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2018/vatican-official-with-migration-cooperation-is-better-than-isolationism.cfm>

Share the Journey: **Meet Our Neighbor**



When a rocket leveled their home in Kabul during a ceasefire, 6-year old Sensela* and her family sought shelter in a camp in Pakistan- first in a tent, then in a makeshift box.

Two years later, the family won the visa lottery for the United States. They were welcomed with health insurance, advice for assimilating, even a donated car.

Her father, a former university dean, worked at McDonald's. Her mother, a chemistry professor, first worked in a grocery store, but for the past eleven years has worked for the U.S. military as a linguist.

Senzela fears that people whose ancestors also came seeking safety and opportunity in decades past will continue to discriminate against those, today, who are seeking a better

life. **Image changed to protect her identity ~ Justice for Immigrants*

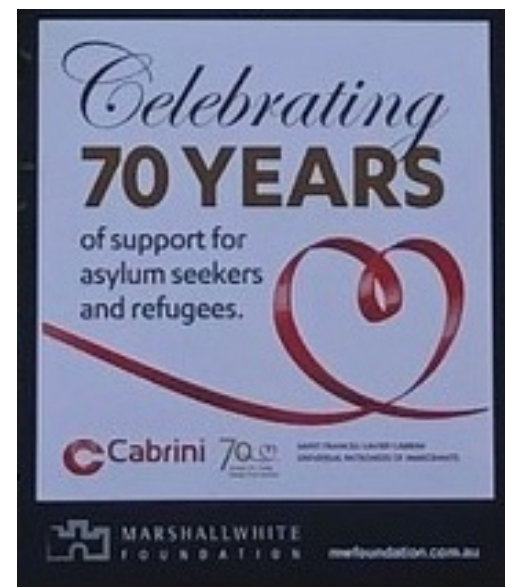
PROMOTING OUR SUPPORT OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN AUSTRALIA

In 2016, the Cabrini Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health Hub was opened to respond to the significant unmet needs for this vulnerable population. The Hub provides free access to primary health and specialist mental health services for newly arrived refugees and people seeking asylum.

Since opening the Hub has provided treatment for more than 500 people. Staff have seen firsthand, the vulnerability of these clients and their families, with many affected by the immigration policies of the Australian government.

As part of the recent celebration of the Feast of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, signage on Cabrini property and vehicles was used to advocate for more compassionate treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, both in Australia and around the world.

The billboards are located outside five Cabrini premises in Melbourne, which were chosen based on their strong public frontage and the support provided by local authorities to display signage. The billboards will remain in place until the end of February 2019. It is hoped that this promotion will prompt further community support and understanding of this important cause.



~ submitted by Melanie Schoo, Cabrini Health

For more information about the Cabrini Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health Hub, visit:

<https://www.cabrinioutreach.com.au/heritage-and-strategy/australian-projects/supporting-asylum-seekers/>

New York City Calls for More Statues Honoring Women

~ By Katie Honan, *Wall Street Journal*



Public nominations for statues in NYC were submitted to She Built NYC.
From top left: Billie Holiday, Grace Hopper, Emily Warren Roebling;
Middle: Mother Cabrini, Jane Jacobs Eleanor Roosevelt
Bottom: Nellie Bly, Bella Abzug, Emma Lazarus.
PHOTO: Associated Press (7), Getty Images (1) Brooklyn Museum (1)

Across New York City, there are nearly 150 statues that honor men and just five dedicated to women.

A citywide initiative plans to shift the ratio and will start with a statue of Shirley Chisholm, the first black congresswoman in the U.S., who represented New York's 12th congressional district, which at the time, was centered in Brooklyn. The statue honoring Ms. Chisholm who ran for president in 1972, is the first selected through a city-led initiative called She Built NYC, which was created to commission a public monument or piece of art that honors women's history.

In June, the city asked New Yorkers to submit nominations of inspirational and influential women. They received [326 eligible nominations](#) representing a diverse list of women, from celebrities to schoolteachers to suffragettes.

The woman who received the most nominations through She Built NYC was St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, known as Mother Cabrini, who founded the Missionary Sisters and was

a supporter of Italian immigrants. Author and activist Jane Jacobs came in second, and Ms. Chisholm came in third.

Emily Warren Roebling, credited for helping complete the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge after her husband became ill, and Katherine Walker, who tended to the Robbins Reef Lighthouse in New York Harbor for nearly 30 years after she was widowed, were in the top 10.

General groups of women made the list as well: single mothers, the nuns and nurses at the now-closed St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, domestic workers, women of the city's jazz scene, and the group who advocated to allow women into Mc Sorley's Old Ale House, which was men-only until 1970.

WOMEN WHO CURRENTLY HAVE STATUES IN NYC

- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Gertrude Stein
- Harriet Tubman
- Joan of Arc
- Golda Meir

"The nearly 2,000 submissions spanned NYC history and included women ranging from elected officials to artists to lighthouse keepers—pretty much all of them deserving of a monument of her own," Ms. Glen said. ~ with thanks to Pat Krasnauskay for bringing this to the attention of The Update

MSC Candidates Attend Interculturality Workshop

Recently, four MSC candidates, accompanied by four Missionary Sisters, participated in an “Interculturality Workshop” sponsored by the Missionary Sisters, that was held at the Sacred Heart Convent in New York City.



Joining the Interculturality Workshop presenter Dr. John Chitakure, are from left: Ayantu Bishaka; Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC; Evalyn Ndunge; Sr. Antonia Plata, MSC; Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC; Bianca Huertas; Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC and Tigist Loja.

~ a reflection by Evalyn Ndunge, MSC Candidate

Dr. John Chitakure, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC), opened the Interculturality workshop with the word RESPECT. It was amazing the way he defined and expanded the representation of each letter.

R take **RESPONSIBILITY** for what you say and feel without blaming others
E **EMPATHETIC** listening – enter the other person’s situation and point of view
S be **SENSITIVE** to differences in communication styles
P **PONDER** what you hear and feel before you speak
E **EXAMINE** your own assumptions and perceptions
C keep **CONFIDENTIALITY**
T **TOLERATE** ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right and wrong.

All our discussions that weekend were based on the word RESPECT. It was good to learn about internal and external culture, cultural identity and how every culture contains gifts and riches, as well as, a shadow side that needs to be challenged and redeemed.

We gained insights about culture and perceptions of power and communications; ethnocentric stages and mindsets; and the stages of intercultural inclusion and living.

In general, the weekend was headline-worthy and it will remain unforgettable.

~ with thanks to Evalyn Ndunge

CELEBRATING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



On frigid nights in Chicagoland, hundreds of pilgrims gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe to worship and pray.

The holy pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines, Illinois expected to draw hundreds of thousands of worshipers within the 24 hours from December 11 through December 12. In spite of cold and snow, this is the peak celebration for Hispanics from Chicago, but also from distant areas like Wisconsin, Indiana and Canada, walking long distances to the Shrine.

Approximately 3 miles from Cabrini Retreat Center, the Shrine is the most visited shrine in the United States, and second in the world to the Shrine of Our Lady in Mexico City. It is the heart of Catholic Hispanic life in the Archdiocese.

In 1997, Msgr. Esteban Martinez, from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, blessed the grounds and poured soil from the Tepeyac of Mexico onto the New Tepeyac of America, which was authorized by the Basilica to be a site to satisfy mandas (promises) to Our Lady.

This year, Cabrini Retreat Center hosted the current rector, Fr. Esequiel Sanchez, and his pilgrimage staff, who took special time out to spiritually prepare for the marathon of Masses, Reconciliation, spiritual talks and prayer that will take place in those sacred 24 hours.



Pictured is the staff from the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine who visited the Cabrini Retreat Center in preparation for the Feast Day pilgrimage. Second row, 2nd l., Sr. Cathy Fedewa of the Retreat Center staff welcomes everyone.

The history of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe remains young and vibrant. Everyone is invited—*pilgrims, visitors, families, friends, neighbors*—to be part of this living story that proclaims the faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, Cabrini Retreat Center

Cabrini High Fights Human Trafficking with **Dressember Day**



Cabrini High School helped fight human trafficking on Friday, December 7, 2018 by participating in Dressember, a national collaborative movement leveraging fashion and creativity to restore dignity to all women. Dressember uses fashion to advocate for women who have been exploited for their femininity.

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus support two corporate stances, “To support the rights and dignity of all immigrants” and, “To stop human trafficking.” This is the driving force behind Cabrini High School’s efforts to fight human trafficking.

Dressember is a day to dress and advocate by keeping four important points in mind: dignity, fashion, modesty, and femininity. Students were allowed to pay one dollar to dress up with dignity, modesty, femininity, and their own fashion. These words guide the Cabrini dress guidelines for every occasion.

Throughout the school, Cabrini raised \$300 for Dressember. All money collected will be donated to Eden House, a house for women survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Cabrini High School has been participating in Dressember since 2014. Prior to Dressember, students were educated on facts about human trafficking and slavery, and prayed as a community to end this horrible crime against humanity.

Following Dressember, discussions will be held in Religion classes amongst the students, as well in the month of January, which is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Cabrini will continue to pray for victims of human trafficking and will learn about the life of Saint Josephine Bakhita who was a survivor of human trafficking. A picture of St. Josephine will be placed in the main lobby of the school during January.

~ submitted by Katelyn Gross Ehrhardt '11



Cabrini High School students express their personal fashion style while supporting efforts to combat human trafficking.

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018



The word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14

Reflection

Most of us know already, generally unconsciously, of the healing and destroying power of the spoken word. When someone says to me, "I love you," or "I hate you," I am not just receiving some useful information. These words do something in me. They make my blood move, my heart beat, my breathing speed up. They make me feel and think differently. They lift me up to a new way of being and give me another knowledge of myself.

Lord Jesus, let your light and love shine through us in this season and every season.

~ Henry J.M. Nouwen

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018



The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:15

Reflection

To grieve is to allow our losses to tear apart feelings of security and safety and lead us to the painful truth of our own brokenness. Our grief makes us experience our own losses, our grieving hearts open our inner eye to the world in which losses are suffered far beyond our own little world of family, friends and colleagues. Then our mourning becomes larger than ourselves.

God, may the hope of Advent be the knowledge that I am never alone in my sadness, grief or pain.

~ Henri J.M. Nouwen

Prayer Requests

Margrit Boyle Corcoran

Your on-going prayers are invited for Margrit Corcoran, Cabrini (College) University Class of 1969, who was scheduled to undergo a kidney transplant last week, but the surgical team determined that the donor kidney was not viable. Please pray that a suitable donor kidney will soon be found.

Sr. Regina Casey, MSC

Please remember Sr. Regina in your prayers as her health deteriorates. She has recently been placed in hospice care. Please pray that she will be comfortable and serene.

Sr. Celia Cid, MSC

Your continuing prayers for Sr. Celia are appreciated as she recovers from a stroke. Pray that she will be at peace during her recovery.

Hugh Hutchison

Please keep Hugh Hutchison, the husband of Nancy Hutchison, former staff member at Cabrini University, in your prayers as he recuperates from a recent medical procedure.



Hosanna in the highest! Christ is born, celebrate with gladness!

The Province Communications Office wishes our Missionary Sisters, Cabrini Lay Missionaries, Cabrini Companions, Cabrini Lay Collaborators, Board Members, benefactors and friends every joy of this holy season.

God bless the new year in which the Christ Child is always with us
and love overcomes all difficulties.

And, in the new year let us remain ever mindful of those who leave their homes in search of new beginnings and possibilities, may they know God's abiding presence.

Merry Christmas and Peace on Earth