



February 7, 2019

## Two Years After Travel Ban, Faith Based Refugee Groups Struggle

~ by Emily McFarlan Miller, Religion News Service, NCR



**Khadra Abdo**

Photo credit: Courtesy Photo

Every morning when Khadra Abdo wakes up, her mind turns to her children.

"My first thought is that I hope they are safe today, and that stays on my mind throughout the whole day," Abdo told Religion News Service through an interpreter provided by Church World Service.

The 40-year-old Muslim mother of seven was separated from her five oldest children from a first marriage nearly 12 years ago when she and her second husband fled civil war twice — first in Somalia, then in Libya. When they arrived in Columbus, Ohio, as asylum seekers in 2012, she filed a request for her four teenaged daughters and one son, living with her 75-year-old mother in Ethiopia, to join her through World Relief.

Seven years later, she is still waiting. And the World Relief office that once helped her has been closed.

That closure in 2017 was a "direct result" of President Donald Trump's executive order to cut the number of refugees resettled that year in the United States, World Relief said at the time.

Over the past two years, the nation's refugee resettlement system has been slowly dismantled. The process started after Trump temporarily suspended the entire refugee program in the United States and issued the first version of a ban on travel from predominantly Muslim countries.

That dismantling has led to layoffs and office closings for resettlement groups. And it has left refugees like Abdo with little hope that their families will be reunited.

"Refugee resettlement isn't just a program. It is the way in which people find safety and the way in which people are reunited with their family members," said Jen Smyers, director of policy and advocacy for the immigration and refugee program with Church World Service, one of six faith-based agencies authorized by the federal government to resettle refugees in the U.S.

Smyers told the story of one Church World Service client in Ohio who came to the U.S. more than two years ago. His pregnant wife was supposed to join him but had to reapply after she gave birth to their son.

The man still has never met his son.

"He Skypes with them every day, you know, but none of that can come close to holding your baby," she said.



People protest during a rally about the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold President Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries. Photo credit: AP/Andres Kudacki

Smyers said that refugees get mixed signals from Americans. When they arrive at the airport, they are often met by the friendly faces of volunteers. But they then see and hear anti-refugee sentiment on the news.

Refugees ask if they are safe, if they are welcome, she said. They ask if they can share their stories without being deported. And they ask if they will have to flee again and seek refuge in another country.

"It shows the level of anxiety that people have about not being welcome where they finally thought they found a place where they could be safe," Smyers said.

She worries about the policies that have limited the numbers of refugees allowed to resettle in the United States. And she worries about the rhetoric behind those policies, which paints refugees and immigrants as a threat.

To read the entire article: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/two-years-after-trumps-travel-ban-faith-based-refugee-groups-struggle>

# Share the Journey: **Meet Our Neighbor**

Four decades ago, members of St. Michael Parish helped the Pham family, refugees who escaped Vietnam by boat and were rescued by the U.S. Navy, with their resettlement in the United States. Nhi Pham, now a local area dentist, was a member of the family and recently shared her migration story with a gathering at St. Michael's. The parish's event helped participants "have a better understanding of how our helping refugees helps fulfill Christ's commandment that we love one another," said Deacon Gene Vanderzanden of St. Michael's.



Nhi Pham (c.) now a dentist in Washington State, meets with the couple who assisted her family when they first escaped Vietnam.

## **'Families helping families'**

Event attendees included parishioner Catherine Parks, who said her parents, Lawrence and Dorothy Rowe, were among the St. Michael's families who helped the Pham family find a place to live and welcomed them into the parish community. Parks, who was in her 20s then and teaching kindergarten, remembers seeing the Phams at church and having potlucks at each other's homes. "They got introduced to our food, and we got introduced to theirs," she said.

"Growing up, I loved church potlucks," Nhi Pham said. "They're all about fellowship and community and celebrating the most precious gifts we have to share."

Parks also recalled Nhi Pham's first day in her kindergarten class. She "came and stood beside me, not saying a word, and that was OK," Parks said.

Pham recalled how Bob and Anne Oman (former parishioners who attended the event) donated a blue Chevy Nova so her parents could take ESL classes at the local college. The Omans, godparents to Pham's brother Peter, surprised the family one year by leaving a Christmas tree on their porch. "We thrived because it was community-based support through faith," said Pham. "It was families helping families. That they donated out of love meant so much to us."

## **'Your blessing can multiply'**

Nhi Pham works to give back to her community. In addition to running her dental practice, Pham volunteers with Medical Relief International and has traveled to Haiti, Central America, Tanzania and Lesbos, Greece, where she cared for Afghan and Syrian refugees. Locally, she also volunteers with Medical Teams International by serving on a mobile dental van throughout Washington state. Pham said it's a way to express her faith and pay forward the generosity her family experienced when they arrived in the U.S. "Your investment in another human being may be the seed of change for many," Pham said. "Your blessing can multiply into multiple blessings."

*~ Justice for Immigrants*



## *St. Josephine Bakhita*

Patron Saint of Human Trafficking Victims

Feast Day, February 8, 2019

For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed.

Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan.

Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later.

From Franciscan Media: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-josephine-bakhita/>

**At Cabrini University, Mass will be offered on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm** in honor of St. Josephine Bakhita and the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking.



# Human Trafficking Calls for Action From All of US

~by Jeanne Christensen, RSM, Global Sisters Report

In 2004, for the first time, I met prostituted women who had survived and were moving successfully into recovery. I was awed by their stories, but more so by their strength, courage and resilience. How could anyone survive what they had experienced and still have hope? One told me, "God reached into hell and pulled me out." I wanted to say, "Yes, but give yourself credit." She now operates a nonprofit, helping other victims and survivors.

When younger, these women were among those at great risk — runaway youth. [The National Conference of State Legislature](#) cites studies showing that "youth age 12 to 17 are more at risk of homelessness than adults"; "one in seven young people between the ages of 10 and 18 will run away"; and "75 percent of runaways are female." If runaways or homeless youth are on the streets without a safe place to go, their abduction is likely within 48 hours, according to [public safety officials](#). They often run from or are forced out of terrible home situations. Many believe nothing could be worse. Unfortunately, they are usually wrong.



According to Shared Hope International's [Seeking Justice 2018 Report](#), only "23 states and the District of Columbia prohibit the criminalization of minors for prostitution offenses" by adopting varying statutory approaches to prevent the criminalization. While some states may be failing exploited children and adults, local nonprofits, organizations, agencies, education and health care facilities and systems, faith communities, anti-trafficking advocates and law enforcement are working together to address human trafficking.

[People should be aware that] predators identify the most vulnerable youth, marginalized in some way, lacking self-esteem and/or self-confidence. These young victims live in your city, maybe even in your neighborhood. You may have seen one of them in your hospital's emergency department, or at the truck stop on the interstate. They may even be a student in your high school or university. It is good that more adults are enforcing rules about their children's use of smartphones, tablets and other technology, and limiting access to the internet and social media.

Children as young as primary students unintentionally advertise their vulnerability by what they say or post on social media. As I have learned, the most vulnerable include runaways, foster children, immigrant youth, LGBTQ youth, those thrown out of their own homes, and those living in poverty or in dysfunctional families. Sadly, predators know this and seek them out.

Predators also make advances on children at malls, restaurants, coffee shops, arcades, movie theaters and other places where youth gather. Explaining to youth what human trafficking is, how they and their friends are at risk, and what they can do to avoid being targeted, lured or chosen as victims can help them understand how to protect themselves and their friends. Education and awareness are key.

To read the entire article:

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/column/trafficking/trafficking-demands-action-all-us-55839>

# From the Province Vocation Promotion Team:

## CARA Survey Shows Uptick in Number of Women and Men Taking Perpetual Vows

~by Jacob Comello of Catholic News Service

When you head to Mass this Sunday, chances are you will hear the intention "an increase in vocations to the religious life" lifted up before the gifts are presented. A recent survey suggests those prayers might be getting answered.

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University, a nonprofit that conducts and publishes social-science research on the Catholic Church, just released [findings of a national survey](#) of men and women who in 2018 professed perpetual vows in monasteries, provinces or religious congregations based in the United States, and the results suggest an increasing number of Catholics are willing to pursue this kind of obligation.

Senior research associate Mary Gautier told CNS in a phone interview that CARA "(was) able to identify 240 persons" taking perpetual vows, "up from 200 the last time we did the survey." Of these 240 identified women and men religious, a total of 92 sisters and nuns and 70 brothers and priests responded to the survey.

According to a news release, CARA reached respondents by contacting major superiors — leaders of religious institutes — belonging to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men.

While the uptick isn't hard evidence that the religious life is generally expanding, Gautier said that the greater ease in finding respondents who had committed to perpetual vows was certainly "good news."

So what might have convinced these people, against the prevailing cultural norms, that the perpetual life was right for them?

According to the study, vocation programs are probably part of the answer, which include encounters where men and women considering such a path can visit an institution and "try it out" for a week or weekend. As the news release noted: "Nearly all of the religious of the profession class of 2018 (88 percent) participated in some type of vocation program or experience prior to entering their religious institute."

Gautier also emphasized to CNS the growing racial diversity of the 2018 class. She noted that around one-third of those surveyed indicated that they belonged to a minority group, primarily Asian or Hispanic. Seven in 10 of the professed are U.S. or Canada-born."



Sr. Laura Baldini, MSC makes her final profession of vows at Sacred Heart Convent in New York City.

To read the full article: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/trends/cara-survey-shows-uptick-number-men-women-taking-perpetual-vows-55834>



## Surgical visit to Papua New Guinea Reinforces Love of the Job

### OUTREACH

Cabrini Outreach has been sending an orthopaedic surgical team to Modilon General Hospital in Papua New Guinea since 2000. The team performs surgery for local residents, many of whom have had significant orthopaedic issues for many years, and [they provide] education and training for the local hospital surgeons and nurses. Patients come from surrounding towns and villages to receive attention from the skilled Cabrini team. The 2018 team was made up of two surgeons, an anaesthetist and a nurse, led by orthopaedic surgeon Adrian Trivett.

“It is quite confronting when you first go over there and challenging on a professional level but it is also incredibly rewarding,” Mr. Trivett said. He continued, “Surgeons in metropolitan Melbourne in 2018 tend to have a very narrow area of practice, but in Papua New Guinea it is back to basics, where you need to be a generalist orthopaedic surgeon.”

Mr. Trivett said the conditions at Modilon General Hospital were very different to the conditions surgeons are used to in Australia. The hospital can perform x-rays and some blood tests but has no advanced diagnostic equipment such as CT scan, MRI or ultrasound.

“There is an orthopaedic service at Modilon General Hospital but it functions at a very basic level,” Mr Trivett said. He commented, “Not only are you dealing with orthopaedic problems but you are also dealing with diseases that are typically not seen in western societies, such as polio, tuberculosis and rickets.” He said basic power supply was intermittent, at best, and the team had to learn to be resourceful under difficult conditions.

“Occasionally, the power went out while we were operating, so we were finishing operations under torchlight. The back-up generators don’t always work so you just have to work with what you’ve got. The wards are open, with 20 patients occupying each one and often there will be relatives, including children, sleeping on the floor, so it makes it pretty crowded.”

Mr Trivett said the staff and patients were incredibly grateful for the work the Cabrini team performed. “The patients are very appreciative of everything we do for them so they are really easy patients to look after,” he said. Mr Trivett said it was gratifying to be able to help people in a place where there was clearly so much need.

“It was a very satisfying experience and something that professionally hadn’t really existed in my practice before, so I was happy to lead this trip and to help so many patients. It was incredibly rewarding.”

During the week the team was in Papua New Guinea, it performed 26 operations and saw more than 50 patients, who had come from across the district to receive help from the Cabrini team.

*~with thanks to Christine Elmer and Samantha Robin, Cabrini Health. This article originally appeared in Cabrini Health Connect.*

“Not only are you dealing with orthopaedic problems, you are dealing with...polio, tuberculosis and rickets. The patients are very appreciative of everything we do for them, so they are easy patients to look after.”

Mr. Trivett  
Cabrini Health  
Orthopaedic surgeon



A surgical team from Cabrini Health performed orthopaedic surgery during their visit to Papua New Guinea.

Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC, Inc. invites  
you to celebrate our 20th anniversary at the

*Heart of Cabrini  
Benefit Dinner*

APRIL

2

6:00 PM

MANHATTAN PENTHOUSE ON 5TH AVENUE  
80 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10011

Honoring

FRANCES LIU

Vice President of Strategy, Citi Community Development

HON. BARBARA A. LEE

Ll. B. Harvard 1962, Former CIS-NYC ESOL Teacher

JESSICA GARCIA

Assistant to the President, RWDSU

**Details & Tickets:**

<http://bit.ly/cisbenefit2019>

Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC  
celebrating their  
*20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



## From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...



With a cheerful “heart” theme for the day, eighty high school junior girls participated in a Gift of Mission vocation awareness program held in Immaculata, PA, sponsored by an intercongregational team of vocation directors - including the Missionary Sisters - from the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC). Young ladies from Bishop Shanahan H.S., West Chester, PA; Mount St. Joseph Academy, Chestnut Hill, PA; York Catholic H.S., York, PA; and Glouster Catholic H.S., Glouster City, NJ entered into a fun and interactive day learning about vowed religious life, prayer, and ministry.



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## Prayer Requests

### ***Baby Zooey Angayen Bumakil***

Please pray for the successful surgery for baby Zooey, a seven month-old, who has been diagnosed with a rare condition called Biliary Atresia which can cause scarring of the liver and liver failure. She is a resident of the Philippines where there isn't the availability of the appropriate surgery. Her parents are trying to raise funds to bring her to the United States so that she can have this life-saving procedure. Many people in the local Filipino community are rallying to raise funds necessary for her operation. Please pray that the necessary funds will be raised and that this little baby will be restored to full health.

### ***Jim Filling***

Your prayers are asked for Jim Filling, the father of Dr. Michelle Filling-Brown, acting Dean Acting Dean-School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Department Chair of the English Department at Cabrini University. Mr. Filling has been hospitalized and is recovering from heart surgery. Dr. Filling-Brown would be grateful for the prayers of the Cabrinian community for her dad.

### ***David Klein***

Please continue to storm heaven for David Klein, who is in desperate need of a kidney transplant within the next five weeks. He is in need of divine intervention to save his life.

### ***Natalie McMaster***

Kindly hold Natalie McMaster, in your prayers. The 15 year old great niece of Cabrini (College) University alumna Claire Roth '69, began the first of two more rounds of chemo on February 7<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the bone marrow transplant that will follow in about 10 weeks. Please keep Natalie and her family in your prayer intentions.

### ***Christopher Ryan***

Your prayers are asked for Christopher, 41 years of age, who had a stroke and is in great need of our prayers. He and his wife just had a baby. May Christopher recover fully. Let us pray for him, his wife, child and his family during this very stressful time.

### ***Scott***

Jean Findlay Cabrini (College) University '85 asks that we pray for a colleague of hers named Scott, who has just been diagnosed with tonsillar cancer. He is being treated at Penn...He will have a formal biopsy, followed by radiation and more surgery. Jean thanks you for keeping Scott and his family in your prayers.

### ***Joe Stimmler***

Prayers are requested for Joe Stimmler who suffered a massive heart attack this week. Pray that following surgery he will recover fully and be able to resume his normal schedule.

### ***Marie Takes***

Kindly remember Marie Takes, the mother of Cabrini University former Board Chair and interim President Deb Takes, in your prayers. Last week, Mrs. Takes fell and broke her left hip. Mrs. Takes came through surgery, but will have a long road through rehab and recovery. We know that Deb and her mother will appreciate the prayers of the Cabrinian community.

### ***Vickey Calabria Zavasnik***

Please pray for Vickey Calabria Zavasnik, a former Missionary Sister, who has been diagnosed with a second cancer site that is aggressive. Pray that all will go well with her treatment and that she will be restored to full health.



## **In Loving Memory**

### ***David Guttridge***

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of David Guttridge, a friend of Cabrini University staff member Cindy Ross. Mr. Guttridge passed away after a brief illness. Please pray for his wife, family and friends as they mourn his loss.

### ***Richard Moy***

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Mr. Moy, the father of Beth Moy, the Executive Director of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE). Mr. Moy passed away peacefully earlier this week. Please pray for his family at the time of this great loss. May he rest in God's eternal peace.