



MISSIONARY SISTERS  
of the SACRED HEART of JESUS  
*Bringing Christ's love to the world*

THE UPDATE

December 5, 2019



Once again the Advent season is upon us inviting us to spend some extra time preparing for our celebration of Jesus' coming to be with us.

During this Advent, let us focus our attention on the way that God prepares for Jesus' entry into his human body by inviting Mary to be his mother. As the necessary link between Jesus' divinity and his human body, Mary provides us with a model for our own Advent when we attempt to give birth to Christ in ourselves. Mary shows us how to respond and receive God's invitation to live with us and to transform our lives. Mary also reminds us that as God grows within us we must wait and watch in prayer to be ready when God breaks into our lives, then treasure these things and let them change us.

Through our faithful daily attention to Jesus' presence, we will be more ready when God invites himself to come and dwell in us more fully so that we may become what we were created to be – images of God and Jesus. ~ Steve Mueller, *Jesus, The Coming One*

The expectation of Advent is anchored in the event of God's incarnation. The more I come in touch with what happened in the past, the more I come in touch with what is to come. Waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait the more we hear about Him for whom we are waiting. As the Advent weeks progress, we hear more and more about the beauty and splendor of the One who is to come. I pray that Advent will offer the opportunity to deepen our memory of God's great deeds in time and will set us free to look forward with courage to the fulfillment of time by Him who came and is still to come. ~ Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Jesus The Coming One*



## MSCs Celebrate 50 Years of Dedicated Service in Guatemala

With many Missionary Sisters from the Guadalupe Province present for the festivities and with friends joining them the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MSCs' ministry was celebrated recently in Guatemala.

To experience the celebration, enjoy this video: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jeT\\_sFh-6b00t5UJ0U5mPRxeD9bylgU-/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jeT_sFh-6b00t5UJ0U5mPRxeD9bylgU-/view)

## Sharing the Beauty of Diverse Cultures and Traditions



Pictured are staff from the Chicago Archdiocese Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity from left: Ryan Lents, Director; Miguel Salazar; Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN of the Cabrini Retreat Center and Mauro Pineda.

*Fully Alive* is a weekly radio broadcast of the Archdiocese of Chicago, focusing on issues of human dignity and solidarity. On December 4, 2019, Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, of the Cabrini Retreat Center, joined staff from the Archdiocesan Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity in sharing two major events being sponsored by that office in December and in January, bringing awareness of the conflicts but also the beauty of the diversity of cultures shared in the city in its immigrant population.

Information and understanding of the events were shared with the audience

regarding the **Fourth Annual Posada** to be held on December 13 on the streets of downtown Chicago.

The procession follows the same dynamics as a traditional posada, but instead of stopping at homes in their neighborhood, Joseph, Mary and their companions stop at various immigration-related locations in the city, such as the ICE Office and Immigration Court, and recall the difficulties immigrants encounter and the need for immigration reform. The procession ends at St. Peter's Church in the heart of the city where all are finally welcomed and given hospitality....and a traditional celebration takes place.

The broadcast then continued with comments on **National Migration Week** being celebrated in the archdiocese, as it is around the country, on January 5, with a special liturgy in Holy Name Cathedral. A procession of nations in native dress (representing many of the diverse cultures in Chicago) begins the celebration. Diversity is also clear in the readings, intercessions and music, presented in varied languages. ~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, Cabrini Retreat Center

# Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

## U.S. Border Drama: Threatened with Resurrection

On 10/12/19, at the U.S.–Mexico border where a bridge divides the sister cities El Paso and Juarez, Mexico, the waters of the Rio Grande flow below. Under the afternoon sun, 200 people of all ages, lay and religious, Latino and Anglo, crossed by the CBP agents guarding the bridge and turning back asylum seekers fleeing from violence and persecution in Central America. Our group were participants in a *Teach-In for Justice* and came from across the U.S to offer solidarity with the border communities.

Small tents lined the street at the foot of the bridge on the Mexico side, and under each tent families and children peeked out at us. They are the faces of the latest attempt by the Administration to discourage and effectively deny the right of asylum to those who are fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries, what is called by our government as the “Migrant Protection Protocols.”



In his 2017 pastoral letter on migration, *“Sorrow and Mourning Flee Away,”* Bishop Mark Seitz offered his analysis of the drama on the U.S.–Mexico border, in the light of the Gospel: “Our broken system of immigration is a wound on this border community. It is a scandal to the Body of Christ in El Paso.” The letter is prophetic and hopeful: “As a community deeply shaped by the reality of migration, we celebrate our strengths and unique identity ... even when others would belittle the contribution of migrants and falsely portray the reality of the border.”

Now, two years later, the bishop issued a new pastoral letter, *“Night Will Be No More,”* signing the letter at the closing Mass of the “Teach-In for Justice.” While the tone of these two letters has changed from “joy and gladness ... when sorrow and mourning flee away” to a more sobering “night will be no more,” the message remains a prophetic one: “We must recommit ourselves to the hospitality and compassion that characterized our community long before we were attacked.”

Specifically, the pastoral letter calls on our nation’s leaders to “halt the deportation of all those who are not a danger to our communities, to stop the separation of families, and to end once and for all the turning back of refugees and death at the border.”

These are troubling times we live in, but for Christians the last word is not one of crucifixion and death, but rather resurrection and life. In Bishop Seitz’s words, “The burden of the history of injustice on the border is heavy. We must wrestle deeply with this legacy, lament over it passionately, confront our own biases and repudiate racism completely.”

The Teach-In for Justice was hopeful but challenging. There is a sense of urgency and drama at the U.S.–Mexico border. Human dignity is at stake, both the dignity of migrants and refugees asking for asylum, as well as our own human dignity calling us to solidarity and hospitality. It is a matter, not only of charity, but also of justice. ~ *Scott Wright, Director, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach*



# National Migration Week is January 5 - 11

National Migration Week 2020  
January 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Credit: CNS/Bob Roller

Promoting a Church and a World for All

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2020, “Promoting a Church and a World for All” draws attention to the fact that each of our families have a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

Unfortunately, in our contemporary culture we often fail to encounter migrants as persons, and instead look at them as unknown others, if we even notice them at all. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious or fearful of them. During National Migration Week and beyond, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as community

members, neighbors, and friends. For further information: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Final-NMW-Toolkit-2020.pdf>



## CIS-Dobbs Ferry Handbag Bingo was a Big Success!



On November 26<sup>th</sup>, over 170 people came out to play Bingo for the chance to win designer handbags to benefit Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS)! Clients from the program cooked food from their native countries for all to enjoy and it was a big hit with the crowd. Eight rounds of Bingo were played for the luxury handbags, one round for a 50/50 and there were 25 great raffle prizes given out to the lucky winners at the end of the evening. The event raised nearly \$13,000 to benefit Cabrini Immigrant Services and countless new friends were made who can't wait to return to the event next year.

*~ submitted by Lorraine Horgan, Cabrini of Westchester*



**Photo left:** Real men play Bingo! Susan Herceg's husband Danny (l.) and Joe Bisaccia, Assistant Administrator, share a laugh while playing for handbags!

**Photo right:** Winnie Joseph, Director of Nursing, Cabrini of Westchester (l.) and Susan Strangio, Executive Assistant were two of the lucky winners.



## Cabrini University Partners with Philadelphia School District in State Initiative to Increase Teacher Diversity



From left: Dr. Tom Conway, Asst. Professor, Education; Dr. Beverly Bryde, Dean of the School of Education; Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu, Provost; and Dr. Ronald Whitaker, II, Asst. Dean, Education, celebrate the recent partnership with the School District of Philadelphia to increase the diversity and number of teachers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Cabrini University is one of the first colleges and universities to partner with the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) in Pennsylvania's pilot program Aspiring to Educate (A2E), which aims to increase the diversity and number of teachers in the Commonwealth. In addition to Cabrini and the SDP, the initial partnership involves the state Department of Education (PDE), six other colleges and universities, and local education and youth organizations.

"Aspiring to Educate will help Pennsylvania attract,

recruit, train, and retain a new generation of teachers and school leaders," said Education Secretary Pedro A. Rivera during the public announcement on November 20, noting that A2E is the first program of its kind. "It will not only help the Commonwealth address the shortage of educators and the lack of diversity in the teacher pipeline but will also provide a career pathway for students into the teaching profession."

"Diversifying the teacher education workforce and the teacher candidate pool is a priority for all of us as it strengthens our programs, classrooms and communities," said Beverly R. Bryde, EdD, Dean of the Cabrini School of Education. "The Aspiring to Educate initiative from the PDE is impressive and important. We are proud to be partners in this program's launch."

Pennsylvania state educators noted that the number of people seeking teaching certification has decreased by more than 65 percent since 2013. Additionally, of the Commonwealth's 120,000 educators, 96 percent are white—making it the least diverse in the country.

The SDP will work with Cabrini and the other colleges and universities to design individual plans for academically successful high school juniors or seniors interested in becoming teachers. Students who enroll will receive free or reduced tuition through the institution as well as mentoring through the Philadelphia Youth Network and the Center for Black Educator Development. They will be encouraged to teach in Philadelphia's most high-need areas after they graduate. ~ submitted by Molly Harty

To learn more:

<https://www.cabrini.edu/about/media-hub/news/2019/aspiring-to-educate-a2e-partnership2>



## From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

### 10 Questions Parents Ask

*These days, parents are frequently part of the conversation when a young adult is considering religious life. In the Fall 2019 edition of HORIZON, the journal of National Religious Vocations Conference, here are ideas for responding to the questions that parents ask. In our last edition we presented five questions and answers this week and here are an additional five.*

#### **6. Can't my child be of service to the church as a volunteer or associate? Is taking vows and belonging to a religious community really necessary?**

Generosity of heart is required of all Christians, whether married, single, ordained or consecrated. However, how that generosity is expressed is unique to each individual. All of us must answer the call we hear that will give us the greatest sense of wholeness and purpose. For priests, sisters or brothers, their total gift of the self to God and others demands the support of a community and a commitment to the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

#### **7. How restrictive are the vows?**

Being consecrated to God through a public religious profession is a serious commitment, comparable to marriage vows. How each religious institute lives out vowed communal life is determined by its Holy Rule or constitutions. Be upfront and ask professed members how they live vowed life. A candidate who enters religious life studies the vows and lives in the spirit of the vows for at least four years before making final profession. This time of initial formation enables candidates to face both the challenges and joys of vowed life.

#### **8. With the demands of ministry, how do religious communities face stress and avoid burnout?**

Religious communities are built on maintaining a balanced lifestyle. In all forms of religious life, there are scheduled times for personal and communal prayer, means, recreation, retreats and celebrations. While the church is not looking for perfect people, religious communities need people who are healthy, holy and joyful.

#### **9. How long does it take to become a religious sister or brother? Can people change their minds?**

Generally, it takes six to nine years for a person to become a vowed member of a religious community. The formation process involves several stages. Perpetual (lifelong) vows can be made three to nine years after temporary vows. Vocation and formation directors help candidates discern whether or not a vocation fits. There is nothing wrong with determining religious life is not the right fit.

#### **10. I support my child's vocation, but my spouse does not. What should I do?**

Talk openly to your spouse about his/her feelings. Help all family members to voice their concerns. Ask the vocation director for information to increase everyone's understanding of your child's chosen vocation. Speak with other parents with similar concerns. Pray for understanding.





Cabrini Mission  
FOUNDATION



*Join us and celebrate ...*

# The Spirit of Christmas

TODAY!

6:00 pm to 10 pm

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
and

Cabrini Mission Foundation Board of Trustees

*invite you to the*

Midtown Loft and Terrace

267 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10016

(between 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Streets)

**[Click here to reserve your ticket today!](#)**

For more information contact Ellen 212-228-8608



# CIS-NYC Christmas Celebration

On **December 21<sup>st</sup>**, Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC will be holding our annual Christmas Celebration & Gift Distribution. At this event, immigrant families in need enjoy a fun afternoon of food, drinks and games, and the children receive gifts their families would not otherwise be able to provide. ~ submitted by Ella Nimmo

Help us ensure a merry Christmas for all of our families by making a donation at <http://bit.ly/donatecis> or by purchasing a gift from our wish list at <http://tgt.gifts/CIS2019>





# Prayer Requests

## ***Elizabeth Bastrani***

Please pray for Elizabeth who is seeking the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community. Elizabeth is struggling with an undiagnosed medical condition which has led to her disability.

## ***Carrie Conner***

Please pray for Carrie, the daughter of Gladys Christian, who was a 25 year staff member at the Senior Sisters Residence in Philadelphia. Carrie is experiencing some unidentified health issues. Gladys also asks prayers for Carrie's nine year-old son, who is the light of her life.

## ***Nicole DiBona***

Cabrini University staff member, Rosemary Gehrlein, requests prayers for her cousin, Nicole DiBona. Nicole, who is 30 years of age, was recently diagnosed with cancer. She has undergone surgery and will be entering into treatment. Please pray that Nicole's treatments will be successful and that she will be restored to full health.

## ***Sr. Xavier Hayden, MSC***

Please keep Sr. Xavier in your prayers. She is experiencing several medical issues. Sr. Xavier was hospitalized last week, but has returned to St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Please pray that she will continue her recovery.

## ***Nancy Panganiban***

Your prayers are asked for Nancy, family member of Nancy Costello in the Province Communications Office. Nancy is now in hospice care. Please pray for her children Paul, Ana and Leah as they care for their mother. Pray, too, for Nancy's comfort and serenity at this time.

## ***Theresa Rocha***

A good friend of the Cabrini Sisters from California, Theresa is experiencing serious medical issues. We pray for healing support for Theresa at this time, please unite with us in prayer.

## ***Sr. Ruth Tavares, MSC***

Kindly keep Sr. Ruth in your prayers. She fell over the past weekend sustaining a left wrist fracture. Please pray that she will soon be fully healed.



# With Grateful Hearts

## ***Greg LaFrance***

Rosemary Gehrlein, of Cabrini University, wishes to express her appreciation for our prayers for her cousin, Greg LaFrance. He is responding very well to his chemotherapy treatments and his doctors are very pleased with his progress. Please continue to hold Mr. LaFrance in prayer as he continues his course of treatment.

### ***Infant Emily Claire***

AJ and Dana, the parents of preemie Emily Claire, are grateful for the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community. Born on November 14 at 1 lb. 12 oz. Emily Claire, is the newest family member of Cabrini University staffer, Rita Lambert, who shares, “Emily Claire is doing a great job of thriving. So far, only good news. She has a long road ahead of her but lots of love and prayers will bring her along.”

### ***Infant Madeline Grace***

The Missionary Sisters were asked to pray for an expectant mother who was experiencing complications and needed to undergo a caesarian section last Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. As an answer to prayer, after a week in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), little Madeline Grace will be going home with her adoptive mother in the next day or so. Please continue your prayers for this sweet family and for Madeline Grace’s birth mother. The family is so very grateful for your prayerful accompaniment.

## **In Loving Memory**

### ***Shirley Walker Dixon, Ed.D.***

We ask the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian Community for Cabrini University alumna ’85, M.Ed ’89 and EdD ’18, trustee, and retired faculty member Dr. Shirley Walker Dixon, who passed away unexpectedly on Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Shirley was a long time member of the Cabrini (College) University community and was beloved by all. Please keep Shirley, her family and Shirley’s legion of friends in your prayers as they grieve her loss. Services will be held tomorrow in Philadelphia.

To read a remembrance of Dr. Dixon: <https://www.cabrini.edu/about/media-hub/news/2019/shirley-walker-dixon-obl>

To read her obituary: <https://www.inquirer.com/obituaries/shirley-dixon-first-cabrini-educator-graduate-degrees-20191204.html>

## **An Advent Prayer**

Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this Advent season,  
which is Christ himself,  
whom God our Father has revealed to the entire world.  
Where God is born, hope is born.  
Where God is born, peace is born.  
And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and war.  
God alone can save us and free us from the many forms of evil and  
selfishness in our midst.  
Let us welcome into our lives God’s mercy, which Jesus Christ has  
bestowed upon us,  
so that we, in turn, can show mercy to our brothers and sisters.  
In this way, we will make peace grow.

~ Pope Francis

