



May 2, 2019

## Two Generations: One Prophetic Call for Climate Justice

~ by Tomas Insua, National Catholic Reporter

Two climate superheroes, Pope Francis and Greta Thunberg, have just met for the first time in the Vatican. The April 17 meeting was something rare — an encounter between two prophets whose moral clarity will lead us out of the climate crisis.

As the Argentine pontiff and the Swedish activist shook hands, I was struck by the similarities they share above their obvious differences.

At 82-years-old, with a wreath of white hair and an often-delighted smile, Francis sees action on climate change as a way to protect vulnerable people, an essential part of his Christian vocation. At 16-years-old, with her hair in a braid, Greta sees action on climate change as a fight that is essential to her future, a fight for her very survival.

Francis recognizes that older generations have a responsibility to solve the challenges they've created. Greta recognizes that younger generations have an opportunity to solve the challenges they've inherited.

Catholic and secular, old and young, male and female — and yet, these two leaders are united in their unwavering commitment to action. As the United Nations climate body debates the placement of parentheses, true leadership like theirs is desperately needed.

The world is hungry for courage and commitment. Everywhere Greta walked, ordinary people took pictures by the hundreds. In the Vatican, guards asked for selfies with Greta. Nuns asked for selfies



Pope Francis greets 16 year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg during his April 17 general audience at the Vatican. (Photo credit: CNS/Reuters/Yara Nardi)

with Greta. Everyday people are drawn to Greta because she fulfills a need that grows sharper with every passing day: our need for honesty.

Greta recently told the European Parliament that "the house is on fire." Francis has written that "the earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth."

These leaders respect us enough to admit that climate change is real. They know that storms are becoming stronger, that mosquito-borne disease is spreading, that deserts are growing. They know that these changes mean more sickness, more hunger, more conflict.

But they also know that we have the capacity for change. They know that in the past, we have banded together to achieve something greater than ourselves. They know we can solve this.



On May 24, we will have another chance to choose what is good. May 24 is the date of the next in the global climate strikes that were started by Greta. It also happens to be the anniversary of "*Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home," Francis' encyclical on climate change. All people — and especially all Catholics — should seize this opportunity to stand up for the greater good.

The massive strikes have shown the power of unity in hope. In March, 1.4 million people participated in over 2,000 cities. Young Catholics were part of the mobilization, taking part under the banner of the Laudato Si' Generation.

This is only the beginning. Strength is gathering in all corners of the world, and we stand poised to truly protect this Earth, our common home, which belongs to us all.

Business as usual is over. We have 12 years to bend the arc of emissions downward. Imagine the age you will be in 12 years, the age your children will be. This is how much time we have left.

---

*~ Tomas Insua is the Executive Director of the Global Catholic Climate Movement*

---



## It's almost here! 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](mailto:sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org) if you plan on attending.

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

Since April 2019, Catholic Charities of Laredo has provided humanitarian care for migrants at San Francisco Javier Church and Catholic Charities' La Frontera Shelter. "We never imagined this place would be so wonderful," Eduardo said as he balanced his daughter, Kiara, on his knee. "The attention Catholic Charities gave us was beautiful," continued his wife, Karen.

Eduardo left the Catholic Church years ago, and Karen's faith was running on empty when they arrived in the United States as migrants from Honduras, but recalling their journey was nothing short of complicated. "One suffers," Eduardo said, "but out of a moment of suffering, many blessings came."

In Honduras, Eduardo was an experienced truck driver. During one fateful trip, his truck was stolen. Going against the criminals' demands, he filed a police report. The criminals found him at home, threatening him with violence. Eduardo and Karen decided to sell everything and choose to flee the life they knew.

By the time they reached Guatemala, Kiara had caught the stomach flu which tempted them to return. Borrowing a phone, Eduardo spoke with their neighbors only to learn that hours after they fled, their former home was attacked in a drive-by shooting. "That's when we knew we couldn't go back," Eduardo said.



Karen, Eduardo and baby Kiara.

They eventually made it to Eagle Pass, but for eleven days, the family was separated by ICE and Border Patrol. Once reunited, they were transported to Laredo where they were faced with one uncertainty – how to pay for bus tickets to their final destination, Los Angeles. Much to Eduardo's surprise, an anonymous donor from San Vicente de Paul Church offered to purchase the bus tickets. The donor left them with one request. He told Eduardo, "Once you are working and someone comes to you for help if you are able, help. Never stop serving others."

Karen approached a Catholic Charities volunteer, whom they called Thelmita, and asked if they could present their daughter to receive a blessing during Sunday Mass which led to a discussion about baptism. Karen and Eduardo were in favor. With the guidance of the pastor of San Francisco Javier, everyone got to work to prepare for Sunday and volunteers from Catholic Charities were chosen to be Godparents.

"It was a beautiful moment! I got goosebumps from head to toe. Thelmita was on the verge of tears! It was a miracle the way the Lord knew that on that day there would be a baptism," Karen said as her husband began wiping tears from his cheeks.

Although they faced immense hardships as migrants, the true experience proved to be a journey of the soul. ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

Read the entire, longer story at [\*\*La Fe\*\*](#), The Magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Laredo.



# Lifting Up Westchester, One Sock



at a Time



Many hands make light work and at Cabrini Immigrant Services everyone pitches in to fill the socks.

socks. A great big thank you to Tom Costello, Jr., the founder of The Joy of Sox in Radnor, PA, for their donation of 100 pairs of socks!

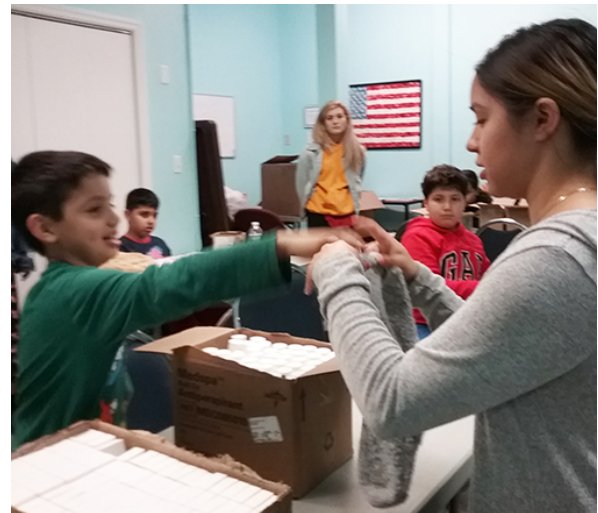
When the socks were filled with shampoo, soap, deodorant, a comb, toothbrush and toothpaste, body lotion, hand sanitizer, tissues, a razor and shaving cream, they were tied together and a note of encouragement, written by one of our Kids, was attached. The Cabrini Kids were so happy to be able to reach out and touch the lives of so many people.

*~submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS*

Many years ago, AT&T urged people to ‘reach out and touch someone.’ The Cabrini Kids, in grades 3-5, from Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY did exactly that. They reached out and touched the lives of 100 people. Thanks to a grant from St. Faith’s House Foundation, our Kids were able to do another ‘Giving Back’ program.

Thanks to two of our social work interns, Susana Coxaj from Iona College and Cindy Ambrosio from Concordia College, CIS was introduced to Lifting Up Westchester which is based in White Plains, NY. This organization has two homeless shelters, one for women and one for men.

The interns organized the program. They ordered the necessary toiletries which were placed inside of a pair of



Cabrini Immigrant Services intern Susana Coxaj holds a sock for one of the Cabrini Kids to fill with toiletries and other essentials.

## *“Alleluia, Alleluia, Let the Holy Anthem Rise!...”*



Celebrating the reception of Cabrini sophomore Melissa Bratun (c.) into the Catholic faith are “her team” from left: Cabrini staff member Meg Harrison, Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, Rosa Altomare, Anne Schwelm, and Fr. Carl Janicki.

The joy of this Easter season was evident to all at Mass in the St. Joseph Bruckmann Memorial Chapel at Cabrini University on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. At the celebration of the Mass at 7:00 PM two special people entered into the fullness of the Catholic faith by making their profession of faith and receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. They were Dr. Donald Taylor, President of Cabrini University, and Melissa Bratun, a Cabrini sophomore.

A large group of family and friends and students gathered to share in the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rev. Carl Janicki, Cabrini University’s chaplain. Joyful hymns rang out throughout the liturgy and faces were aglow with expressions of happiness as we participated in this very special act of worship.



Melissa’s preparation for the Rite of Christian Initiation was effected by means of a team approach. [Cabrini University staff] Rosa Altomare, Campus Minister; Meg Harrison, Enrollment Management; Anne Schwelm, Library Director; and Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, Campus Ministry Associate, met

individually with Melissa throughout the course of the academic year to prepare her for this next step in her Catholic journey. Fr. Carl did the same by meeting with Dr. Taylor and completing the preparation that had been started by several monks at Benedictine University. Melissa’s uncle, Joe Bratun, served as her sponsor and John Schanz, former Chair of Cabrini University’s Board of Trustees sponsored Dr. Taylor.



Dr. Donald Taylor, President of Cabrini University, (2<sup>nd</sup> r.) was received into the Church having been sponsored by John Schanz, the former Chair of the University’s Board of Trustees. Lechia Taylor (2<sup>nd</sup> l.) and Liz Schanz (r.) joined in the liturgical celebration.

Let us all pray that Melissa and Don’s faith will increase, and that they will experience an ever growing intimacy with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. ~ submitted by Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC



## *From the Province Vocations Promotion Team...*

The Delaware Valley Member Area of the National Religious Vocations Conference (NRVC) held their most recent meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Holy Redeemer Sisters in Meadowbrook, PA. The agenda included a review of the year's vocation events and activities undertaken by the member area. Included in the meeting was a sharing of new vocation initiatives started by the various congregations.

**A recurring theme throughout each of the member congregations was the need to energize their members regarding vocations. The religious sisters, brothers and order priests vocation directors who were present expressed the need for ALL their community**

**members to join with them in reaching out to others and inviting them to discern God's call in their lives and to extend an invitation to consider religious life as a path. Many of the congregations are asking each of their local communities to plan an event: going to a concert or a movie; hosting a cookout; attending a museum; seeing a play – whatever it might be, and inviting young people to join them in that activity as way of getting better acquainted. Many of the congregations sponsor high schools and/or colleges. The vocation directors encouraged their community members to reach out to these young people so that they might have an opportunity to better know those in religious life.**



Gathering at the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer, the Delaware Valley Member Area of the NRVC met to review this year's vocation activity and to outline next year's schedule of intercongregational vocation events.



Sr. Celeste Mokrzycki, SSJ (c.) was thanked and blessed as she takes her leave as co-coordinator of the NRCV Delaware Valley Member Area. Sr. Mary Anne Tracey, SC (l.) has been serving with Sr. Celeste and now welcomes Sr. Marianne Lallone, IHM (r.) to the co-coordinator role.

At this meeting, the Delaware Valley Member Area bid a fond farewell to Sr. Celeste Mokrzycki, SSJ, who has served as the co-coordinator of the member area for the past three years. Sr. Celeste is moving on to another ministry for the Sisters of St. Joseph, Chestnut Hill, PA. An uplifting prayer service and blessing was held to thank Celeste for her creative and enthusiastic leadership during this years. Sr. Celeste has collaborated with Sr. Mary Anne Tracey, SC as her co-coordinator. Going forward, Sr. Marianne Lallone, IHM, will serve as the co-coordinator with Sr. Mary Anne. We now have Mary Anne/Marianne leadership x 2!



Please join us for the 18th Annual  
Mother Cabrini Shrine

# Gala

*Friday, June 21*

Pinnacle Club at the Grand Hyatt  
555 17th Street Denver, CO

Cocktails and Silent Auction 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner, Awards & Live Auction 7:30 p.m.

*Mistress of Ceremonies: Kyle Dyer*  
*Auctioneer: Reggie Rivers*

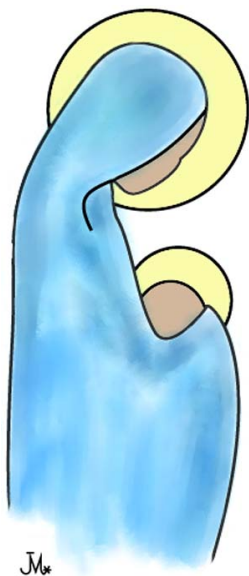
Summer/Business Casual Attire

***To Purchase Tickets or Sponsor Tables***

[Click here.](#)

***To see Gala Invitation and Event Information***

[Click here.](#)



## May, the Month of Our Lady

### A Marian Prayer

~ Mother Cabrini, *Journal of a Trusting Heart*, July 1901

Mary, Mother of Grace, we place ourselves under your protection. We pray, trusting your intercession, for the Church, for our Institute, for youth, immigrants, the sick and all the world redeemed by Christ. Teach us to imitate your virtues, particularly your unlimited confidence in the Heart of Jesus.

Gentle woman, loving Mother, guide us, enlighten us, act in us always.

## Prayer Requests

### ***Brother of Fr. Kevin DiPrinzio, OSA***

Fr. Kevin would appreciate prayers for the return to health for his brother who has had a recurrence of cancer. Pray that with treatment he will be healed.

### ***Cabrini (College) University graduate***

Please continue your prayers for a graduate of Cabrini College who is struggling with an illness at this time.

### ***Joe***

A friend's brother-in-law, Joe, has cancer that has metastasized throughout his body. The family would appreciate the prayers of many. Please unite in prayer on Joe's behalf.

## In Loving Memory

### ***Patrick Brennan***

Sr. Lisa Valentini, MSC [Reading, PA] asks our prayers for the repose of her cousin Patrick who passed away suddenly on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for his wife and three children who are shocked and grieving at this time.

### ***Sr. Riccarda Pagani, MSC***

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Riccarda Pagani, MSC, 100 years old, of the Sacred Heart Community in Codogno who returned to the Lord on April 27, 2019. May she rest in God's eternal light.