



March 7, 2019

I Saw Christ on the Southern Border

~ by Bishop Gerald Kicanas for the National Catholic Reporter

Christ always surprises us. He revels in the unexpected. One never knows where you might find him. Christ said, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me." I marvel at the unanticipated epiphanies of Christ I have experienced along the southern border of the United States.

I met Christ in a small chapel in Altar, Sonora, Mexico, some years ago. I saw young, frightened men, mostly wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and clutching rosary beads. Like Christ kneeling in the garden, they sought the help of God, anxious and desperate, imagining what was ahead of them in their journey north. They sought to harm no one. The only desire that drove them was a better, more dignified life for themselves or their families.



Bishop Kicanas at the Border. Photo credit: CNS/Nancy Wiehczec

Along the border, Samaritans place water to assist migrants, with inadequate provisions, crossing the unforgiving Sonoran Desert. You cannot carry enough water to prevent dehydration from the unrelenting, blistering Arizona sun. The Samaritans' actions mirror those of Christ, who felt human pain and was moved with compassion at the sight of those harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Christ lives in our desert, his hands place the water to quench people's thirst.

Every day along the border in Ambos, Nogales, Jesuit Fr. Sean Carroll, and his [Kino Border Initiative](#) team serve food to migrants who have been deported into Mexico. The migrants sit at tables with some semblance of dignity and are served homemade meals. It reminds me of Christ multiplying food for the masses. The volunteers, often high school students, imitate the One who provided for the weary.

Sore, blistered feet of the migrants are washed and bandaged by members of the Kino team. Traversing the desert takes its toll. The trek ravishes one's feet. I often picture Christ taking off his garment and kneeling at the feet of his disciples, washing their feet.

We are told to see migrants and refugees as dangerous, intent on harm. But if one looks intently enough, you encounter Christ in the migrants and refugees who, like us, only want the best for their children and for themselves. If you look intently enough you will see in their faces the face of Christ. We are told to stay clear of migrants and refugees, close off our borders, but if one looks intently enough you will see Christ present in the here and now through the actions of people who see where love is needed and who respond.

To read the entire article: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/soul-seeing/i-saw-christ-southern-border>

Seeking UNITY in Diversity

How does one build a COMMUNITY of WELCOME? How do we share as ONE community when we are of so many diverse beliefs? These were the focused thoughts of several representatives from different faiths who shared their answers at the 4th Annual Interfaith Service for Immigration held at St. Viator Church in Chicago to culminate the celebration of National Migration Week.

Mother Cabrini once said, *“The more the fear of God animates the citizens of a country, the greater and the more respected will the nation be.”*

With the difficulties in our country in the minds of many, during the reception following, Cabrini Retreat Center Director Nancy Golen and Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, heard many of the participants expressing their concerns about this climate and how we as individuals can address this.

Inspired by all, speakers and participants alike, we trust that many present went forth and considered what small measure they could take to make a change. ~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN



National Catholic Sisters Week

March 8 - 14



MEET A **SISTER.**
BE **INSPIRED.**

National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW) is an annual celebration that takes place from March 8-14. Created to honor women religious, it is a series of events that instruct, enlighten and bring greater focus to the lives of these incredible women. It's our chance to recognize all they have done for us. It's also our hope that as more young women learn about women religious, more will choose to follow their example.

National Catholic Sisters Week, a branch of National Catholic Sisters Project headquartered at Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisc., is headquartered at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minn., and is held in conjunction with Women's History Month.

This would be the perfect time to contact a Missionary Sister who has impacted your life to thank her and to keep all the Missionary Sisters in prayer.

To learn more: <http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org/about.php>

National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini

Each year, the National Shrine of St. Frances Cabrini asks for your support in our outreach events during Advent and Lent. This year for Lent, we are choosing one of the Cabrini Ministries in Ethiopia.

Cabrini Ministries Ethiopia provides health, education, housing, food, and social services to hundreds of people in the Dubbo area which is approximately 6 hours south of Addis Ababa, the capitol of Ethiopia. This is a very rural area where families have limited access to food, running water and education.



Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC, Director of the National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini, located in Chicago, shares photos, and highlights the need for support of the Cabrini Missions in Ethiopia.

Cabrini Ministries provides food to the many impoverished families and is also funding their needs for medical treatment. The need for education is great and currently Cabrini Ministries is educating over 300 children. Unfortunately, many children are being turned away so our ministry is helping these children by paying for them to be educated at other schools.



The National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

The Mission also runs St. Mary's Hospital that delivers over 1000 babies a year and provides health services to the community. Recent funds allowed them to build a new kitchen so they can cook for patients as well as pay for medical care of sick patients that are poor.

Beginning next week, we will have a second collection for our missions in Ethiopia. We will have this collection every weekend during Lent. Family is not always about relatives but the people in your life who want you in theirs so as part of our family, help us to support Cabrini Ministries in Ethiopia.

If you are in the Chicago area, please check our announcement board in the narthex for details and pictures of our mission in Ethiopia. Thank you for your generosity!!!

~ submitted by Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC, Director, National Shrine

In 1985, Sr. Bernadette Casciano, MSC, was serving as the Campus Minister at Cabrini College. During her time there, she, in collaboration with Dr. Joseph Romano, began a program of Spring Break service trips for students. That practice continues to this day. The following is a Spring Break account from MSC Candidate Evalyn Ndunge who participated in a service trip to West Virginia last week.

Spring Break=Service



MSC Candidate Evalyn Ndunge (front, c.) is joined on a service trip to West Virginia with Cabrini student Mignon Toppino (behind Evalyn), Campus Minister Rose Altomare (top l.) and staff member Meg Harrison (top, c.) among others from the University.

Going to West Virginia with a group of nine (7 students and 2 faculty) [a trip] which was sponsored by the University's Campus Ministry, gave me a great opportunity to know, learn, experience and serve three different families. Working together as one team helped a lot, and it always brought such a joy to see our accomplishment of building one wheelchair ramp, two porches and fixing a ceiling.

All week was a life changing experience for me and for everyone who came along on the mission trip and those whom we served. It was one of the most formative [times] of my life. Our main purpose of being there was to improve the homes and lives of people in need.

The supervisor (Pastor Cab and his wife Bonita), Chalzzie and Piwi whom I believe belonged to the same Christian community were always helpful and worked their hardest to ensure that all of us performed our job well. Since some of the tools were heavy and difficult to work with, we give credit to them for teaching us how to handle, use and work with the tools.

Working on those three family homes and seeing the gratitude they gave us was so lovely and amazing. I not only learned a lot the whole process and structure of building ramps and porches, I gained a new form of gratitude as I have a new appreciation for all who made this mission trip successful.

I am especially grateful to God for the strength and chance of serving his people, to all the Sisters for the support and prayers, to the Campus Ministry for the opportunity.

~ with thanks to Evalyn Ndunge



The Cabrini University Spring Break Service Team stands proudly on the deck that they helped to construct.

Cabrini University is pleased to announce the
showing of



Human Trafficking Awareness Movie Event
Wednesday March 13, 2019 Movie starts at **6:00 pm**
Cabrini University Grace Hall Atrium

From Liberty to Captivity, is a documentary exploring the tragic reality of sex trafficking in Pennsylvania through the stories of victim survivors and abolitionists fighting to end this great crime against humanity. Woven into the film is a message of both 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" will zoom-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 will reveal the reality and complexities of sex trafficking crimes and this social justice issue and present the very real hope of conquering it. We will follow several individuals through their personal and professional experiences with trafficking. Our mission is to awaken people from all walks of life to the pervasive reality of sex trafficking in Pennsylvania and to plant seeds of hope, inspiring them to carry forth the legacy of the abolitionists who came before them, fighting for freedom and rewriting America's history.

The film, produced and directed by Debbie Wright, has received numerous awards, including Best Documentary by the Top Indie Film Awards Film Festival.

Free Event – Open to the Public

Click on link to register for event at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3f5x73w>

Proceeds go to the Cabrini Closet and local anti-trafficking partnerships.

We will be accepting donations of gift cards (Target, Walmart), underwear, feminine hygiene products, and travel sized bottles of shampoo and/ or soaps at this event.

Questions about event - cabriniformation@mothercabrini.org

We will record student attendance at this event.

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>

2019 Living Justice in the American Catholic Church Series
“Not to be served, but to serve”

Catholic Leadership Beyond the Crisis

Panel 1:

“A Crisis of Leadership and Faith” Challenges and Possibilities

Monday, March 11th
4:30pm, Mansion Dining Room
Reception to Follow

Panelists:

Mary Pugh, Esq, Montgomery Child Advocacy Project

Kevin Ahern, PhD, Manhattan College

Fr. Gus Puleo, St. Patrick’s Parish, Norristown

Please join us for a discussion with three leaders who will bring their own experience and expertise to help participants better understand 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.

This is the first of two panel discussions in our **LIVING JUSTICE in the American Catholic Church** lecture series. Sponsored by the [Wolfington Center](#) at Cabrini University, this spring’s theme is “Catholic Leadership Beyond the Crisis.” For more information please email Dr. Ray Ward, Interim Director of the Wolfington Center: rew68@cabrini.edu.

To RSVP please contact Megan Norris: mln49@cabrini.edu.

Save the date for our second panel!

“Catholic Leadership for the Future” – Models and Opportunities

Monday, April 1st

4:30 pm, Mansion Dining Room

Panelists:

Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ, Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Maureen O’Connell, PhD, LaSalle University

Tom Southard, JD, Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Matthew Davis, Diocese of Camden

Living Justice in the American Catholic Church is an annual spring series presented by the Wolfington Center at Cabrini University highlighting the efforts of Catholics to bring Christ's love to both the world and the Church through the work of justice.

Lenten Practices



During Lent, the Church offers us the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. By devoting more time to **prayer**, we enable our hearts to root out forms of self-deception and to find the consolation that God offers. **Almsgiving** sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of his children. **Fasting** weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.

~ Pope Francis

Forty Days: Forty Items

Cabrini University is offering a novel Lenten challenge. Each day of Lent, remove one item from your closets that you no longer need or wear and place it in a plastic bag. At the end of the forty days, donate those items to a worthy cause that will share them with others who can really use your items. This is a very practical form of almsgiving through which we are reminded daily of the needs of others as we journey through Lent.



One Minute Meditation - Give It to God

When I was little, when something didn't go my way, my mother would say, "Offer it up." I didn't understand the depth of this maternal wisdom until years later. In effect, she was saying, "Don't waste your time wallowing in self-pity. Let it go. Give it to God." To truly sacrifice something, anything, is to offer it up for something greater. The word *sacrifice* comes from the Latin meaning "to make holy." A holy life is one that regularly seeks out the greater by letting go of the smaller – viewpoint, situation, or past memory. To sacrifice means to let go of one's attachment to comfort and reach out to another person or improve a situation, thus viewing life from a different perspective. ~ Jim Clarke, *Soul-Centered*

Prayer Requests

Laura Austin

Prayers are requested for Laura Austin, a family member of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, who will be undergoing hand surgery on March 13th. Please pray for a successful outcome of her procedure.

Cyndi

A Cabrinian friend has asked for prayers for her daughter-in-law, Cyndi, who is suffering from depression. Cyndi has suffered multiple losses recently. Let us hold Cyndi in prayer.

Prayers for Medical Tests Outcome

We have been asked to pray for someone who will be undergoing medical tests on March 19th, the feast of St. Joseph. This person has been ill for some time and is hoping that the tests will show healing.

With a Grateful Heart

Ashley Block

Last week, prayers were requested for Ashley, a former CMC missionary, who was undergoing thyroid surgery. All went well with her surgery and she is now recuperating at home. She is grateful for all the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian Community.

