



April 2, 2020

## The U.S. has Criminalized Asylum-seeking. COVID-19 gives us reason to reconsider.

~ by Kathleen Bonnette, *AMERICA Magazine*

If [Covid-19](#) makes anything clear, it is that all of creation is connected. This pandemic is revealing the extent of our physical dependency on one another and our environment. Pope Francis drives the point home in the encyclical "[Laudato Si'](#)," emphasizing that "everything is connected." In global efforts to maintain social distance, we are seeing, paradoxically, an incredible moment of solidarity—of recognizing our connections and acting for the sake of the common good.

The indiscriminating nature of Covid-19 also reveals the ways in which our political and social structures reflect and perpetuate artificial divisions—marginalizing and devaluing the vulnerable among us. Take asylum policies in the United States, for example.



A camp in Matamoros, Mexico for migrants from Central America seeking asylum in the U.S. Photo taken 11/5/19. Photo credit: Eric Gay.file

We have criminalized irregular migration, including seeking asylum, by imprisoning [thousands of migrants in detention centers](#) and sending thousands more into [makeshift camps on the Mexican side of the border](#). The [United Nations condemns such practices](#): "Criminalizing people on the basis of their migration status can lead to a number of other human rights violations, including... the inability to access critical health care, housing, [and] education." Nevertheless, a Congressional Research

Service report concluded there were around [54,000 people](#) booked overnight in Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers in the U. S. as of last June, packed into facilities with approximately 45,300 beds—this does not include thousands more who are held in these facilities

daily for initial processing. And in Mexican towns across the border, [thousands of migrant families](#) are living in tents, waiting. They are crowded together, sharing toilets and sinks, with limited access to health care or sanitation supplies.

Last year, the Department of Homeland Security’s inspector general [issued a report](#) stating, “We are concerned that overcrowding and prolonged detention represent an immediate risk to the health and safety of DHS agents and officers, and to those detained.” Meanwhile, the humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders said in January that asylum seekers caught on the other side of the border by the Trump administration’s “[Remain in Mexico](#)” policy are [subjected to horrific violence](#) while they wait to make their case to the United States.



People from Central America are being held in Mexico in tent cities.  
Photo credit: LA Times.com

Now we are seeing the tremendous health crisis these policies have manufactured: The unsanitary conditions in the camps pose an extreme health risk to asylum seekers and to the [humanitarian organizations on the front lines of the border](#); and though the [number of overnight book-ins](#) does not always exceed the number of beds, crowded detention centers are “[cauldrons for infectious disease](#),” as Amanda Holpuch reports in The Guardian. [An outbreak of Covid-19 is nearly inevitable](#) in detention centers

and migrant camps—the chances increased by the impossibility of maintaining social distance in such conditions.

The Lenten season provides a rich opportunity to re-evaluate our approach to migration. While we are isolated in our homes, we should renew our energy to advocate for the structural change necessary to protect our vulnerable brothers and sisters at our borders—now and after this crisis has passed.

**To read the entire article:** <https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2020/04/01/united-states-has-criminalized-asylum-seeking-covid-19-gives-us-reason>

### Weekly Update – Did You Know?

Just a reminder that an inspirational thought for the day can be found on the homepage of the [www.mothercabrini.org](http://www.mothercabrini.org) website.

During this extraordinary time, the messages that are posted can serve as a source for reflection and bring spiritual inspiration and comfort.

# Mother Cabrini and Mary's Dowry



Pope Francis is seen blessing the painting of Our Lady of Walsingham on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

On March 29<sup>th</sup> the rededication of England as Our Lady's Dowry took place. Although timely in our present crisis, this was first discussed by the Bishops of England and Wales in 2017. On 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, Pope Francis blessed the painting of Our Lady of Walsingham, commissioned to mark the rededication.

To read the full story:

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/2020/02/14/pope-blesses-painting-of-our-lady-of-walsingham/>

The medieval Wilton Diptych (c. 1395-99) portrays the original dedication by King Richard II in 1381 and shows Our Lady surrounded by angels.

To learn more: [https://www.nationalgallery.co.uk/products/the-wilton-diptych-print-front/p\\_NG4451](https://www.nationalgallery.co.uk/products/the-wilton-diptych-print-front/p_NG4451)

For those familiar with Mother Cabrini's *Travel Letters*, the Diptych and re-dedication bring to mind the sight which greeted her, as her train approached Victoria Station in London on 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1902. She described it as follows in her *Travel Letter* of August 1902:

*It was a splendid day but more splendid was the picture which presented itself to my sight, on our arrival, as the sun was setting.*

*A spectacle never represented before appeared playfully in the sky.*

*Some richly gilded clouds formed a glorious throne, from the centre of which surged an extraordinary light surrounded by twelve shining stars which all sent forth sparkling rays: it seemed to be the throne of the Queen of Angels.*

*Then I saw the Most Holy Madonna, with a beautiful diadem and with the Child, seated on her knees, who stretched out his arms in the act of protecting us.*



Mother Cabrini went on to refer to the sight as, 'but the playful movement of the clouds at the setting of the sun'.

Mother Cabrini first called England 'the land of the Angels' in her *Travel Letter* of 1895.

*I left [England] secretly imploring blessings on this country which I should love, if possible, to call again soon 'the land of the Angels.'*

The forthcoming re-dedication of England as Our Lady's Dowry will be in two parts: a personal dedication with the Angelus Promise and a communal entrustment. This is an opportunity to dedicate ourselves and work to Our Lady as Mother Cabrini did over 100 year ago. In a letter to Mother Maddalena, her trusted confidante, Mother Cabrini wrote: 'I hope that the Queen of Angels will enable us to see miracles in this country'. During the COVID-19 pandemic our hope is also that she will intercede for miracles for her children in England and throughout the world.

~ submitted by Maria Williams

To access The Angelus Promise and the Act of Entrustment: <https://www.mothercabrini.org/news-and-publications/mother-cabrini-and-marys-dowry/>



# Cabrini University Dining Services Donates Food, Cleaning Supplies to Lehigh County Care Facility

As Cabrini University closed its campus to all students, faculty, staff and visitors on March 14 following a state mandate to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus, the school also took action to ensure its on-campus stock of fresh food items and cleaning supplies was put to good use in the community.

Cabrini's dining services partner, Sodexo, made a large donation of perishables, such as dairy and produce as well as surface sanitation supplies, to Fellowship Community, a nursing facility serving senior citizens in Whitehall, PA.

"A Cabrini education is an *Education of the Heart*," said Tracy Eells, Cabrini's Sodexo General Manager. "When the University was forced to close the campus as a precautionary measure, we were eager to help vulnerable people and organizations in the area."

For Fellowship Community, which also partners with Sodexo for its food services, the donation came at an ideal time.



"It's been difficult for our residents as movement within the community and visitors have been restricted," said Darryl Gruber, the Sodexo General Manager at Fellowship Community.

"We're doing our best to care for them and make them feel at home, and in the process, we're learning that there are a lot of positives still to be found in the community around us."

Fellowship Community was most in need of additional cleaning and sanitation supplies, although Gruber said the shipment of milk, vegetables, and other foods was a welcome addition to the pantry. Gruber had reached out to a number of local schools that had closed their campuses for assistance. Lehigh University and nearby Eastern University joined Cabrini in donating to Fellowship.

Both Gruber and Eells noted that a considerable amount of perishable food donations also went to dining services employees at Cabrini University and elsewhere who can no longer work regularly due to social-distancing mandates.

"This unprecedented situation is evolving every day," Gruber added. "But as new things come up, we're staying in touch and we're learning from one another." ~ *the Cabrini University website*

## *From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...*

### **A glimpse at history...inspiration for today**

~ by Nancy Frazier O'Brien | *Catholic News Service as seen in the Arlington Catholic Herald, April 1, 2020*

Catholic nuns emerged as the unexpected heroes in the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic that killed hundreds of thousands in the United States and millions worldwide.

“While praise must be given to all workers who assisted in fighting the epidemic, special praise should go to the Catholic sisters who went out from their convents into private homes and, with the unselfishness that characterizes these women...gave service which money alone could never have purchased,” wrote Public Health Commissioner William C. Woodward in the October 18, 1918 edition of the Boston Traveler newspaper.



"These devoted women, many of them teachers and not at all used to nursing, never hesitated to perform services which are the duty of the professional trained nurse," he added. "Whatever was needed to be done it was their pleasure to do."

Throughout the United States, thousands of women religious took on nursing duties in hospitals or clinics and went into private homes to offer food, medicine, comfort and even housecleaning to families affected by the Spanish flu.



Their example prompted a March 20, 2020 opinion piece in The New York Times that said, "the sisters' quiet, determined selflessness is what is needed now, and what we will need more of in the weeks and months to come."

"One hundred years on, the work of the sisters provides us a model to follow and aspire to in this uncommon time: one that presses us to look for ways to support our neighbors rather than shrinking from them, and ultimately to put others

before self," writes journalist Kiley Bense.

In Philadelphia, one of the hardest-hit U.S. cities with an estimated 13,000 to 16,000 flu-related deaths, nearly all of the 2,200 non-cloistered women religious took on some role in fighting the epidemic, according to Patrick Shank, of the Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The actions of women religious “kept [the flu] from getting even worse,” said Shank.

Even some women religious who did not take a direct role in aiding the sick played a part: A December 2, 1918 entry in the annals of the Daughters of Charity provincial house in Emmitsburg, MD noted: “The influenza has broken out among our workmen, nearly all are down; the sisters had to milk the cows today and were delighted to do it.”

**To read the full account:**

[https://www.catholicherald.com/News/National\\_International/National/Sisters\\_work\\_during\\_1918\\_Spanish\\_flu\\_seen\\_as\\_model\\_for\\_crisis\\_today/](https://www.catholicherald.com/News/National_International/National/Sisters_work_during_1918_Spanish_flu_seen_as_model_for_crisis_today/)

# Love and Resilience: Stories from the MSCs



*Now is such a time in our history that our working in unity towards our greater mission will shape our journey together. How we act, what we say, the way we treat one another, the heart with which we respond, will be recounted by generations to come.*

*We have been through so many challenges as an Institute over the past nearly 140 years since our courageous foundress set sail to New York for the first time in 1880. Over the years we have faced great wars, internal conflict, disease, and many other trials, and yet we have always overcome.*

*Sister Barbara Staley, MSC  
General Superior*

[Read the letter statement from Sister Barbara Staley, MSC General Superior.](#)

Over the next weeks, we have been asked by the MSC Generalate in Rome to invite you to submit stories of the Missionary Sisters who have touched your life, particularly, perhaps, in time of difficulty. These stories will be posted on the website of the Generalate: [www.cabriniworld.org](http://www.cabriniworld.org) and we will also feature your stories in The Update and on [www.motherscabrini.org](http://www.motherscabrini.org)

We also encourage each of you to send brief messages of faith and inspiration from your own lives, both from the past and from what you are witnessing or experiencing now. Share how you are coping with our current reality. What is your routine? What gives you joy? What gives you strength? Have you developed a new spiritual practice? Do you have a favorite prayer or mantra that would be helpful for others? In this way, it is hoped that we can draw upon our Cabrinian friendships and connections to give us strength and optimism during these challenging times. Invite younger voices to share how *they* are dealing with this new reality as they miss their teachers, classmates, their school sports, clubs and extra-curricular activities. And with your narratives, please feel free to share photos, as well.

**In submitting stories and reflections please send to both of these emails:**

[communications@cabriniworld.org](mailto:communications@cabriniworld.org) and [cabrini-news@motherscabrini.org](mailto:cabrini-news@motherscabrini.org)

Mother Cabrini once said, "There is room here for every talent and inclination." We know that a vibrant sense of community is at the heart of the Institute of the Missionary Sisters. At this time when we must engage in social distancing, it is hoped that by sharing our stories we will strengthen those Cabrinian ties we hold so dearly.



*Each week during the season of Lent, the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLM) have been presenting a reflection for our prayer and meditation. We invite you to join with them as we approach the arrival of Palm Sunday and Holy Week.*

# Palm Sunday

## **Hosanna! – Save us... now!**

We are in exile.  
We are anxious for someone or something to take this all away.  
How deep is our trust in God --  
Even in the face of uncertainty and suffering?  
Jesus just raised Lazarus. He will work a miracle.  
He will expel the occupiers and resurrect God's people in God's city.

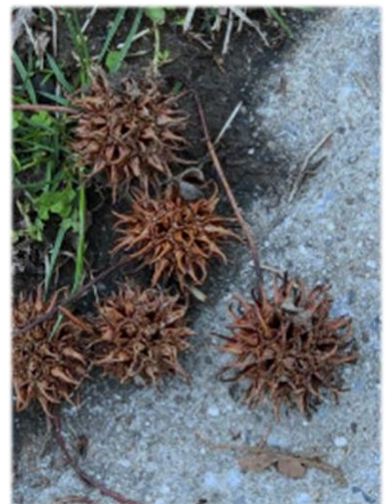
## **Hosanna! Save us now!**

We journey on Palm Sunday with the hopes of Easter.  
Taking part in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as it happens  
to us and for us.  
Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow.  
Where am I in this drama?  
Spreading cloaks and cut branches.  
Blessed are those who comes in the name of the Lord.



## **Hosanna in the highest!**

Who is this?  
He speaks to the weary. He opens my ears that I may hear.  
He has come in the form of a slave, coming in human likeness.  
Humble. Obedient. To the point of death.  
The Lord God is my help. Jesus Christ is Lord.  
At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend.  
Is that only as long as He does what we want and expect Him to do?



## **Hosanna! – You are the one that saves!**

Expectations – to be something, do something. To choose something.  
*“Lord, you are calling us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing, a moment of decision.  
It is not the time of Your judgment, but of our judgment. A time to choose what matters and what passes away.  
A time to separate what is necessary from what is not.  
It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to You, Lord, and to others.”\**  
Not as I will, but as You will.

\*Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi, March 27, 2020

## **Hosanna! – To the mystery beyond our expectations!**



## Reflection:

### 2020 – A Palm Sunday without Palm



I walk a solitary procession lined with branches  
(What is on your path?)  
and fallen seed pods amidst the emerging daffodils. (The seed  
pods are everywhere and look eerily familiar.)

Promising splendor before the return to exile.

The world changes from “Hosanna” to “Crucify him.”  
“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”  
So, the story can unfold of the power of love, forgiveness,  
healing, grace.

**Hosanna! The Resurrection will come! Trust. Believe.  
Hosanna!**

*~ submitted by Robin Larkins*

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## Prayer Requests

### ***Coronavirus pandemic***

We continue to unite in prayer for all those who are on the front lines of treating people who are ill with COVID-19. We pray for their health and fortitude. We also pray for the families of these medical workers that they will remain safe and healthy. This week in our prayers, in addition to all those for whom we have been praying, we pray for journalists, both in print and broadcast media. We offer prayers of thanks as they track down, verify and disseminate essential information for people to safeguard against the virus. We pray for farmers and agricultural workers who continue to grow and harvest the food to keep the nation’s supply chain running. We pray for grocery store workers who stock the shelves with items needed to support our lives. We pray for utility workers who keep our nation’s infrastructure functioning. We pray for caregivers who minister to those who are elderly, alone and chronically ill. We pray that they may remain strong and healthy so that as they go about their essential tasks they and those in their care are not put at risk. We pray for our global community united in the struggle against this disease.

### ***Deacon Uriel Durr***

Please unite in prayer for Deacon Uriel Durr of Cabrini High School in New Orleans. Deacon Uriel has been up and down all week with the COVID-19 virus and was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Let us storm heaven for his recovery. Please pray, too, for his family at this stressful time.



### ***Noreen Elia***

Your prayers are asked for Noreen Elia, the daughter of Marleen and Jules Lesk, who are good friends of Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC and Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC. Ms. Elia is very ill with cancer. Please pray for her strength and recovery.

### ***Eileen and Garry Enriquez***

Prayers are requested by Jackie Marciano, '10 M. '17, Cabrini University alumna and Director of Alumni, for Eileen and Garry Enriquez, the parents of Jackie's college roommate. Mr. and Mrs. Enriquez have both tested positive for COVID-19. Please pray that their cases will be mild and that they will recover swiftly.

### ***Family in need of prayer***

You are asked to pray for a family that is in need of prayer, especially during this stressful time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Joe Hopko***

Please hold Joe Hopko in your prayers. He recently received a serious medical diagnosis and will undergo surgery on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please pray, also, for his wife, Nancy Sharts-Hopko, PhD, who, due to the Coronavirus restrictions on hospital visitors, will not be able to be with her husband while he is hospitalized.

### ***Madison McGuire***

Please pray for Madison McGuire. Madison is the 5 year-old daughter of a cousin of Maria Valente Breeser '73, Cabrini (College) University alumna. Madison has juvenile arthritis which can cause other medical issues. Pray that this autoimmune disease goes into remission.

### ***Maria***

Please keep Maria, a friend of Cabrini (College) University alumna Maria Valente Breeser '73 in your prayers. Maria's friend, Maria, is experiencing multiple health issues and will be undergoing lung surgery on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please pray for a successful surgery, speedy recovery and return to good health.

### ***Father Frank Morrisey, OMI***

Your prayers are requested for Father Frank Morrisey, OMI, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Father Morrisey has been a great help as a spiritual guide and Canonist to the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus over the years.

### ***Al Papalardo***

Kindly unite in prayer for Al Papalardo, a trustee at Cabrini High School in New Orleans. Mr. Papalardo has been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus. Let us pray that his case will be mild and that he will recover swiftly.



# Continued prayers

## ***Cabrini Immigrant Services - New York City***

Please pray for the staff of Cabrini Immigrant Services in New York City as they provide essential services in a remote manner and for those who staff the food pantry as it continues to distribute food on a weekly basis to those in need.

## ***MSC clinics in Guatemala***

Pray for our Missionary Sisters that they can continue to provide urgent medical services with a reduced schedule as long as they are able.

## ***Missionary Sisters in Mexico***

Keep in prayer the Missionary Sisters in Mexico who continue to provide services to the migrants who come to the center for food and temporary shelter.

## ***Sacred Heart Convent, St. Cabrini Nursing Home and Cabrini Senior Housing***

During this stressful time of the Coronavirus we ask for prayers for the staff and caregivers at these convents and ministries of the Missionary Sisters. Pray that they, the sisters and residents will all remain safe and healthy.



# With Grateful Hearts

## ***Charlie Ditta***

We have been praying for Charlie Ditta who had recently been hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit and later, in a Neurological Unit. Charlie is the husband of Sr. Bernadette Anello's godchild, Donna. We are pleased to report that Charlie was discharged on March 31<sup>st</sup> and is now recuperating at home. Please continue to pray for his full recovery.

# In Loving Memory

## ***Nicholas Anello***

We ask your prayers for the repose of the soul of Nicholas Anello, the uncle of Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC. His sister, Marie, went home to God just a week ago.

## ***Scott Amrheim***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Scott Amrheim, the founding President of the Continuing Care Leadership Coalition (CCLC.) Please pray for his loved ones at this sad time.

## ***Family members of Sr. Diane Dalle Molle, MSC***

Kindly unite in prayer for two family members of Sr. Diane Dalle Molle, MSC, who passed away from the Coronavirus. They were residents of Bergamo, Italy. Pray for this family.

## ***Mary Spano***

Mary Spano, the wife of the late Gaspar Spano from Sacred Hearts and St. Stephen Parish in Brooklyn, went home to God yesterday, April 1. She celebrated her 90th birthday at the Strong Place Block Party last year. (Many of the Sisters who were in Brooklyn would know her husband and possibly Mary, as well. Mary and Gaspar had five sons, all of whom went to SHJM School.)

*United in the Cabrinian charism – Missionary Sisters and laity – are invited to pause and pray this prayer together, wherever we are in the world, at noon, each day, for the well-being of all.*

## Praying through the Pandemic

### *Loving and Healing God,*

We, the people of the USA, Central America and throughout the world, turn to you in prayer, confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment.

We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection.

May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts.

### *Generous God,*

Fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after one another during these challenging days.

Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families.

May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace.

Comfort their family and friends, strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick and all who work in our medical facilities.

Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of the people.

We pray in gratitude for all those in our countries who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all.

Bless them all and keep them safe.

### *O God of Creation and Life,*

We place ourselves under your protection.

May the mantle of your love and peace enfold us during this time.

### *And we pray,*

Mary the comforter of the afflicted, pray for us.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, pray for us.

St. Sebastian, patron of suffering humanity during epidemics, pray for us.

St. Roche, patron of the sick, pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel, patron of healing and helping humanity, pray for us.

May all of the saints of God, pray for us.

Amen.

*~ adapted from Kildare and Leighlin Diocese in Ireland.*





