



March 12, 2020

## UNITED with Our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters

For more than ten years, dedicated immigration advocates have braved the weather, rain or shine, cold or snow, to hold a prayer vigil at the Broadview Detention Center in Chicago. This was the place, until a year ago, from which immigrants were sent on their way out of the country when deported. They are now deported from a location in Kankakee, Illinois, but the processing of new detainees still takes place here.

Each Friday at 7:15 am people from different faiths gather to pray...for those being deported that day; for those whose cases are being considered; for families broken apart; for children traumatized by our immigration system; for asylum seekers sent back to Mexico; for those who have died in the process; for all affected by the tragedies occurring daily.

On this cold, windy first Friday of the month of March, Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, a staff member at the Cabrini Retreat Center in Des Plaines, IL, joined the interfaith group and heard prayer and testimony from the Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions. Rabbi Brant Rosen wrote his rendering of Lamentations 2 which, when read with the tragedy of our current immigration system in mind, becomes a sad commentary on our country. In one section he writes:

*"our so-called glorious past is now seen  
for the sham that it was,  
the way of life we celebrate is but a privilege  
for the few and the powerful,  
we can't see that our own might  
will be our downfall"*

Sadness and frustration was in the hearts of all those who attended, some of whom later joined others for a meeting to discuss what could be done to counter the wrong that is being inflicted on migrants, particularly through the *Migrant Protection Policy* (MPP, commonly called *Return to Mexico*).



At the Broadview Detention Center in Chicago, an interfaith group prays for immigrants. On the poster being raised are photos of the seven children who have died in ICE custody in the past year.

Consideration is being given to use the annual public Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, held in downtown Chicago, as one of the opportunities to educate the public on the tragedies occurring as a result of this policy. This is being done in the hope of helping all to understand the need to de-fund MPP and allow migrants to stay in the U.S. while their asylum case is being considered.

~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, Cabrini Retreat Center

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## From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

### Proud to be an MSC Novice

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Sr. Lucy Panettieri, MSC was invited to talk to a prayer group that meets every Friday evening at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Denver, CO. The theme was vocation. Sr. Lucy invited me, Sr. Tigist Loha, MSC novice, to accompany her so that she could introduce me to the group of a little more than 100 people as a novice of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

As soon as we arrived some of the children came up and hugged me. Of course, I noticed that they were my students from Notre Dame Early Learning Center. It was wonderful to be greeted by someone that I knew since this was a Hispanic gathering and I don't know a word of Spanish.

I tried to mingle and with a little bit of sign language and English I was able to communicate with some as they gathered to sit and begin the event. The group that led the prayers had drums, guitars and singers. They started with the chaplet of Divine Mercy all sung in Spanish. I could understand a bit. After they finished the chaplet they invited Sr. Lucy to speak to the group about vocations. They were all attentive and interested.



Sr. Tigist (lower l.) joins the Sr. Anthony Parish community in prayer and song.

At the end of her talk she presented me as a novice of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. How proud I felt to be identified as an MSC novice! Wow, that was powerful! After some questions directed at Sister Lucy, the group began to sing and dance praising God. It reminded me a little of my own country, Ethiopia, where we also sing and dance to praise God. Sr. Lucy and I danced and sang with them praising the Lord in a festive atmosphere. I prayed at that moment that the Lord would touch the heart of some the young people that were there listening to Sr. Lucy to follow Him in our Consecrated Life especially as Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

~ submitted by Sr. Tigist Loha, MSC Novice and with thanks to Sr. Lucy Panettieri, MSC, Vocation Director

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#### One Minute Meditation

If we want to hear something we must prepare ourselves to listen by being still. If we ourselves are talking, or if our own thoughts, wishes and concerns are speaking within us, the noise they make will render us unable to hear. Hence, directions for meditating always begin by requiring us to create inner stillness and emptiness as a means of making room for what is to be received.

~ Hans Urs von Balthasar, Christian Meditation



# National Catholic Sisters Week

March 8 - 14, 2020



On their Day of Service at The Joy of Sox warehouse in honor of National Catholic Sisters Week, seven different congregations of sister religious teamed up to sort and package socks for distribution to homeless shelters, soup kitchens and food pantries.



The Joy of Sox Board Chair Tracy McGuckin (l.) explains the protocol of sorting and packaging socks. From left: MSC candidate Evarlyne Ndeti; MSCs Sr. Amarech Herego LeFamo, Sr. Antonina Avitabile and Sr. Christine Marie Baltas (2<sup>nd</sup> r.) listen attentively to the instructions.

From March 8 - 14, NCSW is an annual celebration that began in 2014 to honor women religious with a series of events that instruct, enlighten, and bring greater focus on the lives of these incredible women. It's a chance to recognize all that they do, with the hope that as more young women learn about women religious, more will choose to follow their example.

In celebration of NCSW, on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus joined the Delaware Valley Member Area of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) in a day of service in Phoenixville, PA sorting and packaging socks at The Joy of Sox warehouse. The Joy of Sox, is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides new socks for those experiencing homelessness. Sisters from seven religious congregations including Missionary Sisters Antonina Avitabile, Christine Marie Baltas, Amarech Herego LeFamo, and MSC candidate Evarlyne Ndeti, **sorted a total of 22,730 pairs and packaged 260 bags of socks** for later distribution to shelters in the greater Philadelphia, PA and Trenton, NJ region, and shipment to shelters throughout the United States. The sorting and packaging was done to the music of oldies and Motown playing throughout the warehouse to which everyone smiled and joined in singing.

~ submitted by Nancy Costello, Province Vocation Promotion Team



Boxes of donated socks were unpacked and tossed into large sorting bins in preparation for repackaging and distribution.

# University Spring Break = Service



Joining energies to serve the people of West Virginia are from left: Cabrini student/MSC candidate Evarlyne Ndeti; Cabrini students Paige King, Marissa Thomas; local supervisor Greg; students Luke McDavitt, Tom Ngo, Rachel Wood, Fr. Carl Janicki, Cabrini U. Campus Ministry Director; and Joan, the Presbyterian minister.

At a young age, I was taught that it's important to help others. My parents told me there are plenty of people in the world who are less fortunate than I am, so, I wanted to make a difference [in the lives of others.] 'This was my second trip to serve the people of West Virginia [and] I wouldn't be who I am today without the experiences [the trip] gave me.



With tools in hand, Evarlyne (r.) and Cabrini students get ready to do some renovations.

Living in the Presbyterian church in Summerville and working in the house of Jason in the Netti area made us [better understand] the effects of poverty among the West Virginia communities. After our trip, I was curious about the history behind West Virginia's poverty and I [learned] that West Virginia's poverty rate is one of the highest in the nation. 2017 estimates indicate that 19% of the state's population lives in poverty, exceeding the national average of 13%. I absolutely agree because of what I saw in some of the West Virginia neighborhoods.

The seven of us had an experience of social, economic and cultural aspects of rural poverty through serving and speaking with the people who lived in the region. We had a supervisor who helped us with the tools and made our experiences fun and enjoyable. Tim (our supervisor) is an example of how people should love unconditionally and help others. Tim is the one who introduced us to Jason and helped us in helping him.

We had two major projects in Jason's home: converting two bathrooms into a bedroom, and converting a church pulpit area into to a flat floor since the house was first a church. While serving others, we had the opportunity to share our lives through service, prayer, reflection and time that we spent together. West Virginians were so grateful even for the little things we did for them. They cared about our wellbeing and were grateful for all of us to be serving in their midst.

*~ a reflection by Evarlyne Ndeti, MSC Candidate and Cabrini University student*



**Cabrini University is pleased to announce the viewing of**



**Human Trafficking Awareness - Award-Winning Documentary  
A Free Movie Event**

**Sponsored by:**

***The Barbara and John Jordan Center for Children of Trauma and Domestic Violence Education, Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition, and ECG 200 Voice for Voiceless- Anti-Human Trafficking Class***

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020 – 6:00 pm  
Cabrini University Widener Lecture Hall**

**Please register for the event at <https://tinyurl.com/tq853x7>**

*"California's Forgotten Children' is a feature documentary about child sex trafficking. The film recounts true stories of girls and boys who were commercially sexually exploited in California and are now survivors and courageous leaders fighting for the rights of victims worldwide. (Website)*

*Melody C. Miller is a filmmaker who works to make a positive impact in the world by making narrative films and documentaries. An advocate for women and children's rights, Melody has dedicated from the start of her career making films that amplify the voices and stories of causes she cares about. She has gone above and beyond to not only create empowering films but creating a movement of change. (Website)*

**This movie is relevant to a variety of academic disciplines. Students from all majors will benefit by attending this event. Student attendance will be recorded at this event.**

**[Please Come and Bring a Friend!](#) [Open to the Public](#)**

**We will be accepting donations of gift cards (Target, Walmart), underwear, feminine hygiene products, and travel-sized bottles of shampoo and/or soaps at this event.**

**Questions about the event:**

The Barbara and John Jordan Center for Children of Trauma and Domestic Violence Education

Phone: 610-902-8466

Email: [jordancenter@cabrini.edu](mailto:jordancenter@cabrini.edu)

**Cabrini Advocacy and Action Coalition**

Phone: 610-902-1038

[cabriniformation@mothercabrini.org](mailto:cabriniformation@mothercabrini.org)

# Cabrini of Westchester

**SAVE the DATE**

**Wednesday  
April 22, 2020**

CABRINI OF WESTCHESTER'S  
TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL  
*Sharing in Mission*  
CELEBRATION DINNER

*April*  
*in* PARIS

*Honoring*  
MICHAEL P. HOFFMAN  
SR. ARLENE VAN DUSEN, MSC  
SUSAN STRANGIO

Abigail Kirsch at  
Tappan Hill Mansion  
Tarrytown, New York



**For more information please contact 914-693-6800 x502**

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

## Third Week of Lent

The readings for Sunday of the Third Week of Lent, draws our attention to three words, 'thirst, water and rock.' There is certainly a connection between thirst and water. But, rock??? A rock is simply an inanimate object that is solid.

In the reading from Ezekiel, the people are angry at Moses and ask him why he had them leave Egypt. They question him and say, "Was it just to have us die here of thirst?" As we read further on in Ezekiel, Moses goes before the Lord and says, "The people are angry with me. They think I called them here to die. What should I do?" The Lord answered and said, "Go stand in front of the people and hold the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing in front of you on the ROCK of Horeb. Strike the rock and the water will flow from it. The people will drink the water from the rock.

The Gospel acclamation is taken from the Gospel of John (4:42, 15). It reads, "Give me living water that I may never thirst again." The Gospel (John 4:5-42) is about Jesus' encounter with the woman of Samaria or the woman at the well. Jesus asked the woman for a drink. She had many concerns about his asking. First of all, Jesus was a Jew and she was a Samaritan. Another concern was that Jesus did not have a bucket and the well was very deep. Jesus explained to the woman at the well that the water that he spoke of was not the water in the well. Rather, he spoke of living water, the water that people thirst for and once they receive it, they will not thirst again. I don't think the woman fully understood what was happening in the moment but she did say to Jesus, "Please give me this water so I may never thirst again and then I will not have to return to the well."



### Reflection:

- Reflect on the symbols of thirst, water and rock. What is the symbolism of the rock? Write about a time(s) that these words touched your heart.
- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Romans 5:5b, we read, "The love of God has been poured out into our hearts." The idea of pouring brings us back to water. Do I see God's love being poured into my heart? Do I see the love of God being poured from my heart to others?
- Can I make a special effort this Lent to witness to the living water that lives in me? Can I reach out to someone that needs help or someone I haven't spoken with for a while?

*~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director*

*From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...*

## **The Gift of Mission**



The third session of the Gift of Mission vocation awareness day for high school juniors was held on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Mercy in Merion, PA. Students from Camden Catholic H.S., Lancaster Catholic H.S. and Merion Mercy Academy were in attendance for the informative and interactive day. Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC and Nancy Costello represented the Missionary Sisters as a part of the presenting team.

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## **Prayer Requests**

### ***Joan Buzzallino***

Your prayers are invited for Cabrini (College) University, Class of 1966 alumna and Trustee Emerita, Joan Buzzallino who underwent major back surgery yesterday. Please pray for her recovery from surgery and post-op rehabilitation.

### ***Denise Hodgins Call***

Please unite in prayer for Cabrini (College) University, Class of 1964 alumna, Denise Hodgins Call. Denise is experiencing a serious medical condition and would be grateful for our prayerful support.

### ***Coronavirus outbreak - all those affected***

As the Coronavirus continues to spread throughout the world, we pray for all those who have been sickened by the virus, for those who have died, for government officials and first responders working to implement measures to contain the virus, and for all the medical personnel tending to those who are ill. We pray that the virus will soon run its course and that life will resume its normal pace.

### ***Mary Lou Denesowicz***

Kindly unite in prayer for Mary Lou, a Cabrini University staff member, who will be undergoing surgery this coming Monday. Pray that her procedure will go well and her recovery will be swift and uncomplicated.

### ***Sue Jendzurski***

Kindly remember Sue Jendzurski in your prayers. She recently received a difficult medical diagnosis. Please keep her in your thoughts as she undergoes treatment.

### ***Vickey Zavasnik***

Prayers are asked for Vickey Zavasnik whose cancer has returned aggressively. Please include her in your prayers, once again, that another course of treatment will be successful.