



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

THE UPDATE

March 14, 2019

In Memory of Jakelin and Felipe We must have Justice at the Border

~ by Arturo J. Banuelos, National Catholic Reporter

Our border between the U.S.A. and Mexico looks like a battleground today. Six thousand troops are lining the walls with concertina wire, and border agents are performing military style exercises in full riot gear. In 2017, some 24 miles of new border wall were built in our community, an ongoing monument to hate and a countersign to the reign of God.

On February 11, 2019, President Trump visited our border city of El Paso bringing a message of division and xenophobia. The government's anti-immigrant narrative continues to scare, anger and stir people to hate newcomers and to promote harsher enforcement policies. These policies and practices separate families, limit access for immigrants and refugees, deny DACA students a place in our society and detain youth in cages. The visible sign is a border wall that increases in size and scope. All of this remains morally wrong, deeply inhumane, fundamentally un-American and un-Christian.

Those of us who live on the border can see that there is no national security threat here. This is one of the safest areas in the country. At the border, migrants are fingerprinted and their data is run through Interpol, CBP, ICE and FBI databases. Government checkpoints encircle our cities. Migrants are not criminals and there is no invasion. They are basically good and decent people who want to provide a better future for their families. And migrants are not taking away jobs from Americans; machines, outsourcing and downsizing are doing that. Projecting fear for political purposes dehumanizes, demonizes and desensitizes us to the sufferings of others.

Children in particular are paying the price for these ill-conceived policies and practices. This past December, two Guatemalan children died while in the custody of the Border Patrol. [Jakelin Ameri Rosmery Caal Maquin](#) was 7 years old, and [Felipe Gomez Alonzo](#) was 8 years old. Their situations are still under investigation.

The tragic stories of Jakelin and Felipe call us to stop demonizing refugees, to stop wasting money on senseless walls and inhumane practices. Relationships cultivated with their families and communities further invite us to rededicate ourselves to just immigration reform in the United States and justice in countries of origin so none will be forced to leave home and family. No more deaths. More justice. To read the full story:

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/theology-en-la-plaza/memory-jakelin-and-felipe-we-must-have-justice-border>



Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

Rosaura's story: Perseverance and love help to make it through life challenges and adversity

I was born in Tijuana and at age four became paralyzed from the waist down. Soon after, my mother sought a cure for me to walk again. Unfortunately, my father was not supportive and instead constantly beat us while tormenting my mother by telling her that without him she would never see me walk again.

My mother found a doctor in Tijuana who told her I could possibly walk again with the help of braces and physical therapy. An aunt was willing to provide some money, but when my mother asked my father to provide the rest he responded by beating us again. He said even if he had the money he would never waste it on something like that. Hurt and disappointed she left him to find a way to help me get the braces. I was six at that time.

She entered the U.S., worked in California's Central Valley fields, and found treatment for me at Shriners hospitals. From my accident to age eight I lived traveling between Los Angeles and Tijuana to receive treatments and live with my aunt in Tijuana.

I depended entirely on others for everything. I crawled on the ground to play with other kids because we could not afford a wheelchair. But I was a happy child with dreams of one day becoming a surgeon or a lawyer. Even though I never attended school my aunt taught me the basics in reading, writing, and math.

One day my mother decided to bring me with her to work in the Central Valley. I remember being happy, but I did not know that over the next few years I would sleep and live in a car parked in different fields while I waited for my mother to finish working in one of the farms.

Years later we settled in Northern California and I started in the sixth grade. But my struggles continued. I was sexually assaulted when I was a teenager. Later, I got a skin infection that required surgery and to use a wheelchair full-time. I persisted and completed high school between surgeries, hospital beds, and bed rest.

At age 21 my medical coverage ended while I still dealt with the aftermath of the life-threatening infection. I started college after high school, but paused my studies for a decade because of my health inability to cover tuition.

When DACA was announced, I was devastated because I was a year too old to qualify. But I found out about and applied for a U-Visa, which was approved. Now, almost 42 years old, I'm nine months away from applying for U.S. citizenship and about to complete my BA in Communications with a minor in Criminology. ~ *Justice for Immigrants*



Rosaura – a profile of courage and determination.

To Prison at Age 18

Imagine “celebrating” your 18th birthday by being shackled at your ankles and wrists, and being taken to prison for no other reason than that you had no family home to go. This, unfortunately, is the fate of many unaccompanied minors who come to the United States, alone, in hope of a safe, secure place to live.

Two years ago, 20 women religious from 12 different congregations met to have a conversation about the escalating immigration crisis in our country and how we might address it. In that session, the group learned of the tremendous need for a facility to give unaccompanied young women immigrants, who are aging out of youth detention, an alternative to prison. Adult prison was their destination on their 18th birthday if they had not been able to be placed with family members by that time.



Bethany House of Hospitality

At the end of the meeting, seven of the women

religious agreed to continue the conversation and eventually became a coordinating team that embarked on a path that would lead to the establishment of the Bethany House of Hospitality. Within only eight months they were able to raise the funds (from 30 different congregations), work through the legal steps and find a home to open to this young population in October 2017.

I was part of the exciting whirlwind adventure as that coordinating team eventually transitioned to become the Board of Directors of Bethany House of Hospitality. It continues to be a graced, challenging, complicated, gifted journey. ~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN

To be continued...



Pictured with Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, (standing, 3rd r.) of the Cabrini Retreat Center in Des Plaines, are the members of various religious congregations who became the founding board members of the Bethany House of Hospitality.

Cabrini University Immersion Trip To Guatemala



Cabrini University representatives Dr. Ray Ward, (standing, l.) and Dr. Todd Matthews (standing, c.) visit a women's center in El Tablón. Sr. Juana Mendoza, MSC, is seen standing on the far left center.

Eleven Cabrini University students, one alumna, three faculty members and the Director of the Wolfington Center participated in an immersion trip to San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala over [the recent] Spring Break. The trip was led for an 11th year by Communications Professor Dr. Jerry Zurek and Romance Languages and Literatures Professor Dr. Raquel Green, as part of their Engagements with the Common Good course entitled "Working for Justice in Guatemala".

All participants spent the week working in the mornings on construction projects in and around San Lucas Tolimán, and being educated on the numerous initiatives of the San Lucas Mission to promote health, education and the empowerment of women in the region.

San Lucas Tolimán is a community of roughly twenty thousand people located on the southeastern edge of Lake Atitlán, which was once famously described by naturalist and explorer Alexander von Humboldt as the "most beautiful lake on Earth." It is located in an area of Guatemala that was ravaged during the thirty-five year Guatemalan Civil War, particularly during the early 1980s, when Blessed Father Stanley Rother of neighboring Santiago Atitlán was one of several Catholic priests murdered in the country. In San Lucas Tolimán, Father Gregory Schaffer also was threatened with death, and one of his closest workers in the Mission was disappeared in the same year.



Cabrini University faculty, students and alumni learn about the history of San Lucas Tolimán and the Mission from Encarnacion "Chona" Ajcot (front, 3rd l.) who worked alongside Father Greg for decades until his passing.



Cabrini faculty member Melissa González-Contreras (l.) and Dr. Todd Matthews (r.) do some heavy lifting with one of the long term volunteers at the Mission.

Despite such ever-present violence and deeply entrenched material poverty, Father Greg was able to profoundly alter the conditions of the area by empowering lasting social change rooted in the needs as stated by the community. Today, nearly seven years after Father Greg's death, the staff and long-term volunteers of the Mission work alongside numerous visiting groups to engage in projects that support basic material needs and also contribute to the communal and spiritual growth of the residents of the area.

"Working in the community really opened my eyes to the spiritual richness of the people of San Lucas Tolimán, which is what I will forever focus on instead of their material deprivation. I learned so much from each person about grace, dignity and respect," said Dr. Todd Matthews, one of the faculty members on the trip.

In addition to San Lucas Tolimán, Dr. Ray Ward, [interim] Director of the Wolfington Center, Dr. Melissa González-Contreras and Dr. Matthews also had the opportunity to spend a day at the Dispensario Madre Cabrini in the town of Bárcena, close to Guatemala City and roughly three hours from San Lucas Tolimán. There they were able to meet with Sister Juanita of the Missionary Sisters, along with the Administrator of the Dispensario, Claudia Aceituno, and several members of the staff. They also saw the tremendous work being done by the Missionary Sisters and lay staff with the residents of Bárcena and surrounding villages. The Dispensario operates a medical clinic, provides psychological services, vocational training and a variety of other services such as a school and workshops that particularly aim to educate and empower women.

In the hillside village of El Tablón, a women's center has been established, where roughly 1/3 of the women in the community regularly meet to learn about leadership and women's rights along with providing social support to each other. Compared to San Lucas Tolimán, these efforts are in the nascent stage of development but are already having a significant impact on the lives of those in a community where most children are not able to go beyond a grade school education and many of them are married in their early teens.

Social change is slow and often frustrating, but the work done by the Missionary Sisters in Bárcena and all of the participants in the San Lucas Tolimán Mission is directly improving the lives of countless Guatemalans and is a powerful reminder of the beauty and impact of what Mother Cabrini started over a century ago. We may not change the world, but lives can be transformed, as we saw happening to ourselves and to the people in these two missions we were privileged to visit.

~ submitted by Dr. Todd Matthews



Cabrini University junior Angelina Capozzi shares a warm hug with one of the youngsters at the Women's Center.

Heart&Soul

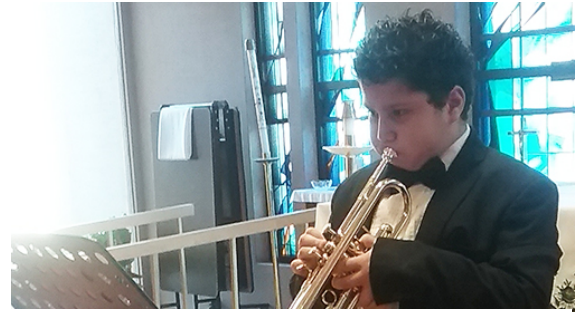
A new program, “Heart and Soul,” has been developed with the Pastoral Care Department at St. Cabrini Nursing Home and Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY. Heart and Soul was developed by Fr. Edwin Robinson, Director of Pastoral Care, Deborah Mosley, Trained Storyteller, Alex Riddick, Pastoral Care Associate and Lorraine Campanelli, Director of CIS.

The program is about bringing the goodness of God to others through scripture, song, storytelling, etc. We all know that when you do something from your **heart**, it touches the **souls** of others. The program started in February. Through the use of storytelling and song, we learned about the history behind certain songs. For example, the song, “It is Well With My Soul,” was written by Horatio Spafford. After suffering the loss of his daughters, he wrote this song about how he found Jesus despite all the sadness that he had experienced. Through storytelling, Deborah told the story of why Horatio wrote the words. Alex then led the group in singing the song. It was very moving and emotional.

In February, two of our Cabrini Kids and their Mom sang spiritual songs and played instruments. Truly they gave from their hearts and everyone’s souls were touched. The children played the trumpet and the piano, sang solos and sang with their Mom. The family, which is from Guatemala, sang the songs in Spanish. The words were translated into English. Many of the residents are mothers, fathers, retired teachers and principals so seeing the children, one who is in 4th grade and one in 5th grade, brought back so many happy memories. There were many tears of joy shared that day. The program ended with everyone singing, “This Little Light of Mine.” It was sung in English and Spanish. It was so joyful with all the voices singing as well as the different instruments being played. The children and many in the audience played the tambourine which added even more joy to the program.

Next month, we will be having Pastor William Mosley, his wife Deborah, along with the team from Cabrini sharing scripture, reflections and music.

*~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director,
CIS, Dobbs Ferry, NY*



These youngsters, originally from Guatemala, shared their musical talent as an integral part of the Heart and Soul program at St Cabrini Nursing Home.



In response to the often asked question 'What do Cabrini Lay Missionaries do?', during the remaining weeks of Lent the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs) of Guadalupe Province will share experiences from their lives and work as disciples of Jesus in the charism of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.



Patricia Stancato is a Cabrini Lay Missionary who resides in Southern California. Pat has been associated with the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for many years and expresses her Cabrini charism through her profession as a social worker who is employed in finding shelter for the homeless, as well as through her various outreach ministries to those experiencing poverty. She is a musician who has performed internationally with Christ in You the Hope of Glory Ministry and also is televised to reach Christians in the Middle East.

Christmas Miracles at Window Rock

~ A Reflection by Patricia Stancato, CLM

On December 8, 2018, I traveled with our ministry from California to Window Rock, Arizona, capital of Navajo Nation. We had been invited by the Associate Pastors of Window Rock Christian Center to perform a Christmas drama and minister to the congregation. There our organization, *Christ in You the Hope of Glory International Ministry*, would present a Christmas Drama and a healing service. Upon arrival those attending were greeted in English and Navajo and dinner was served before the play began.

The musical drama, "*The Gift Goes On*", reflects the true meaning of Christmas and the cast included both visitors and Navajo performers. I was privileged to portray The Virgin Mary as well as to help arrange the music. The gentleman who portrayed Jesus in the production does so annually in the Ministry's Passion drama on Good Friday in Jerusalem.



Patricia Stancato as Mary

The story is that of a modern family in Window Rock whose members were unhappy with their Christmas gifts. The drama continues with the family members being touched by Jesus, and ends as they came to learn that He is the True Gift of Christmas. At the conclusion of the drama, the actor who portrayed Joseph, gave a powerful testimony about his life and how the Lord healed him while he was in prison and set him free from his addiction to heroin at almost thirty years of age. His words were a powerful testimony to all present of how the Lord can give lasting freedom from bondage.



A young man wears one of the jackets that were given as gifts.

A healing service conducted by Dr. Joanne Petronella, the founder of the Ministry, followed the play during which those in attendance opened their hearts and minds in faith to the healing power of Jesus that is found in the Gospels, and experienced it at work in their own lives.

We had brought jackets and blankets for those in need and they were made available for the people to come and take them as needed following the Healing Service. While we had worried that there would not be a sufficient number for the more that 250 people in attendance, somehow everyone received what he and she needed and were happy to take them home to their families. As the evening drew to a close we reflected on the graces and blessings of the evening and on how fortunate we are that we have the gift of Jesus in our lives.

Not to be served, but to serve”

Catholic Leadership Beyond the Crisis

Panel 1:

A Crisis of Leadership and Faith - Challenges and Possibilities

On Monday, March 11th, the Wolfington Center at Cabrini University hosted a discussion with three leaders who brought their own experience and expertise to offer insight into the reality behind the headlines, and how Catholic clergy, lay people, and leaders are responding to the problems posed by abuse and oversight problems in the Church.



From left: Mary Pugh, Esq., Executive Director of the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project; Fr. Gus Puleo, Ph.D., Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, Norristown, PA, and Kevin Ahern, Ph.D., Catholic theologian in the ethics of church movements and structures and assistant professor of religious studies at Manhattan College were part of the panel moderated by Dr. Ray Ward, Interim Director of the Wolfington Center. A second panel discussion, scheduled for Monday, April 1st will focus on "Catholic Leadership for the Future" – Models and Opportunities.

From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

In January 2019, the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) launched a survey of all religious orders in the U.S. to ask superiors and newer members about their experiences with new people entering their communities.

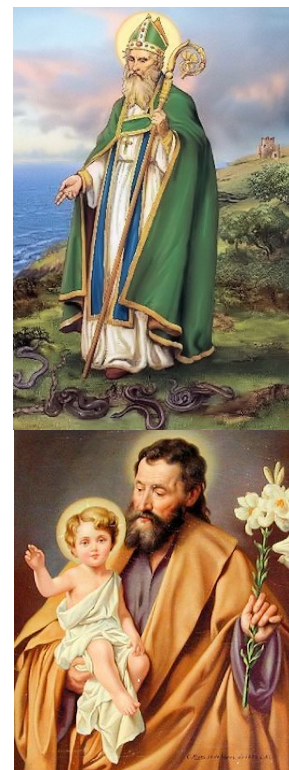
This study, being conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), will provide religious institutes in the U.S. with updated, fresh data on trends in new membership. NRVC released the first major U.S. research on these topics in 2009. It hopes that the information it gathers this year will help religious institutes to better understand and plan for the current realities.

Find further details at: nrv.net

The Great Saints of March

St. Patrick

On **March 17** the Church honors St. Patrick, who in the fifth century came to Ireland as a missionary and converted all the country over a span of thirty-three years. He changed Ireland forever. Not only did St. Patrick convert Ireland, his influence was universal. With his work, religious orders and monasteries were established and spread. He lived the Gospel and loved Christ above all things. And that is what makes his life exemplary. In the eyes of the Church his sanctity isn't about the marvelous accomplishments of his life, but the actual living his Catholic faith. He was saintly.



St. Joseph

March 19 marks the Solemnity of St. Joseph. St. Joseph was the foster-father of Jesus and the husband of Mary. He had such a privileged position to be in such intimate company of the Son of God and Mother of God. But he also had such a great responsibility to care for his wife and foster-son. There is not one recorded word of St. Joseph. We know so little about him, and yet his silence, his obedience, his tender care speaks volumes of his sanctity.

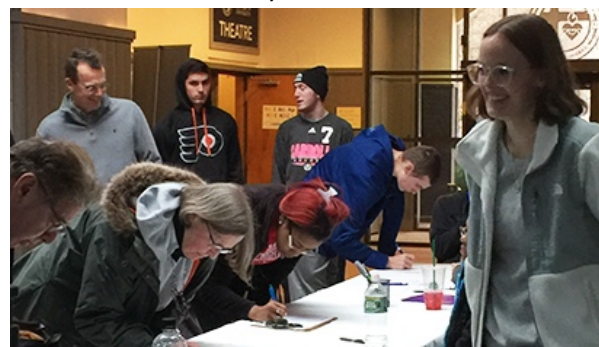


The MSCs have a Corporate Stance to stop the trafficking of women and children. Sr. Grace Waters, MSC (I.) and Karol Brewer, Chair of the Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition, welcome guests to the documentary.

Last evening, Cabrini University, in collaboration with the Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition (CAAC), hosted a premier film debut which places an intensive focus on sex trafficking in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members “walked the red carpet” to attend this special screening.

From Liberty to Captivity, explores the tragic reality of sex trafficking through the stories of victim survivors and abolitionists fighting to end this crime against humanity. Woven into the film is a message of justice and hope for the future. Reflecting on the powerful effect of the abolitionists in the 19th century, this film documents one state's fight for freedom from slavery.

With its proverbial lens, *From Liberty To Captivity* zooms-in on Pennsylvania's booming and profitable sex trafficking industry, which is threatening to destroy the principle of “liberty and justice for all”. This feature-length film reveals the reality and complexities of sex trafficking crimes and this social justice issue and present the very real hope of conquering it.



Guests arrive for the screening of the documentary.

Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC celebrating their 20th Anniversary

“Cabrini to me is a place
of HOPE. It is a place of
hope for those who desire
to contribute to society,
who observe & respect the
law of this country, those
who have dreams &
desires to take care of
their family.”

THE GENUS FAMILY

Photo Credit: Diana Bejarano, Los Herederos, Inc.



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>

A Lenten Prayer and Message from Sr. Grace



We invite you to join Sr. Grace for another Lenten reflection and prayer.

Thank you to Sr. Grace, MSC candidate Bianca Huertas and CLM Melanie Paccillo for developing this week's reflection.

English

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1R0xyi9lwBh7TgOgyRhiMcBvY2HqezSRd>

Spanish

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_jvKLg-jVr-iJr0DOWt6bsBHJNPeYWt1



Prayer Requests

John Chu

Rosalind Yu asks that we kindly pray for John Chu, the brother of Cecilia Chu, who will have a stent operation in Hong Kong on March 21st. Please pray for a successful procedure.

Ardley Hanemann

Please keep Ardley Hanemann, former President of Cabrini High School, in your prayers. He is currently hospitalized. Please pray for his return to good health,

Kim McKeon

Cabrini (College) University alumna Jean Findlay '85 requests prayers for a friend's sister who was involved in a very serious accident in Colorado. Jean's friend's name is Pat Kaynaroglu and her sister who was injured is Kim McKeon. Please pray for healing for Kim and strength for Pat as she accompanies her sister through this stressful time.

In Loving Memory

Pamela Kramer Alvarez

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pamela Kramer Alvarez, who passed away on Thursday, March 7th. Pam was a dear friend of Karol Brewer in the Province Formation Office. Karol shares that Pam was one of the kindest, sweetest people you could ever meet. She is survived by her parents, her husband, three daughters and one granddaughter. Please keep this family in your prayers at this very sad time.

Update Publication Notice

Please note that due to scheduling in the Province Communications Office, The Update will not be published on March 21st and April 4th.