



February 27, 2020

Crossing Borders: What Do I Need to Do to Care?

On Wednesday, February 19th, Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLM) attended “Crossing Borders: A Catholic Response to Migration,” a powerful and reflective talk by Sr. Norma Pimental, MJ, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in McAllen, Texas, hosted by Manhattan College. Cabrini Lay Missionaries Pat Krasnausky and Lorraine Campanelli, and Robin Larkins, were moved by the stories of faith, mission, accompaniment and service shared by Sr. Norma.



From left: CLM Patricia Krasnausky, Sr. Norma Pimental, MJ and CLM Director Lorraine Campanelli confer following Sr. Norma's presentation.

The challenges presented applied to all of us, not just those who directly encounter immigrants in need at the physical border separating the U.S. from Mexico and Central America. The message articulated by Sr. Norma is rooted not only in justice and prayer, but also reclaiming our humanity, defending life and protecting life. The vision is one of seeing who we are in relationship to others – away from the globalization of indifference. The response, according to Sr. Norma must include “bursting the bubbles where we do not feel, where we do not see the humanity in others, and worse – we do not care.”

The timing of the talk came just weeks after leadership from Cabrini Mission Foundation and the Guadalupe Province returned from their border experience and visit to Sr. Norma's ministry. Pat Krasnausky had the opportunity to briefly greet Sr. Norma prior to the event, share the Cabrini connection, and present her with a gift of gratitude.

Sr. Norma shared her experiences and stories of the migrants she meets and serves at the border. Confusion and uncertainty abounds for those navigating the many challenges and changing policies that have increased and intensified in recent years for newly arrived refugees and their families seeking asylum in the U.S. This has expanded to the thousands of migrants currently stranded in camps in Mexico, having been sent back for months, even years until their cases are called. Most cases, even those with merit, are rushed, rarely have representation, and are denied. Those that are

granted are now being overruled at an increasing pace. Those denied asylum are forced to return across the border. Fear of retribution for fleeing causes them to remain in the tent cities. Asked how she does not burn out and how she can remain hopeful amidst such challenging circumstances, Sr. Norma replied that prayer and the Eucharist sustain her daily, in addition to the deep faith shared by the migrants she accompanies, and the resilience of the children she meets. Asked what we can do to help, she replied, "Our faith calls us to advocate for policies that are respectful of life, that do not increase suffering. Protecting our borders and keeping criminals away does not mean pushing aside and dehumanizing people seeking protection and a new life. Our faith calls us to recognize who we are in relationship with all people, and of course, to love. We must ask ourselves: What do I need to do to care?"

May Sr. Norma's ending comment be our prayer: "Holy Spirit, burn with the fire of love, so we can truly care."

~ submitted by Robin Larkins, Cabrini University alumna



Robin Larkins (l.) and CLM Director Lorraine Campanelli sign letters to Congress encouraging immigration reform and the respectful treatment of those seeking asylum protection.

From the Province Vocation Team...



High School juniors from Bishop McDevitt H.S. in Philadelphia, Paul VI H.S. in Haddonfield, NJ and Mount St. Joseph Academy in Chestnut Hill, PA participated in the Gift of Mission program Thursday, February 13th.

A second offering of the Gift of Mission vocation awareness program was presented this winter to a group of high school junior girls by an intercongregational team of sister religious. This time, the workshop was held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Chestnut Hill, PA. The day offers a means of learning more about vocational calling and religious life. Interactive sessions and opportunities for prayer and meditation highlight the day. The Missionary Sisters play an active part in the planning and presentation of the day.

~ submitted by Nancy Costello, Province Vocation Team

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbors

Bearing Witness to Migrants in Matamoros, Mexico

It's hard to know where to begin because the pie of my experience over the last few months has been divided into different emotional pieces. Half of the people I've seen coming to us at our volunteer health facility in Matamoros are children, more than a third are women and the rest are men. Interestingly, I've seen more instances of a mom or dad with a child or children rather than whole family units.

Most of the migrants are from Central America, but I have met some from Cuba and Peru. The Central American migrants tell stories of gang violence and of how much power the gangs have in the neighborhoods and countryside. A woman shared her story of having to flee with just the clothes on her back because gang members threatened to kill her and burn down her store. Some stories shared were even worse.

Babies have been kidnapped for adoption. Boys are kidnapped by the gangs to serve as new members. Someone shared the story of younger children being kidnapped in order to have their organs harvested. In this case, children playing and running are targeted because they appear the most healthy. It has become clear to me that families fleeing for their safety, particularly for the kids, are the purest demonstration of parental love.



The way the U.S. government is responding to people hoping for refuge should not be happening. Americans shouldn't be allowing this to happen to other human beings. We need to understand that these migrants are not a threat to anyone. In my interactions with these people they have been respectful and genuinely grateful for everything, no matter how small, that we offer. It has been my honor to bear witness to them that someone cares.

If I have one request for my fellow American Catholics, it is to come see for yourself the plight of these migrants. Come see and realize that these are the children of God seeking a home. These are good people and, please, allow them the chance to prove it to you. And for priests, please come see that these are your sheep waiting to enter the gates of the garden.

— Sr. Jacinta Powers for Justice for Immigrants



Tom hopes to continue working at the Shrine for at least the next 10 years until 2030, which would mark 100 consecutive years of service at the Shrine by his family.

A Love for Mother Cabrini

Honored for 50 years of service at Mother Cabrini Shrine, it's been "blessing after blessing".

~ by Roxanne King of the Denver Catholic

Every workday, facilities manager Tom Francis starts his morning in the same way. He enters the chapel at Mother Cabrini Shrine on Lookout Mountain, turns on the lights and addresses a statue of the Shrine's namesake.

"I tell her, 'OK boss, this is your place. I'm just a pair of hands. You need to help me or we won't be able to be here for those who come.'"

On December 1, Tommy, as he is affectionately called, marked 50 years as an employee of the Shrine, which is named after St. Frances X. Cabrini. The Shrine staff honored the energetic 71-year-old with a Mass and luncheon.

"Tommy has a deep devotion to Mother Cabrini," said JoAnn Seaman, Development Director. "He has had a huge impact on the Shrine and what it has become...He is very humble and gives all the credit to Cabrini."

Tommy was recognized for service that started when he was a 21-year-old college student who labored summers, nights and weekends at the Shrine and lived with his parents, grandmother and siblings in the caretaker's house. But, in reality his service began when he was still a child and his father, Carl, worked as the maintenance manager for Mother Cabrini's Queen of Heaven Orphanage in north Denver which operated from 1905-1967 and was torn down in 1969.

"I was blessed to work with my dad and to be around the [Missionary] Sisters all the time," Tommy said.

Even after Tommy finished college and was working full-time as a math teacher, he continued working part-time at the Shrine. Upon retiring from a successful 30-year teaching career in 2003, he began laboring full-time at the Shrine.

"Mother Cabrini bought this property in 1910 primarily as the summer home for the girls of the Queen of Heaven Orphanage," Tommy explained.

In his years with the Shrine, Tommy, with the help of many volunteers, has beautified and enhanced the tranquility of the grounds with his landscaping skills.

JoAnn Seaman said, "He knows every inch of this place like the back of his hand."

"Our sisters would not have been able to maintain this ministry without Tommy and his family, who have worked for the sisters since the time of the orphanage," said Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC.

"Every Missionary Sister knows Tom Francis and his family. They are a large part of why the Shrine mission has succeeded and has brought the presence of God to so many people."



Tom Francis (c.) engages in one of a myriad of improvement projects at the Mother Cabrini Shrine. He is assisted by a large and faithful cadre of volunteers.

A widower for 27 years, he raised two daughters, Tommy met his current wife, Sarah, when she moved to Golden as a Cabrini Mission Corps missionary. The couple will mark their 10th anniversary in March. Sarah is just one of the blessings Mother Cabrini has brought Tommy as he labors at her Shrine.

“You can feel a connection with Mother Cabrini here – you can feel her presence,” Tommy asserted. “Even though

we no longer have orphans, about 50 percent of our visitors are immigrants who have a great devotion to Mother Cabrini. The Sisters still work with the poor and it’s still the Cabrini vision to spread God’s love through the world.”

“Since my dad started working for the Sisters in 1930, it’s my goal to continue working to 2030 so that we can have 100 [consecutive] years of service to St. Frances Cabrini in Denver,” he said, not satisfied with the 104 combined years they have already given. “The Shrine is a wonderful place to be. It’s blessing after blessing.” ~ submitted by JoAnn Seaman, Mother Cabrini Shrine

To download the complete article: <http://read.uberflip.com/i/1212006-dc-february-22-2020>

*Congratulations and heartfelt gratitude, Tommy,
on your many years of dedicated and loving service
to Mother Cabrini and the MSCs.*



Cabrini University's Leadership Institute Makes a Promise



Standing at the podium (r.) Tom Nerney addresses administration, faculty, staff and students at the re-launching of the Nerney Leadership Institute at Cabrini University.

To Tom Nerney ('77, HON'15), a great leadership trait is to never give up—to constantly persevere, to get back up, and to keep pushing forward. And so it is with the reimagined Nerney Leadership Institute (NLI), celebrated by students, faculty, and staff in the Cabrini University Mansion on Wednesday, February 19.

The Institute was established in 2013, when Nerney, then Vice Chair of Cabrini's Board of Trustees, identified leadership development as an area of the University's mission that could be further developed. He served as the NLI's first Executive-in-Residence, sharing wisdom from his career as

Chair, President, and CEO of USLI with students. Today, his vision of bringing leadership education to the student body is coming together in a renewed and collaborative effort that will expand its scope to the entire campus community as well as local and regional organizations.

Chioma Ugochukwu, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, calls that vision the Nerney Leadership Promise.

"It's the promise that every undergraduate student who attends Cabrini for four years will receive leadership training prior to graduation," she said, noting that the training will extend to faculty and staff through professional development opportunities and involve external partnerships. "We'll achieve these goals and ensure that Cabrini University will become the best-known institution in the region for nurturing, developing, and producing remarkable leaders."



Anne Filippone (l.) and Melissa Terlecki, PhD (2nd r.) will manage the NLI co-curricular and curricular aspects, respectively. They are pictured with Cabrini University President Dr. Donald Taylor, Mr. Tom Nerney and Chioma Ugochukwu, PhD, Provost.

NLI Co-Directors Melissa Terlecki, PhD, Chair and Professor of Psychology, and Anne Filippone, Executive Director of Student Engagement and Leadership, will manage its curricular and co-curricular aspects, respectively.

“We are going to work to infuse leadership education into general education and major curricula for all students,” said Terlecki, “no matter their major, academic standing, or previous experience.”

To fully prepare students with leadership skills that are applicable across industries and in an ever-changing professional landscape, Filippone said they will use a variety of educational approaches, including podcasts, seminars, conferences, international trips, and other experiences.

She added, “Our goal is to build collaborative partnerships inside and outside the classroom as well as internally and externally to the University.” ~ submitted by Molly Harty, Cabrini U. Marketing and Communications

To watch a video on the Nerney Leadership Institute:

<https://www.cabrini.edu/about/media-hub/news/2020/nerney-leadership-institute-reimagined>

Helping Hands on a Mission



Photo above: Sr. Consolata Demma, MSC efficiently packs toiletries into the blessing bags.

Cabrini of Westchester has a strong commitment to reach out to those in community who are in need of help. Some of the residents of St. Cabrini Nursing Home and some of our Cabrini Kids from Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY came together for a Mission Outreach Project.

Thanks to a grant from St. Faith's House Foundation, we were able to make 200 packets that contained: deodorant, toothpaste and a toothbrush, a facecloth and soap, a razor and shaving cream, a comb, body lotion, lip balm, shampoo, tissues and a pair of socks. The socks were donated by The Joy of Sox from Radnor, PA. Their generosity allowed us to give 200 people a new pair of socks! In addition to the products, each packet had a special card with a positive thought written on it. (i.e. You are special. You are strong.)



Sr. Ilaria Povero, MSC reaches for socks to be included in each packet.



We had two assembly lines made up of the residents and the children. There was a lot of laughter as well as some great conversations. It was wonderful to see our children listening to the stories of the residents and also the residents asking the children about school, their families, etc.

Thanks to their hard work, we were able to send 100 packets to Midnight Run and 100 packets to Travers House in Yonkers, NY.

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

Photo left: An intergenerational assembly line prepares 200 packets for delivery to area organizations that provide outreach to those in need. Such shared service opportunities bring forth benefits on so many levels.

Each week during the season of Lent, the Cabrini Lay Missionaries will be presenting a reflection for our prayer and meditation. We invite you to join with them as we journey through these 40 days.

First Week of Lent

As we begin the first week of Lent, the scripture readings tell us about sin, offenses, temptations, Satan, etc. These words can make us feel down, sad or perhaps, hopeless. These are all appropriate feelings but Lent is much more than that. Lent, which means springtime, is a time to reflect on things that we may have been able to do better (darkness) with the hope that light will shine through us.

In the responsorial Psalm for the first Sunday of Lent, we pray, “Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.” We are blessed because we have a God who is always merciful, who loves us unconditionally and who is always there for us.

Reflection:

- When did I feel the mercy and forgiveness of God in my life?
- Were there times when I could have chosen better words to say or maybe acted differently toward someone? Did I ask for their forgiveness?
- Did I speak with God and ask for mercy and forgiveness? If yes, did I feel the ‘hug of God?’

We are reminded in Romans 5:15-16 that we receive grace from God. Grace is a gift freely given to us by God.



Reflection:

- Am I aware of the different graces that I receive from God?
- What are some of the gifts that I have received?

~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director

Prayer Requests

Antoinette Iadarola, PhD

Prayers continue to be asked for Cabrini (College) University President Emerita Dr. Toni Iadarola, who has returned to Connecticut and is at Yale University Medical Center. Toni is grateful for the cards and emails wishing her a Happy Birthday. She turned 80 on Sunday. She is also very appreciative of all the good thoughts being sent her way as she fights serious health issues. Toni shared that prayers, wishes and notes are helping her stay positive and are kindling fond memories of Cabrini.

Australian Nation

Please continue your prayers for all of creation in Australia. In recent weeks, the nation suffered from the terrible bushfires and now they are experiencing torrential rains and flooding. Pray that all creatures great and small will be spared.

Patti Larkins

Patti, the sister-in-law of Robin Larkins, suffered a serious in-home accident and fall while recuperating from a broken foot that occurred in January. After several weeks in the hospital and rehabilitation with multiple injuries, Patti was discharged this week to continue her recovery at home. While grateful for surviving the accident, prayers are requested for her ongoing healing and recovery in the coming weeks, along with prayers for all involved with her care, physical therapy and progress, especially Robin's brother, Tom.

