



May 9, 2019

Superiors General Call for Broader Environmental Action and Clear Stance on Church Abuse

~by Joyce Meyer and Gail DeGeorge, Global Sisters Report

Catholic sisters have a unique opportunity and responsibility to lead efforts to curb climate change and environmental degradation as individuals, communities and a network of congregations worldwide, Franciscan Sr. Sheila Kinsey told 850 superiors general of women religious congregations gathered May 7 in Rome during the second day of the International Union of Superiors Generals' (UISG) plenary assembly. The gathered leaders were from 80 countries representing 450,000 women religious around the world.

Kinsey outlined steps taken since June 2018 when UISG launched the campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet to share environmental practices many communities have adopted for decades and efforts of women religious who are putting Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* into practice.

Sisters live and minister both in countries where lifestyle contributes to the rise in temperatures and in regions where climate change has the strongest effects. "Our communities are both intimate with the cause and effect," Sr. Kinsey said. "With our personal commitment to one another, we are ideally positioned to respond compassionately in an integrated effort."

Abuse and challenges

In light of the ongoing abuse scandal within the Church, the executive board of UISG issued a statement condemning any abuse of power and the "necessity to form the members of our congregations so that relationships at every level are healthy, respectful and mutual," said Sr. Carmen Sammut, the outgoing UISG president.

Sr. Teresa Maya, former president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and a Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word spoke of the current challenges in the Church. "Among all the different crises we are called to live and hope in, the one that must be named...is the crisis in our church. History will judge how we responded to this crisis. One day, women religious will be either accomplices or prophets or victims. We simply cannot sit this one out on the sidelines, even when we are being sidelined." She explored how women religious can be "women of vision, seers of hope."



850 Superiors General gathered in Rome this week.

She said that when she heard Sr. Veronica Openibo, leader of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, address the [recent] Vatican summit on abuse, she was filled with hope.

“We all stood with her as she witnessed for women the world over,” she said. She continued, “Our feminist legacy has a word of integrity to offer. Religious sisters should all be feminists, Christian feminists, who are committed to struggle and resist to ensure that women and men and children are all treated as human beings.” ~ *Global Sisters Report*

To read the complete article: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/trends-environment/uisg-leaders-call-broader-environmental-action-clear-stance-church-abuse>

New Rules on Abuse Mark Major Step Forward

~ by Michael Sean Winter, *National Catholic Reporter*

It is quite remarkable that less than three months after the conclusion of the Vatican summit on clergy sex abuse in February, Pope Francis’ new *motu proprio**, *Vos estis lux mundi*, established new laws for the universal church regarding both the scourge of abuse and the equally abhorrent covering up of such abuse.



The first such concrete measure was the March *motu proprio* that made the reporting of abuse mandatory for all who work in the Vatican itself. Those standards are now extended to the universal church.

The first section of the document requires every diocese to establish protocols for reporting clergy sex abuse where they do not exist and the protocols must be “public, accessible and reliable”. In addition, abuse of “vulnerable persons” is now to be treated with the same procedures as child abuse, as are cases of abuse of power, for example when a seminarian is violated, as abuse of a minor. If you are ordained, or belong to a religious order, you are now a mandatory reporter of abuse. You can’t ignore it.

Francis has also indicated to the entire church, from the local bishops to the Vatican dicasteries, that they cannot tarry in dealing with allegations. Timelines are set for all involved. Allegations go to the front of the line in the work of a dicastery, as it should be. Such timelines are unheard of in Vatican culture and represent Francis’ commitment to really changing the culture of the Church.

Another part of the document deals with the need to protect those who level an allegation of abuse or cover-up. They are protected from retaliation or discrimination and the text explicitly states that they cannot be prevented from speaking to their friends and family or to the public, provided they do not engage in calumny.

Even more significant is the second section of the document which considers allegations against bishops and religious superiors. **The cover-up of abuse is treated with the same degree of seriousness and in the same way as the abuse itself.** That is how you change the hierarchic culture that perpetuated this scandal. It must be reported just as sex abuse must be reported.

Any attempt to interfere with an investigation - any obstruction of justice – is considered as a violation of the *motu proprio*. * an edict issued by the Pope personally to the Roman Catholic Church or to a part of it.

To read the complete article: <https://www.ncronline.org/print/news/accountability/distinctly-catholic/new-rules-abuse-mark-major-step-forward>

Loyola Academy Immigration Panel/Discussion



Students at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, IL, willingly gave up their lunch hour to share in a panel/discussion on experiences in immigration. Students and faculty shared experiences from their perspectives: as an immigrant, as a child of immigrants, as staff assisting in education and assistance of the students on this issue.

Loyola Academy has long been a client at Cabrini Retreat Center in Des Plaines, IL, coming a few times during the year for retreats. They asked Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN to come to the event to share her experience in the different aspects in which she works with immigrants and immigration concerns.

Sr. Cathy was very impressed with the openness with which both staff and students are willing to share their experiences, and in their acceptance of all involved on all sides of this issue.



Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, of the Cabrini Retreat Center (l.) and Lyle Baier (2nd l.). Campus Minister at Loyola, along with students and staff sharing their experiences in the panel discussion.

Lyle Baier, one of the campus ministers, will be taking a group of students to the southern border early this summer to help students better understand the plight of immigrants coming across our borders at this time. ~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, Cabrini Retreat Center



Hanging Out with T Rex!

Despite the threat of heavy rain and winds, our Cabrini Kids from Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY, some parents and teachers from Springhurst Elementary School also in Dobbs Ferry, boarded a school bus to go to the American Museum of Natural History in NYC. Thanks to a grant from the St. Faith's House Foundation, we were able to enjoy a wonderful day at the



museum.

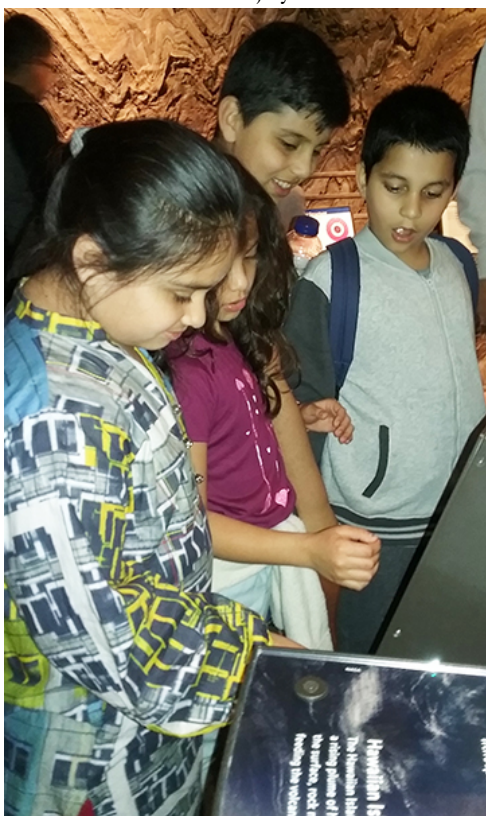
Dinosaurs hold a fascination for all of us. These Cabrini Kids are having a face to face encounter with this prehistoric creature.

In addition to the many exhibits about mammals from the different countries, and the Sauriscian Dinosaurs exhibit, we went to two special exhibits, T. rex: The Ultimate Predator, and Unseen Oceans.

When we entered the T. rex exhibit, we saw a model of a baby T. rex. As we walked through, we saw how the T. rex grew and grew. Everyone was standing in awe as we looked at the different models of the T. rex. We could only imagine what it was like when they walked the earth.

The Unseen Oceans exhibit was also spectacular. As we entered the hall, water was projected on the floor and it seemed as if we were wading through the ocean. This led us to a theater presentation that took us on a journey through the different environments beneath the sea. There were also many 'hands-on' activities for the Kids to do.

It was a wonderful experience for all. Despite being exhausted, no one wanted to leave the museum. Mother Cabrini was certainly looking down on us because the weather that was predicted, never happened. We never had a drop of rain.



The Cabrini Kids enjoy the wonderful interactive displays at the museum.

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

Did You Know?

Most weekdays on the www.mothercabrini.org homepage an inspirational thought or quotation is posted for your reflection.

Be a frequent visitor!

From the Province Vocations Promotion Team..

In the most recent edition of HORIZON, the journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference, there is an article written by Sr. Diane Roche, RSCJ about WELCOMING COMMUNITIES. On behalf of the Guadalupe Province Vocation Promotion Team, we would like to share excerpts about this innovative, invitational concept.

Welcoming Communities are a concept whose time has come (again). Religious communities that reach out to young adults are hardly new. Particularly in the 1970s and 80s many religious congregations had vibrant communities made up of religious sisters and young lay women who shared a passion for some aspect of social justice and an interest in community living. While not the norm, these experiences did lead some young women to enter religious life.

Over the past 20 years these “mixed” communities have tended to disappear along with ministries in poor neighborhoods which were often a key part of them. Sisters are fewer in number and generally older. While the spirit is still willing, it is just not possible to continue doing many of the strenuous, interesting ministries that drew young people decades ago.

Interest in prayer, meals and conversations leads to houses



Recently, however, there seems to be a resurgence of interest among young adults in coming together with sisters to share a meal, conversation and prayer. Some of these young people actually share a house with sisters while others simply join the religious for regularly scheduled events such as watching a documentary about a social justice issue and having a discussion to explore the issue through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. Sometimes, this leads to participation in a march, lobbying or some other effort to effect social change.

In the case of the Society of the Sacred Heart, the first of these new “welcoming communities” began in New Orleans in 2007 as a response to the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. The initial vision was that high school and university students would spend a week living with three sisters in a former rectory provided by the Archdiocese and they would go out every day to help rebuild houses. Every morning and evening the students and their teachers would gather with the sisters to reflect prayerfully on their experiences.

Ways these new communities differ from earlier ones

Unlike the radically demanding open communities of the past, these new initiatives often build on the interests of one or two active (but older) sisters. These communities are inviting young adults to join in an activity that the sisters would be doing anyway, like attending a lecture, going for a walk in a public garden, or watching a movie or documentary. The young people who show up are looking for wisdom and spiritual depth from our community members. It helps if sisters in these welcoming communities enjoy sharing food and conversation with young people. It is worth noting that the young adults are often quite happy to do the actual cooking.

Sometimes it happens that a young person is exploring the idea of a religious vocation. For the majority of young adults, connecting with a welcoming community can help them be better human beings regardless of their life choice. ~ HORIZON, *The Journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference*



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.](#)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday, May 12th

The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest." (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2) As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention on this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), to the Religious life in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to societies of apostolic life, to secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership and to the missionary life, in the particular sense of mission "ad gentes".

2019 marks the 56th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

To learn more:

<https://nrvc.net/292/publication/9454/article/15674-2019-world-day-of-prayer-for-vocations-may-12>

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/world-day-of-prayer-for-vocations.cfm>



Prayer Requests

Richie DiPrinzio

Please continue your prayers for Richie DiPrinzio, brother of Kevin DiPrinzio, OSA, who has experienced a recurrence of cancer. Pray that new therapies will bring his cancer into remission. Fr. Kevin and his family are so grateful for your prayers.

Maria Magdalena Gomes and Augusta Silva

Please pray for Augusta Silva and Maria Magdalena Gomes, who are having health problems. They are the sisters of Sr. Alfonsina Gomes, MSC.

Prayer requests from Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC:

Charles

Kindly pray for Charles who is an inmate in Illinois and has been a friend of Sr. Renee's for over 35 years. He is facing life-threatening surgery next week.

Lynn

Your prayers are requested for Lynn who has been a member of the Cabrini High School Dads Club and is facing major surgery on May 10.

Susan

Please unite in prayer for a friend of Sr. Renee's who is facing chemotherapy after her major surgery. Sr. Renee thanks everyone for their prayers.

Victims of the Colorado school shootings

Once again, we unite in prayer over the senseless violence that befalls our nation's schools. We pray for the STEM School Highlands Ranch community. We pray for those who have been injured. We pray for the police and first responders whose bravery and quick actions averted further harm. We pray for the parents who in their own shock must comfort and reassure their children. We pray that our lawmakers will have the courage to adopt sensible gun control legislation.

In Loving Memory

Janice Calamia

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Janice Calamia, alumna of Cabrini High School in New Orleans, who went to her eternal rest on May 4, 2019.

Kendrick Ray Castillo

We pray for the 18 year-old student who was killed in the Colorado school shooting. In an act of bravery he rushed the shooter thus allowing other students to escape. We laud his heroism and pray for his family as they grieve his tragic passing.

