



May 21, 2020

## To Meet a Displaced Person is to Encounter Christ

~ by Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service published in National Catholic Reporter

**Vatican City** – The sad reality of people displaced within the borders of their own country, a crisis that has been ignored for far too long, is an opportunity for Christians to encounter Jesus, Pope Francis said.

“In each of these people, forced to flee to safety, Jesus is present as he was at the time of Herod. In the faces of the hungry, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help,” the Pope wrote in his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2020.

In his message, the pope said the sufferings endured by internally displaced persons have only been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

“In the light of the tragic events that have marked 2020, I would like this message, although concerned with internally displaced persons, to embrace all those who are experiencing situations of precariousness, abandonment, marginalization and rejection as a result of COVID-19,” he wrote.

Reflecting on the pastoral challenge to “welcome, protect, promote and integrate” migrants, the pope said he wished to expand on those verbs to further explain the church’s mission. To be close to displaced persons, he continued, means to serve them and not turn them away due to fear and prejudices that “often prevent us from becoming neighbors.”

“The pandemic has reminded us how we are all in the same boat,” he said. “Realizing that we have the same concerns and fears has shown us once more that no one can be saved alone,” he said.

The pope said that the pandemic serves as a reminder of co-responsibility. “To preserve our common home...we must commit ourselves to ensuring international cooperation, global solidarity and local commitment, leaving no one excluded,” [concluded] Pope Francis.

To read the complete article click [here](#)



An internally displaced Somali woman and her children prepare their meal at a makeshift camp in Mogadishu, earlier this month during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo credit: CNS/Reuters/Feisal Omar

## Immigrant to Immigrant ministry = *ALL Good Deeds*



VHH residents have packed over 500 lunches for day workers struggling during the pandemic.

It's always hopeful when you can find something GOOD that comes out of the challenging times we are living through now. The young men of Viator House in Chicago are reaching out to other immigrants in our country who are struggling to support their families as day laborers. While “stuck” at home these young men have been packing over 100 lunches a week. The lunches are taken to the day laborers by two equally dedicated

clerics, Fr. Corey Brost and Br. Michael Gosch.

Viatorians, Fr. Corey and Br. Michael have always had a special place in their lives for youth and for immigrants. Combine those two passions and you have the establishment of *Viator House of Hospitality (VHH)* in 2017. In three years, VHH has served 61 young men from 13 countries; men who turn 18 as unaccompanied minors but without relatives with whom to live, would remain in federal custody and be transferred on that important birthday to suburban county jails in handcuffs.

Viator House, similar to Bethany House (which serves young women), offers young men assistance with their legal proceedings, education to learn English and/or obtain their GED, counseling, job readiness and physical/emotional/spiritual support. Above all, they receive the care and guidance of Fr. Corey and Br. Michael, a dedicated staff and numerous volunteers. Some of these men have been able to move out on their own, sometimes sharing apartments, sometimes finding family/friends who take them in while they are becoming independent with new-found jobs. The men are also very concerned about sending money back home to their families. One success story saw a resident able to bring his younger brother, whose life was threatened, to the United States. He now supports him while living in their own apartment.

While the current pandemic is another hurdle for these men they are able to cope with support from their staff and one another, making them stronger.

~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN, of the Cabrini Retreat Center and VHH Boardar



Bro. Michael (l.) on Boureima's 21st birthday (c.) with Samuel and Hanibal.



# Virtual - Dance Party!



On Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC hosted a Virtual Dance Party to raise funds for our Queens COVID-19 Response Project in collaboration with our friends at Los Herederos. Throughout the night over 100 generous donors joined us: dancing in front of their computers, playing board games, sewing face masks, showing off their pets, enjoying a drink, and more! Attendees enjoyed DJ sets by the Los Herederos Sonicycle, Pdrito “El Criollo” Erasco, and the Prince of Queenz, and had the opportunity to win fun prizes **(including the original of the painting displayed below-right)**. It was incredibly meaningful and uplifting to see everyone come together for a moment of music, solidarity and community during this challenging time.

JOIN US FOR A  
**VIRTUAL  
DANCE  
PARTY**  
BENEFITTING CABRINI  
IMMIGRANT SERVICES OF  
NYC & LOS HEREDEROS'  
COVID-19 RESPONSE

**WHAT?**  
A VIRTUAL NIGHT OF DANCING, MUSIC & COMMUNITY TO RAISE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOOD & SUPPORT TO IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19 IN QUEENS!

**FEATURING DJ SETS BY THE LOS HEREDEROS SONICYCLE, PDRITO “EL CRIOLLO” & PRINCE OF QUEENS!**

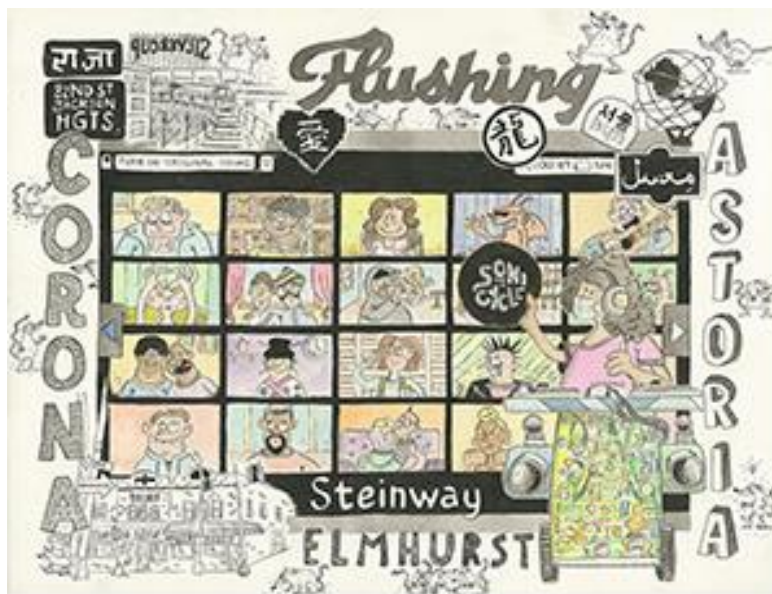
**WHEN & WHERE?**  
YOUR COMPUTER, PHONE OR TABLET!  
THURSDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FROM 7PM TO 10PM  
(DROP BY ANY TIME!)

**LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT**  
[www.cis-nyc.org/virtual-party](http://www.cis-nyc.org/virtual-party)

TICKETS ARE PAY WHAT YOU CAN (EVEN \$1 HELPS!). WE WILL SEND YOU A LINK TO JOIN ONCE YOU REGISTER.

Thanks to the support of those who joined us, CIS-NYC and Los Herederos will be able to continue our efforts to assist 50 immigrant families living in Elmhurst, Corona and Jackson Heights, Queens, NY. We surpassed our fundraising goal for the event, and with the proceeds will be able to continue delivering food, face coverings, and other supplies to these families every other week for at least 12 weeks.

Our volunteers will also be able to use Los Herederos' Sonicycle to ensure that members of the broader community in these neighborhoods know their rights and have access to vital resources and services to help them navigate this crisis. Funds raised will also support Los Herederos' efforts to lift up the stories of our immigrant community members who have been directly affected by COVID-19 to ensure that they are not forgotten as our country recovers from this pandemic. Thank you to all who joined us for this special event! ~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, Cabrini Immigrant Services - NYC



# Honoring Health Care Heroes and Heroines

Cabrini of Westchester has had a busy two weeks! Not only was National Nurses Week celebrated from May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup>, but National Skilled Nursing Care Week was recognized from May 10<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>!

It is so important to recognize Cabrini of Westchester's nurses at all times, but most especially during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Each



Goodie bags were distributed to all nurses at Cabrini of Westchester to celebrate National Nurses Week.

nurse is being challenged to deliver high-quality care under extraordinary circumstances. The nurses who care for the residents have risen to the occasion and have been able to manage their responsibilities with dignity and grace under pressure.

In order to celebrate their commitment, Bonnie Burke, Administrator, Winnie Josephs, Director of Nursing, and Ade Edano, Assistant Director of Nursing, delivered "goodie bags" containing a small token of gratitude to each outstanding nurse. Each bag contained embroidered backpacks and other Cabrini items as well as a copy of the book "*St. Frances Cabrini: A Passionate Life*," written by Mark Davis. A raffle was held each day of the week for all nurses, making them eligible to win gift certificates to a variety of stores.



Sherri Gottlieb, Director of Therapeutic Recreation, brought an ice cream treat and a smile for each of the residents to celebrate National Skilled Nursing Care Week.

Established by the American

Health Care Association in 1967, National Skilled Nursing Care Week recognizes the essential role of skilled nursing care centers in caring for America's frail, elderly, and disabled. The 2020 theme was "Sharing Our Wisdom". To celebrate, Sheri Gottlieb, Director of Therapeutic Recreation and her staff, strolled the hallways of with an ice cream treat for each resident. Other activities included a word game contest amongst some of the residents, a rolling snack cart and on Mother's Day, flowers were handed out to all of the female residents. More celebrations are planned in the near future! ~ submitted by Susan Herveg, Cabrini of Westchester



And the raffle winner is...Janelle Ford from Housekeeping! (l.). Executive Assistant Judy Connolly awards the prize.



# Baccalaureate Mass and 58<sup>th</sup> Commencement at Cabrini High School

Cabrini High School in New Orleans recognized the Class of 2020 had worked hard and achieved success under the most challenging of circumstances. With the many unknowns of the future, they were eager to honor their students' accomplishments in a timely and meaningful way with an intimate graduation experience.



**Photo above:** Twin sisters Alaina (l.) and Olivia (r.) Michelli pose for a photo before entering the CHS chapel to graduate.  
**Photo below:** Valedictorian Katherine M. Heller.



President Jack Truxillo and Principal Yvonne Hrapmann '76 awarded diplomas to 92 students during the 2020 Baccalaureate Mass and 58th Commencement Exercises on May 15 and 16 in Cabrini's Sacred Heart Chapel on campus. Father Emmanuel Mulenga, O.M.I., school chaplain, celebrated the Baccalaureate Mass.

Each young woman received her diploma with up to four family members in attendance that was captured by a videographer. The Class of 2020 will receive a touching video that captures the excitement and joy of each classmate, inspirational speeches from the Valedictorian and Salutatorians, and words of encouragement from Cabrini administrators.

The class earned \$11,764,124 in college scholarships. Among those students receiving scholarships, each earned an average of \$156,855. Together, the class received admission offers from 84 different universities throughout the United States.

Katherine M. Heller was the valedictorian. Colleen E. Gaffney and Breanna M. Guient were the salutatorians.

*~ submitted by Katelyn Erhardt, Cabrini High School*



Graduation is all about celebrating with loved ones. Gabrielle Taylor (c.) and her guests take time for a photo in the chapel.

## *Congratulations to the Cabrini High Class of 2020!*



# Cabrini University Honors Class of 2020 with Virtual Degree Conferral

Cabrini University celebrated its Class of 2020 on Sunday, May 17, hosting two Virtual Conferral of Degrees events amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 507 degrees were conferred on 324 undergraduate and 183 graduate students during the online ceremony.

“The Class of 2020 will always be a special group in Cabrini’s history, whose achievements stand as beacons of hope, faith, and resiliency in a time of worldwide crisis,” said Cabrini President Donald B. Taylor, PhD.

As part of the degree conferrals, Cabrini’s Director of Campus Ministry and Chaplain, Rev. Carl F. Janicki, prepared a video blessing for the graduates.



“Today, you are recipients of a Cabrini University degree, an *Education of the Heart*,” Janicki said. “May you find in the lessons you have learned through success, and most importantly, through setbacks, the wisdom to create: systems of equity, a life of harmony and peace with all creation, the courage to be agents of change in a world which desperately, now more than ever, needs your passion, gifts, and talents to bring about global healing.”



Adding to the festivities was a virtual toast to the Class of 2020, featuring congratulatory videos from Cabrini alumni, faculty, and staff, which was sent to the graduates and aired on social media on Thursday, May 14.

~ [cabrini.edu](http://cabrini.edu) website To watch the virtual toast video click [here](#):

Sr. Damien Ciminera, MSC  
has graciously accepted her new mission at  
St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY.  
Sr. Damien will commence her new mission on  
Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> when she will join with many MSCs in prayer ministry there.  
Her new address will be:  
St. Cabrini Nursing Home  
3 North - Room 325  
115 Broadway  
Dobbs Ferry, NY  
Sr. Damien's email address: [Cabrini1@aol.com](mailto:Cabrini1@aol.com)  
For the immediate future, Sr. Damien's phone will remain: 646-357-2792  
**Well wishes and greetings for Sr. Damien would warm her heart.**

# From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

## National Religious Vocations Conference releases 2020 Study

At the end of a decade of steady entrances to religious communities, the NRVC has released its *2020 Study of Recent Vocations to Religious Life*. This latest research provides information on those men and women who entered religious life from 2013 – 2018. For the past two weeks, we have been sharing some elements of the study; this week we explore some further findings.

### Characteristics of Younger Members

The study revealed many facts about newer members:

- One-third of newer entrants (34 percent) have a relative who is a priest, deacon or religious sister or brother.
- One in ten report that they entered another religious institute before the congregation to which they currently belong.
- Seven in ten considered religious life by the time they were 21, with half doing so by the time they were 17. Female respondents are more likely than male respondents to have thought about a religious vocation at a young age, that is, before the age of 14 (30 percent compared to 16 percent.). Men were a little more likely to first consider religious life when they were college-age. (30 percent of men compared to 23 percent of women.)
- Most newer members (74 percent) participated in a “Come and See” experience(s) before they entered their religious institute.
- Almost half of those in initial formation (48 percent) were born in 1990 or later.
- The average age of entrance is 28 for men and 29 for women. This is a little younger than the average age of entrance in 2009, which was 30 for men and 32 for women.
- The majority of newer members experienced support in their consideration of religious life: 80 percent found support from priests and religious. Around 7 in 10 reported that friends and parishioners were a significant source of support. The large majority of parents and siblings (95 percent) expressed support ranging from “somewhat” to “very much.”
- The majority (60 percent) of religious institutes have at least one person in initial formation. About 20 percent currently have more than five people in religious formation.



Some MSC newly professed sisters and novices have fun with Mr. Snowman in West Park, NY.

#### HOW LONG DO PEOPLE TAKE TO DISCERN?

- |                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| • Less than a year    | 28% |
| • One to two years    | 37% |
| • More than two years | 35% |

# Prayer Requests

## *Ali*

Miriam King, recently retired Executive Director of the St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine in New York City, asks our prayers for her sister, Ali, who will have to undergo more chemotherapy. Given the COVID restrictions, no one is able to accompany Ali. Please pray for Ali's strength, courage and healing. May she be comforted at this stressful time.

## *Geraldo Gomes*

You are asked to prayer for Geraldo Gomes, who suffered a stroke this past week in Brazil. Geraldo is the younger brother of Sr. Alfonsina Gomes, MSC. Please pray that he will recover fully.

## With Grateful Hearts

### *Sr. Xavier Hayden, MSC*

Please join in wishing Sr. Xavier a Happy Birthday # 93! Due to the COVID restrictions, many MSCs could not be with Sr. Xavier, a resident at Cabrini of Westchester in Dobbs Ferry, NY, for the celebration, but with gifts of balloons, beautiful yarn for crocheting, and chocolates sent by the Sisters, Sr. Xavier was grandly feted by the dedicated staff members. And, of course, Sr. Xavier marked the occasion by blowing out the candles on her birthday cupcake!

*Happy Birthday, Sr. Xavier!*



### *Sr. Aloysia Morelli, MSC*

Sr. Aloysia wishes to thank the Sisters and the Cabrinian community for your notes, phone calls, and well wishes following her recent surgery. Sr. Aloysia is feeling well and is recuperating at home. She is most grateful to all for your kindness.



# In Loving Memory

## ***Giacomo (Jack) Abruzzo***



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jack Abruzzo who went home to God on April 21<sup>st</sup>, after a short illness. He leaves behind his wife Rosalie of 58 years, children John Michael (Karen), Stephen Salvatore and Christina Nolan (Gene), and three grandchildren, Angela, Dana and Steven. He was proud to be a Eucharistic minister at his parish, where he also taught 8th grade religion for 13 years. Jack was a charter member of the Giuseppe A. Nigro Lodge #2234 and sat on the Advisory Board of St. Frances Xavier Shrine in New York City.

## ***Kenneth Birnbaum***

Kindly unite in prayer for Kenneth Birnbaum who died peacefully at home with his loving wife, Kathy, at his side on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Many of the Cabrini Sisters have known his wife, Kathy Birnbaum, for many years from her time working at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in the Physical Therapy Department until her retirement. Please pray for Kenneth, Kathy, and their family at this sad time.



## ***Anne Hogan***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anne Hogan who passed away on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Anne is the grandmother of Anthony Valentino, a friend of Melanie Paccillo, a Cabrini Lay Missionary and member of the Province Vocation Promotion Team. Melanie has requested prayers for Anthony and his family at this sad time. May Anne rest in God's eternal light.

## ***John Kolea, Jr.***

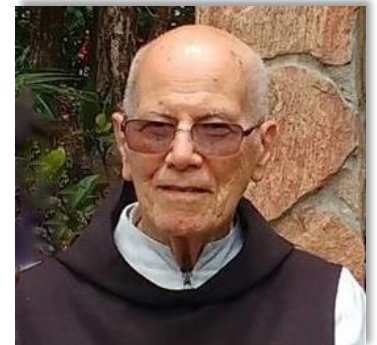
Please pray for John Kolea, Jr. the adult son of dear friends of Cabrini (College) University alumna Elizabeth McNerlin Collins '71. Mr. Kolea, the married father of three young children, passed away yesterday evening. Please pray for consolation and strength for his wife, his children, his parents Pat and John, and their families as they mourn their great loss.

## ***Joao Baptista Marques and Brother Rafael Marques***



Joao Baptista

It is with sadness that we share that the two brothers of Sr. Bernadine Marques, MSC have recently gone home to God. Joao Baptista, age 68, passed away on May 8<sup>th</sup> due to medical complications. Her other brother, Brother Rafael, who was a Cistercian monk, passed away on May 18 at the age of 92. We commend their spirits to Almighty God and entrust them to our Creator.



Brother Rafael

### ***Rebeca Zanin Perusso***

Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC shares, “My dear Aunt Rebeca Zanin Perusso, passed away on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. She was 92 years young. May she rest in peace. Prayers are requested for her family, please.”

### ***Catherine Bradley Portland***

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine Bradley Portland, the mother of Cabrini (College) University alumna Cassie Bradley Woestman '67. Mrs. Portland passed away, peacefully, yesterday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Portland is the grandmother of Cabrini (College) University alumni: Billy Cassidy '08 and Lisa Portland '18. Pray for Mrs. Portland and for Cassie and her family as they mourn the loss of their mother and grandmother.

### ***Special Intention***

Your prayers are requested for a very special intention.

## **TODAY IS ASCENSION THURSDAY**

At first glance, the Ascension would seem to be a sad day. Christ in his human body is leaving the world for the last time. But we need to take our cues from the liturgy. This is a joyful feast; it is the fulfillment of Christ's salvific mission. The Ascension is the final leg of the Paschal Mystery: Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension into heaven (as mentioned in the Eucharist Prayer of the Mass). It is not until Jesus ascends and returns to His Father that His act of Redemption is completed. Our place in heaven is prepared at this feast—we will now share in Christ's glory. That is why our hearts should sing with Psalm 47 as it repeats 3 days in a row,



***“God mounts His throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.”***