



January 23, 2020

Catholic Immigration Activists Step up Battle Against Administration Policies

~ by Sarah Salvatore, National Catholic Reporter

When Catholic immigrant activists, part of the DC Catholic Coalition, participated in a civil disobedience action at the Russell U.S. Senate Building in Washington last July, more than 200 showed up to protest the separation of immigrant families and detention of children at the border.



This past year has been especially prolific for Catholic social activists and leaders from various coalitions. Through rallies, marches and civil

Catholic activists at the border in El Paso supporting the rights of immigrants.

~ Photo credit: Eli McCarthy

disobedience movements, they put a focus on immigration issues. The recent Catholic social justice movement grew as a response to reports of immigrant children detained at the border, kept in cages and traumatized.

While Catholics have long been involved in lobbying and other efforts to bring about change in immigration laws, what's different are the risks they are now taking to highlight the plight of migrants.

Kathy O'Leary, regional coordinator of Pax Christi New Jersey, has been an immigration activist for more than 20 years. She has been working tirelessly to expose the dismal conditions of detention centers across New Jersey. O'Leary says that the groundswell of grassroots support for immigration reform wasn't around a few years ago. But, everything changed after the election of Donald Trump.

The organizers draw deeply from their Catholic faith and Pope Francis. "The basis of Catholic social teaching is that every human is a child of God. We need to be preferential towards the poor in everything we do," said Franciscan Fr. Joseph Nangle, - an 87 year old with a walking stick - who was handcuffed by U.S. Capitol Police and ushered out of the building last July.

[Catholic activists] are also heavily influenced by the works of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. Activists use similar methods to create nonviolent

moments, where the injustice and violence of one side is clearly manifested when compared to the nonviolence of the other side.

In the current culture of demonizing migrants, the activists say they work toward lifting the dignity of people while resisting injustice.

Going forward, the activists see the movement getting more Catholic. They foresee Catholics willing to engage politically and prioritize immigration at a higher level while voting. To this end, organizers are working on a strategy to encourage Catholics to not only vote “but think critically about the process and broad range of Catholic social teaching, particularly immigration,” said McCarthy. ~excerpts from the *National Catholic Reporter*

To read the entire article: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/catholic-immigration-activists-step-battle-against-trump-policies>



A Gift from the Heart

We read in Matthew 18:4, “Whoever humbles themselves like this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven”.

One of our Cabrini Kids, Caroline Mancz, has truly witnessed to this. Caroline has done something very special. She watched as her grandmother lost her hair to cancer. She decided that she was going to help someone who was in the same situation. Caroline told her mother, Flavia, that she wanted to cut her hair and make a wig for



Looking pretty with her stylish new haircut, Caroline is ready to donate her hair to a worthy cause.

someone who is suffering from cancer. What a beautiful thing to do. What makes it even more special is that Caroline is in 2nd grade! She not only gave her hair but she gave a beautiful example of giving from the heart. As per her mother, “Caroline thought of the whole thing on her own.”



Second grader Caroline Mancz donated her hair so that someone else might be helped by her generosity.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr. said, “Sometimes the heart sees what is invisible to the eye.” Caroline understands what it means to give from your heart. She understands how hard it is for someone to lose her hair to cancer. She made a difference. We are so proud of Caroline.

~ submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS

Student Advocates Bring About Change in Congress

Dr. Jerry Zurek, Cabrini University Professor, Communications Department, sent this email to the 50 Cabrini students who advocated and lobbied on behalf of poor communities around the world. The current Administration wanted to cut the aid budget that would help refugees, migrants, and people suffering from extreme poverty by more than 30 percent. Cabrini students joined their voices with those of many others and Congress rejected these harsh cuts.

To all 50 students who lobbied this year:

Congratulations! Your voice mattered! Congress passed the foreign aid budget, and what you advocated for, passed! Your effort to prepare to go to DC paid off!

You should be so proud of your hard work. Think of all the people who will be helped because **YOU CARED**.

Congress—both Republicans and Democrats—voted to reject the Trump administration's cuts to Poverty-Focused Development Assistance and even raised funding by a little bit, 1 percent raise.

- Increased development assistance to alleviate poverty in vulnerable communities by \$400 million;
- Provided more than \$500 million for assistance to Central America – money that the administration had reduced to 0. This will benefit the people of Guatemala and elsewhere and work to alleviate the root causes of migration.
- Signed into law: **The Global Fragility Act** will step up a comprehensive U.S. strategy to prevent extremism and promote stability in some of the toughest global hotspots.
- Refugees: the administration wanted to cut funding to just 10 percent of last year. Congress kept it the same as last year.
- Global Health remains strong: PEPFAR, the Global Fund, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition -- all remain strong.
- Food aid: Food for Peace and McGovern-Dole got a slight increase.
- Climate: While Congress does not provide funding the Green Climate Fund, it did include \$140 million in flexible funding for the Global Environment and other climate programs.



Read more: <https://www.crs.org/media-center/news-release/crs-applauds-foreign-aid-budget> and <https://www.usglc.org/the-budget/congress-finalizes-fy20-spending-international-affairs-budget-sees-small-increase-as-global-challenges-grow/>

Thanks to each and every one of you for answering the call to care for the most vulnerable!
~ with thanks to Dr. Jerry Zurek and to his students for their advocacy

Climate organizers: 2020 is the year to mobilize — with young people in the lead

January 21, 2020

~ by Jesse Remedios, *Earth Beat*, National Catholic Reporter

Catholic climate organizers say they're certain of it: 2020 is "absolutely the year" for climate mobilization.

On November 4, 2020, the United States is scheduled to officially withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate. That's one day after the 2020 U.S. presidential election, the outcome of which will largely shape the U.S. response to climate change moving forward.

With that in mind, the Catholic Climate Covenant is organizing what they are calling the "[U.S. Catholic Climate Project](#)", a yearlong intergenerational Catholic initiative to gather Catholics from across the Church to make "the moral call for climate action."



Young people participate in the climate strikes last year.

According to the Climate Project's website, the project will reach out to a range of Catholic institutions to provide support on activities that can galvanize action. To kick off the project, the Catholic Climate Covenant is hosting a webinar on [webinar Jan. 23](#) to describe the initiative's vision and goals, as well as explain how Catholics can collaborate to organize events around Earth Day and Laudato Si anniversaries.

Participation and leadership by youth and young adults is a big part of the Climate Project. The Catholic Climate Project understands that young people are the ones who will have to deal with the consequences of climate inaction and, and project leadership is hoping to make use of young people's passion for the issue to pull older generations into the fight.

"Fundamentally, this is about the future of youth and young adults and their growing awareness of the interdependence between the Creator's gift and the lives we lead," said Jose Aguto, associate director of the Catholic Climate Covenant and co-chair of the Climate Project, told the NCR. "We of older generations have the moral obligation to support them."

To read the entire article: <https://www.ncronline.org/print/news/earthbeat/climate-organizers-2020-year-mobilize-young-people-lead>

~ National Catholic Reporter

A Time to Heal

Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC would like to thank you for your prayers for *A Healing Retreat for You*.

Fifty people attended the retreat at Cabrini High School, New Orleans.

Although there was talk of physical, spiritual and inner healing, there was a real emphasis on spiritual healing. All were reminded that our number one goal should be to make it to heaven.

~ submitted by Katelyn Ehrhardt
Cabrini High School



Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC (c.) is pictured with the presenting retreat team. *A Healing Retreat for You* took place at Cabrini High School in New Orleans this past Saturday.

An additional note:

Sr. Renee suggests celebrating prolife by treating yourself to a movie. Archbishop Joseph Naumann said that if you only see one movie this year make sure that it is *Unplanned*. The movie is an inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation. It is available on Blu-Ray/DVD/Streaming.

Prayer Requests

In Loving Memory

Sr. Ruth Tavares, MSC

Your prayers are asked for Sr. Ruth who went home to God last week. Her funeral Mass was yesterday in Dobbs Ferry, NY. May she rest in God's eternal peace.