



June 6, 2019

## Almost 5,000 Immigrants to USA Annually are Clergy or Religious

~ by Mark Pattison, Catholic News Service

Much has been written, and for many years, about immigration and its various policy and practical aspects.



The Lovers of the Holy Cross of Los Angeles Community at Our Lady of Mercy Community in Anaheim, CA. (Photo credit: Peter Tran)

But what about that "weekend associate" at your parish? Or that group of nuns who reopened the old convent? They, too, may be immigrants.

There are close to 5,000 people from all denominations hailing from other countries who come to the United States each year as "religious workers." Among Catholics, they are usually clergy, sisters and brothers, but there are lay missionaries, some of them married and with families. U.S. immigration law makes provisions for them to carry out their ministry through the R-1 visa.

The [Catholic Legal Immigration Network](#) (CLINIC) has a hand in about 800 cases each year, according to Miguel Naranjo, director of CLINIC's Religious Immigration Services. It

was one of CLINIC's first programs, established more than 30 years ago, and the numbers suggest it remains a valued initiative. "We certainly have a very busy practice," Naranjo told Catholic News Service.

CLINIC works with nearly half of U.S. dioceses in doing the visa work for religious workers. The remainder, according to Naranjo, either are connected with attorneys who can guide the process for immigrant clergy and religious, or work through a local Catholic Charities affiliate or similar agency on sponsorship issues. "We work more with religious orders. There is a large number of religious orders in the United States," he said.

Naranjo, who has been with CLINIC for 13 years and has led its Religious Immigration Services division for about half that time, walked through the process.

"This is a program that did undergo some changes a decade ago. They changed it to make it similar to other visas. What they require — which they did not require 10 years ago — was to file a petition.

They have to file a petition with the Immigration Service: The organization's legit; it has the financial means to sponsor the person they want to sponsor," he said.

For someone who qualifies as a religious worker, he says they "could fall under a traditional religious occupation, somehow involved in promoting the belief system of the denomination. You need a lot of documentation. The standard the immigration service will use is that the documentation must be verifiable. We can submit affidavits. You're looking at 3-6 months to prepare the petition," Naranjo noted.

"There is a site visit the immigration service will conduct. And there's a fraud investigator that makes sure everything you said you were going to do in the petition was true. It's certainly not a simple process," he added.

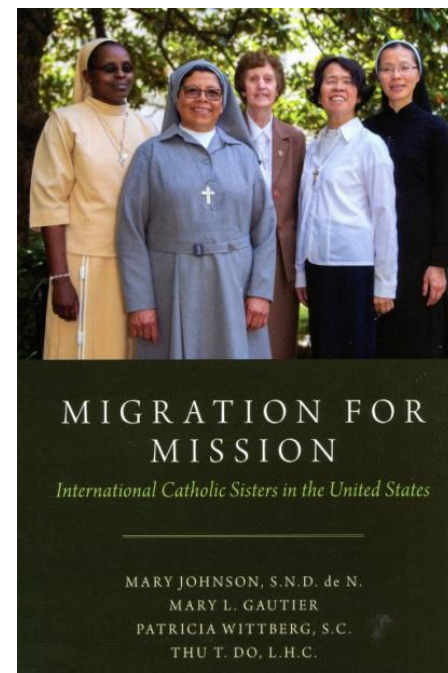
Organizations calling CLINIC on religious immigration issues "express some frustration how the process can take a lot of time. Inevitably, there comes a time when you have to troubleshoot issues. Immigration service will request further evidence — evidence on why this person is qualified, or do you have the means to support."

## The experience of immigrant sisters

Venturing to new territory is the subject of a new book, *Migration for Mission*, published in April and co-written by Sr. Mary Johnson, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur who teaches at Trinity Washington University; Sr. Patricia Wittberg, a Sister of Charity; Sr. Thu T. Do, a Lover of the Holy Cross-Hanoi; and Mary Gauthier. They are staffers at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) in Washington.

The book included results from a survey of nearly 1,000 immigrant sisters. The average age of the sisters is 58, making them much younger than U.S.-born sisters, whose average age is in the high 70s.

When asked what could be improved about the sisters' lives [as immigrants in this country], one sister replied: "It would be helpful if the members of the dominant culture would treat the members of the minority culture with mutuality and encourage the minority culture to preserve the richness of one's native tongue and culture. Forced enculturation for the sake of uniformity is a very violent experience of 'colonization.'"



The cover of the book recently written by the staffers at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. (CARA)

To read the full account: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/trends-migration/almost-5000-immigrants-us-every-year-are-clergy-or-religious-56219>

## Mass Honoring St. Toribio Romo And Cristero Martyrs Of Mexico

St. Martha of Bethany Church in the Shrine of All Saints celebrated the feast day and honoring the relics of St. Toribio Romo and the other Cristero Martyrs of Mexico with a multi-cultural Mass at the parish on May 22. Bishop Mark Bartosic was the guest homilist and presider. He addressed the culturally diverse congregation in English/Spanish, though there were also representatives of several other countries present at the celebration, some in native dress.

Nancy Golen, Director of Cabrini Retreat Center, and Sr. Cathy Fedewa, Outreach/Advocacy Coordinator for Immigrants at the Retreat Center, attended and met with the bishop after the Mass. Bishop Bartosic is the new ordinary of Vicariate I, where the Center is located. They also had the opportunity to share their upcoming immigration activities with the pastor, Fr. Dennis O'Neill.

A multi-cultural choir led the congregation in diverse songs, including a beautiful reflective hymn, *You the Christ*, which celebrates the message of welcoming Christ in the stranger. Participants were able to continue the celebration afterwards with a potluck sharing of ethnic foods.

~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN



Bishop Bartosic offers the final blessing during the special Mass at the St. Martha of Bethany Church in suburban Chicago.

## Francesca's Garden is Open Again!

For the past five years, the Cabrini University Grounds staff members have collaborated with the staff members of the Cabrini Cottage in planting and tending to a vegetable garden on The Cottage grounds. The veggies that are planted are harvested throughout the summer and given to area homes and programs for rescued victims of human trafficking and for food-insecure senior citizens. This year, tomatoes and peppers are the crops of choice.

Here Sr. Grace Waters, MSC (r.) puts a shovel in the ground with the assistance of Eduardo (l.) and Felix (r.) University Grounds Crew members.





## From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

*Last week, we brought you the second installment of an article by Paul Jarzembowski which appears in the Spring 2019 edition of HORIZON, the Journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference. This week, we present the next installment of the article entitled...*

### Invite Young Adults to Come Rest in Christ

**Where is hope, help and comfort?**

#### **Spiritual Tinkerers**

Sociologist Robert Wuthnow calls them “spiritual tinkerers” for their ability to construct a worldview from culture and the arts, their family and friends, life experiences and a sprinkling of elements from religious traditions. Yet, in all of this there is no spiritual community they can call “home”, no outside perspective to give them spiritual direction, and no real sense of an intentional vocation. Many will continue to wander through life, wondering what God has planned for them in the chaos of transition and being overwhelmed by work, relationship, and life in general, but without a community with which to make that spiritual journey.

What is most needed by young adults today is a faith community that exemplifies Christ as the one who provides rest and compassion for the weary, that takes off their yoke of anxiety and replaces it with one of help, hope and comfort. If we seek to bring back the 85 percent of young adults not engaged with the faith, we must be more about tending the wounds of an overwhelmed generation rather than proclaiming our own righteousness or trying to fix the people who come seeking Christ.



For young adults whose lives are constantly on-the-go, who barely have enough time to sit and enjoy a coffee or a few extra minutes of sleep in the morning, it can be hard to find a moment to journey deep within the heart and mind – and rediscover God’s call. Without contemplative moments, many young adults will continue to jump from career to career and place to place, not for the money, but because they don’t know where they truly belong. Without being able to plant

roots in any one job or career, they aren’t certain if the soil on which they stand is really the place they want or need to be. And without that knowledge, a young adult could stay in a state of transition for the rest of his or her life.

People in their 20s and 30s, and perhaps those of any generation, can become overwhelmed simply because they never had a chance to stop for a moment to look inward. This overwhelming feeling can lead to detachment from happiness, from achieving purpose and from a faith community – especially if religious institutions are not helping them in any way.

**Next week: Vocation Ministers as essential evangelists**



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

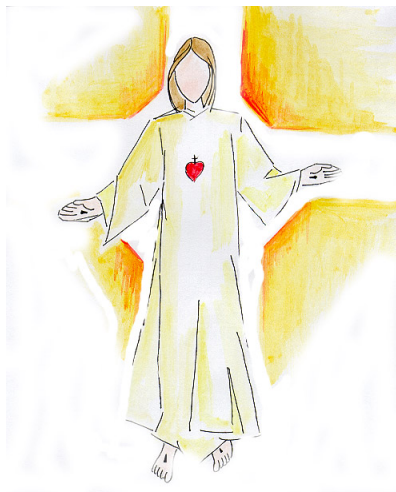
***To Purchase Tickets or Sponsor Tables***

[Click here.](#)

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

[Click here.](#)

# June is the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



The Feast Day of the Sacred Heart is on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

*"My Jesus, I entrust myself to you, to your wondrous love and goodness!"*

~ St. Frances X. Cabrini, *Journal of a Trusting Heart*, September 1897

To access the Novena to the Sacred Heart: <https://www.motherscabrini.org/spirituality/sacred-heart-feast-day-novena/>

## Prayer Requests

## In Loving Memory

### ***Ardley Hanemann***

Your prayers are requested for Ardley Hanemann, the former President of Cabrini High School in New Orleans, who returned home to God on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Please pray for the repose of his soul and pray for peace and comfort for his wife, Liddy, and their family. Please pray, also, during this time, for all those in the Cabrini High School community who were Ardley's friends and colleagues.