Sisters at UN Meeting on Women Emphasize Human Rights
~ by Chris Herlinger, Global Sisters Report

The 63rd session of the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women concluded its work late March 22 and affirmed U.N. support for social protections that help in global efforts to end gender discrimination. Among the recommendations adopted are investing in protections, such as education, that are not as robust for women and girls as they are for men and boys.

The U.N.'s principal commission "dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women" also adopted a recommendation that progress already made in "women's access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure" not be reversed by austerity measures or budget cuts from national or regional governments. The commission recommendations are not binding on U.N. member states but rather are seen as a road map or blueprint for them to follow.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, executive director of UN Women, the U.N. organization that organizes the two-week annual meeting, said the March 11-22 event has never been "more significant for the women and girls of the world. The commission's recommendations pave the way for governments to engage and invest differently; involving women in policy dialogue, and targeting initiatives that go to the heart of the largest barriers to the empowerment and voice of women and girls," she said, according to UN Women.

The 2019 event drew a record number of participants, UN Women said, with nearly 2,000 delegates and 86 ministers from U.N. member states and more than 5,000 representatives from "civil society": nongovernmental groups advocating for specific agenda items. Catholic sisters are among those in that category, and one of them, Sr. Winifred Doherty, U.N. representative of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, characterized the overall final document as "good," though not as strong in some areas as she would have liked.

The document contains language about "national safety nets," which Doherty told Global Sisters Report does not adequately approach what she and other advocates believe is necessary — that social protections be based on a commitment to universal human rights.

She also said a section in the document on domestic violence against women contained general language that did not explicitly address the role of "intimate partners" in such violence.

To read the full article: https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/equality/sisters-un-meeting-women-emphasize-human-rights-local-action-56001
March 26, 2019

Missioning Mass for Uganda

Dear Sisters and Sharers of the Cabrinian Charism,

One hundred and thirty years ago Mother Cabrini and six of our other sisters were joyously on their way to the United States on the first missionary trip in the Institute. A sending mass was offered in Codogno on March 19th, Feast of St. Joseph. On March 31st, the sisters rejoiced at seeing from their ship this new missionary land. The Osservatorio Romano reported the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart were crossing the ocean with the goal of cooperating with the evangelization of the poor immigrants. Mother Cabrini had sacrificed her own lifelong dream of going to China and instead through the ordinary circumstances of listening to the voices of those in authority, surrendered her will and embraced the new missionary call of responding the needs in the New World.

We, too, rejoice that as an Institute we are able in today’s world to respond to one of the most pressing needs of our time, the plight of involuntarily displaced persons, specifically South Sudanese refugees in Uganda.

Please unite your prayers and offer your sacrifice for this new Mission, and our sisters who will be part of the inaugural community, Sr. Albertina Ghisleri Goulart, Sr. Mercedes Aguilar Perez, Sr Addise Agago, Sr. Joseane Cabral Soares, and Ms. Natalie Grace Gibney.

The Missioning Mass will take place at Via Sicilia on April 6th and celebrated by His Excellency Sabino Ocan Odoki, Bishop of Arua, Uganda.

Thank you for your collaboration in making this mission possible. May this period of Lent continue to be a time of growth in our holiness and missionary identity.

United in the Heart of Jesus,

Sr. Barbara Staley, MSC

Sr. Barbara Staley, MSC General Superior
26 March 2019

Dear Sisters and Partners-in-Mission,

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new Generalate website ‘Cabrini World’ this Friday, March 29, 2019 at 2pm Rome time. The website, www.cabriniworld.org goes live on this date!

We specifically chose the 29th of March as the launch date because March 31st marks 130 years since St. Frances Xavier Cabrini landed from Italy in New York, NY, USA, on her first missionary journey. We think of the faith, courage and tenacity she and her companions had, and how Mother made use of the latest forms of technology to spread the gospel with fervor and rapidity in those times. After 130 years, her missionary spirit and zeal is alive in the Sisters and Lay Collaborators who continue to expand the work that began all those years ago.

We see this website as another way we can proclaim and carry out our charism, highlighting important issues and encouraging all to embrace the power and the love of Jesus. It is also a means to enhance our interconnectedness!

In the coming weeks, months, and years we will further develop the website and the Cabrini World social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Linked In); all of you are invited to provide input! Please send us updates, photographs and media that will contribute to our missionary presence in this new season of our lives.

United in prayer,

Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC General Councillor
Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY, has been involved with the Green Light NY Campaign for many years. The members of this campaign have been fighting to extend access to driver’s licenses to undocumented residents in the State of NY. Since September 2001, a person needs a social security number in order to get a driver’s license in the state. Unfortunately, this means that anyone who is undocumented in NY cannot get a license.

Susana Coxaj, a senior at Iona College in New Rochelle and a social work intern at CIS, went to Albany on March 12th to attend a rally to help get support for the Driver’s License Access and Privacy Act.

Susana took an [early morning] bus from Yonkers, NY which was filled with people who would be showing their support and sharing their voices in Albany. When she arrived in Albany, she was given a green tee-shirt and a bandana. She, along with the other members of the campaign, walked around the capitol building while chanting, “Yes, we can!”

The participants entered the capitol building where they met several senators such as Senator Luis Sepulveda, one of the sponsors of the driver’s license legislation, and Senator Alessandra Biaggi. Susana was thrilled to have been chosen to go to Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins Office. They were able to speak with the different lawmakers and explain why it is so important to pass this bill.

Susana stated that the organization was expecting 500 people to attend the day. But, to their surprise, there was over 1,000 people in attendance!

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

One Minute Meditation

On March 31, 1889, Mother Cabrini and her sister companions arrived in New York Harbor. Only a little is known about the six women who accompanied Mother Cabrini to the United States. Like their foundress, they must have been individuals alive with the love of God. Cabrini’s charismatic personality and her example of prayerfulness and charitable activity had certainly been an influence in bringing them to embrace religious life in the new missionary order, which was still very much in its founding days. All were relatively young northern Italians, ranging in age from 21 – 36. Their socio-economic status, determined by their education, ranged from peasantry to upper class. Hearts aflame with love, Mother Cabrini and her sister companions began their parish ministry to the poorest of the poor in humble surroundings. On the 130th anniversary of their arrival in New York, let us give thanks for their courage, compassion and love of the Sacred Heart.

~ Mother Cabrini: Italian Immigrant of the Century, by Sr. Mary Louise Sullivan, MSC, PhD.
From the two 18 year-old young women from East Africa who moved into Bethany House of Hospitality in October 2017, the population grew so that by the end of January 2018, we had welcomed nine young women. The good news was that a few of these women were able to move to extended family members in only a short time. The sad news was that we had a consistent stream of applicants being recommended by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. They were coming from local youth detention centers, but also from centers in Texas. There were no other programs that could offer them a home, especially for those with children.

By the end of 2018 there were over 40 initial requests for placement. Bethany was able to have housed 27 young women and 4 children. Currently, Bethany is over capacity with 12 young women and two children, and looking for a larger home near the city.

Bethany House offers these women housing and support services as they journey to independence. That includes [such support services as] referrals for ESL; GED and other education programs; guidance in independent living skills; coordination with immigration processes; counseling and health services; and other opportunities as they learn ways to care for their mind, body and spirit.

Though they look like any other teens their age, these young women have been through a level of harsh reality and trauma that not many adults will ever experience.

After every interaction, one young resident says, “Thank you…Thank you for believing in me. Thank you for encouraging me to know I can accomplish my dreams.”

~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN

Residents and members of the sponsoring religious congregations celebrate the first anniversary of Bethany House.

Want to learn more or help out? Please check the website at: 
http://bethanyhouseofhospitality.com

Bethany House residents have fun making caramel apples at the Sunrise Nature Center.

Weekly Update – Publication Notice

Due to scheduling in the Province Communications Office, The Update will not be published next week – Thursday, April 4th. The Update will resume publication on Thursday, April 11th. Kindly submit all news stories and notices no later than Wednesday, April 10th at noon. Thank you.
Pharmacy Waiver Program Provides Support for Asylum Seekers

The health needs of people seeking asylum are high and include issues such as chronic pain, non-communicable diseases, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Pharmacy Waiver Program will provide eligible clients with authorisation (a waiver) to have the costs associated with filling their prescription charged to Cabrini Outreach in Australia.

Recent changes to the Federal Government’s Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS) program have resulted in people seeking asylum gaining work rights but losing income support while they are awaiting the outcome of their claim for protection, leaving many without the ability to support themselves.

Cabrini Outreach General Manager Tom Roth said there was little point in general practitioners prescribing medication people seeking asylum could not afford.

“One of the first effects of having no income is the inability to fill pharmacy scripts. The ability to have scripts filled, free of charge, will ease this financial burden.

“Many people seeking asylum already have an established relationship with a culturally-appropriate general practitioner. The Pharmacy Waiver Program is designed to enable these clients to maintain that primary care relationship, which is imperative to maintaining their health and wellbeing.”

To learn more: www.cabrinioutreach.com.au

Honoring St. Joseph

On St. Joseph’s Day, March 19, 2019, Cabrini High School hosted the second annual St. Joseph’s Altar in the Sacred Heart Chapel on campus. The day began with a blessing of the altar and the Tupa Tupa ceremony in the morning performed by Fr. Jonathan Hemelt and members of the senior class. Students, alumnae, faculty and members of the Cabrini community flowed throughout the chapel the entire day admiring the beautiful display.

Many people helped to make the Cabrini St. Joseph’s Altar a success. Judy Kelley, mother of Miranda Kelley ’16, Cecilia Kelly ’19, and Veronica Kelley ’21, volunteered numerous hours as the St. Joseph Altar Chairperson. Every student contributed to the altar by making cookies during their Religion classes over the course of two months leading up to the altar. In addition, there were many parents, volunteers, and donors who helped make this special Sicilian tradition a success.

~ submitted by Katelyn Ehrhardt, CHS
In response to the often asked question ‘What do Cabrini Lay Missionaries do?, during the 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.

Victoria Lucio (Vicky) is a Cabrini Lay Missionary who resides outside of the city of Seattle in Snohomish, WA accompanied by her mother and daughter. Vicky has been associated with the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for many years, first in Baguio City in the Philippines where she met Sr. Veronica Piccone and Sr. Amada Liboro and others. With her training in education she worked with street children and their families, women inmates, and the very poor.

Fifteen years ago she came to the United States. She presently works as the Services Coordinator at Cabrini Senior Apartments in Seattle Washington, a low income housing ministry, where the tenants rely on her assistance and her genuine care for them. She expresses her Cabrinian charism through her professional work there, through her care for her family, and through her parish church involvement, especially in the choir.

The Power of a Smile

Out of the blue, a resident asked me, “How can you afford to smile?” I was caught by surprise and for a minute I don’t know how to respond. Grasping for a very quick answer, my immediate response was – “because it’s free!” with a big smile! After that conversation, it just hit me hard. It helped me reflect more about life. Her question continues to linger in my mind until now.

Given the opportunity to work with seniors is a great blessing because it is always an avenue for me to be in the “now”, yet I try my hardest to put myself into their situation at least for me to understand even a bit of what they have been and what they are now. I am humbled to experience and learn from their amazing and awesome life’s stories. It’s not only a learning experience but it also keeps me inspired and motivated.

Establishing a rapport with the lady who asked me that question was a long and slow process. I used to get no responses from her even with my simple greetings. She is just simply being distant in a way, and I totally understand, so, I just I continued to do what I do. Slowly the rapport continued to grow.

With this question, I realized now that a simple gesture of a smile is such a powerful energy that can affect people around us. Why the realization only now? Because I think I have taken smiles for granted for a very long time. I thought that smiling was just a daily part of life, no big deal. It comes so naturally, innately, and spontaneously that I usually miss its real beauty and its power. I also realized more that some people just can’t afford to smile because of various reasons that cause them not to. Whatever the reason may be, I am trying to help them in my own little ways so they can at least feel better.

Whenever I smile now, I feel more of its beauty and its energy shared both by the giver and the receiver and will continue to do it infectiously yet cautiously!

With this encounter, I came up with a short description of what smile is:

   to be Sensitive to one’s needs… do it in Moderation… In Love… full of Encouragement and enthusiasm….       SMILE

   ~ Vicky Lucio, CLM
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:
METROPOLITAN CLUB NEW YORK

ONE EAST SIXTIETH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

CABRINI MISSION FOUNDATION GALA

HONORING
REVEREND MONSIGNOR GREGORY MUSTACIUOLO
&
SISTER LUCILLE SOUZA, MSC
Cabrini of Westchester's Sharing in Mission

We would like to invite the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be our guests at this event. Please RSVP to Susan Herceg at (914) 693-6800 ext. 502 or sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org if you plan on attending.

The Wolfington Center at Cabrini University hosts

A Compelling Panel of Experts to discuss what they foresee as the future of Catholic Leadership.

Please join us.
To RSVP: mln49@cabrini.edu
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 collaborating on this week’s and next week’s reflections.

Third Week of Lent:

English: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1370tt7LQ05kMpJvB4Q2cN2v0CFKTyhhM
Spanish: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IyARXJAZi-xaccP7ocl

Fourth Week of Lent:

English: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1QXscOuVukwkJyJsvcvVwU-bOvICWBa
Spanish: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1KfLJVibGftYV2oIEkFREmmNAlg2qW_W

Prayer Requests

**Jovie Decoyna**
Kindly pray for Jovie Decoyna, who, last Saturday took her final GAMSET Exam (Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test. Please pray for a successful outcome for Jovie.

**Emmett**
A grandmother in New Orleans has asked us to pray for her grandson, Emmett, who has a rare liver disease. He is only 5 years old. Please keep this little boy and his family in your prayers.

**Gilda Santoro**
Please unite in prayer for Gilda Santoro, a family friend of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, who is in need of a kidney transplant. Pray that a viable kidney will soon become available for her.

In Loving Memory

**John George**
Kindly keep the family of John George in your prayers. Mr. George passed away suddenly last week in Florida. His family would be grateful for our prayers at this sad time.

**Maureen Heaton**
Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Maureen Heaton, 45 years of age, who died suddenly earlier this week. She is a family friend of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC. Please keep Maureen and her family in your thoughts and prayers.