

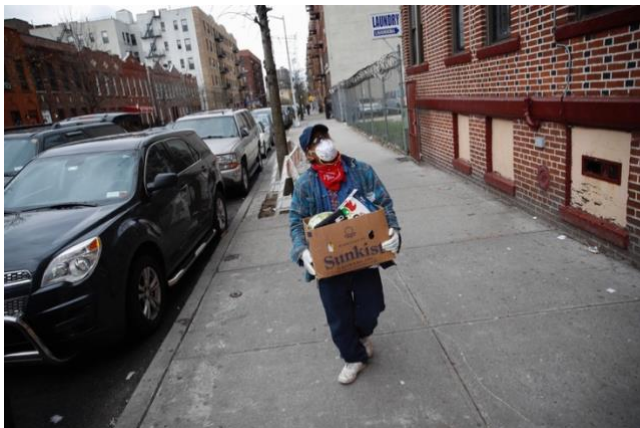


May 7, 2020

## Immigrant Workers Face Economic Uncertainty During COVID-19 Shutdown

~ by J.D. Long-Garcia *America Magazine*

Farm workers and those who work in healthcare are unquestionably essential workers. And according to the [Center for Migration Studies](#) in New York, nearly 20 million immigrants work in jobs that are critical to the nation during the coronavirus. Roughly half are naturalized citizens and the rest are legal noncitizens or undocumented migrants.



Francisco Ramirez delivers donated groceries to families in a large immigrant neighborhood in the Bronx, NY.  
AP Photo/John Minchillo

“They’re disproportionately represented in essential jobs,” said Donald Kerwin, the Executive Director of the Center. “They work front-line jobs, often risking their lives. They’re not being paid well and are treated poorly by national policies. We owe immigrants a lot. We don’t acknowledge that enough.”

According to the report, 16 percent of U.S. healthcare workers are immigrants. In states that have been hardest hit by the pandemic, the rates are even higher. In New York, for example, 33 percent of healthcare workers are immigrants, and in California, the rate is 32 percent.

In the agricultural sector, 31 percent of the total workforce are immigrants, and The New York Times reports that about half of all field workers are undocumented migrants. There are also high rates of immigrant jobholders in food manufacturing and processing (26 percent), grocery wholesalers (26 percent) and retail grocery and food industries (17 percent).

All of the jobs that we don’t pay attention to and don’t think about, these are essential jobs,” Mr. Kerwin told America. “And immigrants fill them. How are we paying immigrants? Very poorly. And it’s even worse during the crisis, when their essential work is even more important.”

“These are people who are working while you and I stay home. They are a vital part of the economy.”

~ Ashley Feasley  
Dir. of Migration and  
Public Affairs  
USCCB



A significant percentage of those who work in healthcare are immigrants, especially healthcare workers in cities and areas hard hit by COVID-19.

Ashley Feasley, the Director of Migration Policy and Public Affairs for the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), said both documented and undocumented immigrants work in the healthcare sector. Of the estimated 280,000 undocumented workers in healthcare, for example, nearly 45,000 are working as nursing assistants and nearly 30,000 work as home health aides according to 2018 data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

“These are people who are working while you and I stay home,” she said. “They’re a vital part of the economy, both immigrants and refugees. When we think about the scale of this, we have

to recognize the human side of it. Not everyone is suffering equally in this country or in the world.”

Maria Elena Manzo, a community leader with Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action in California said undocumented workers, who have not received funds from the federal government’s emergency stimulus package, are struggling. Hotel closings have left many unemployed and farm laborers have seen reduced hours – some as few as four hours a week.

“It’s not like [they] have savings. They don’t have enough money for rent,” Ms. Manzo said. Many come home to crowded homes with multiple families living in one house. “If you don’t have money to pay the rent, you go to a predatory lender. They’re already behind, and by the time this is over, they’re going to be even further in debt.”

Christina Garcia, of the Marin Organizing Committee, which advocates for low-income community rights, is undocumented and has been in the United States for the last 20 years.

As a part of her organizing group, she has been in touch with about 400 families. Most of [these] families have children who are U.S. citizens. They sometimes have to decide between paying for the internet for their children to keep up with school or buying food. Parents are depressed because they do not see an end to their employment struggles.



Agricultural workers in California.

“I’m not saying that everyone isn’t suffering. Everyone is,” she said. But the immigrant has it more difficult.”

This is true for immigrants across the United States.

To read the entire article click [here](#):

# *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 study comes 11 years after the first study completed in 2009. This latest research provides information on those men and women who entered religious life from 2013 – 2018. The NRVC states that “they are mindful no study can point to just one reason why a person responds to God’s call to enter a community.” There is a mystery in the call and an unpredictability in the response. The grace of perseverance is the essence of religious life with both our oldest and newest members serving as influential role models of courage, compassion and competence. In this week’s edition and in the upcoming weeks we will share some of the findings of the study.

### **Religious life in the U.S. today**

Over 700 diverse religious institutes exist in the United States. They vary in spirituality, charism, and mission as well as size, composition, and presence of new members. The diversity of sisters, brothers, and priests is one of the hallmarks of religious life today.

On average, roughly 200 people a year take final vows, and around 400 to 500 begin the process of formation.



The Missionary Sisters as an international religious institute have always been culturally diverse with Sisters hailing from many countries of origin.

### **Community life**

Many newer members see community life as what is distinctive and most attractive about religious life. What incoming members seek in community life is praying together, celebrating holidays and feasts together, living with other members and sharing meals together.

Additionally, living at or near a ministry site and living simply, in solidarity with the poor and marginalized is ranked “somewhat” to “very” important. The younger a respondent is, the more likely he or she is to prefer to live in a larger community, especially one with at least eight members. This is consistent with findings from the 2009 study of newer members.

### **Intercultural living**

Newer members prefer living with members of different cultures (four in five) and newer members themselves reflect the racial and ethnic changes in the United States toward more people who claim an identity outside of European white culture. Catholics, along with the rest of the country, are increasingly Hispanic.

Next week: Intergenerational living, prayer and spirituality, and education.



# 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration at Cabrini of Westchester!

On May 2, 2020, family and friends of Cabrini of Westchester resident, Sr. Miriam Anne Brennan, Sister of Charity, gathered at a social distance to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Cabrini staff arranged for Sr. Miriam to appear in a window near her room while her loved ones waved, displayed banners and extended their well wishes from the parking lot outside the building.

Sr. Miriam’s good friend, James Landy, was in attendance and said, “While not the gathering we had planned, and that Sr. Annie deserves, it’s great that she can see us acknowledge this wonderful milestone.”

Staff contacted CBS News to ask for coverage of this event and it was aired at 6:00 pm that evening! (see the link below) Happy Birthday, Sr. Miriam!



Cheers to Sr. Miriam who celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with some yummy chocolate strawberries.



**Photo left:** Sr. Miriam’s multi-generational family turned out to bring her festive birthday wishes.

**Photo below:** Sisters of Charity display their colorful banner of greetings outside Sr. Miriam’s window at Cabrini of Westchester.



To view the news clip click [here](#)

# St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine, NYC



With Sincere Thanks &  
Best Wishes for the Future

The Missionary Sisters of the Guadalupe Province and the Board of Trustees offer our thanks to **Miriam King** as she retires from the position of Executive Director at the St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine in New York City. Miriam began her commitment to the Shrine in September of 2014 as the Gift Shop Manager and assumed the role of Director in 2015. She has given tirelessly of herself to promote the Shrine's mission. We wish Miriam every blessing in her future endeavors.



Cherie Sprosty, Shrine Director of Liturgy (r.) wishes Executive Director Miriam King (l.) all good things upon her retirement.

*And...*

## Extending a Warm Welcome



Julia Johnson Attaway

It is with pleasure that the Board of Trustees of the St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine welcomes **Julia Johnson Attaway** to the position of Executive Director of St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York City. Julia comes to us with experience as a Marketing and Account Manager. She has assisted with human resource issues and done extensive work as an editor of press releases and writer of devotional articles. She has proven her ability in communication skills and the use of social media. Julia has firsthand experience of the Shrine and is very enthusiastic about the opportunity to promote its mission. Her activities in the local community will be an asset in these efforts.





## Love and Resilience: Stories from the MSCs

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 of the MSCs and of your family experiences during the COVID crisis in The Update and on [www.motherscabrini.org](http://www.motherscabrini.org)

**Sister Candida Encarnación Soto, MSC** shares that during the pandemic she and others have joined together as they pray:

*“We have the certainty that from this cry of pain praise will spring up, because the world will become aware of its smallness and because a microscopic virus has brought the world to its knees.*

*‘Where sin abounds grace will abound.’*

*We [also] continually ask the Father for mercy for all his children,  
as we are destroying the beauty of the creation that He created for us with so much love.”*

We thank Sr. Candida for sharing this prayer. As we continue to live through the pandemic, we encourage our Update readers to share your stories and your favorite prayers which we will publish in The Update.

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### ***Some Important Changes...Please Make a Note***

**Sr. Consolata Demma MSC** has been given a temporary phone number while she is in quarantine. We are sure it would brighten her day to hear from her sisters and friends. She cannot leave her room and so, your phone call would give her a boost.

**Her phone number is: 610 – 213 - 4301**

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**Sr. Alfonsina Gomes, MSC** has a new email address:

[alfonsinagomesmsc@gmail.com](mailto:alfonsinagomesmsc@gmail.com)

Kindly make that change in your contact lists. Thank you.



# **SAVE THE DATE**

**CABRINI MISSION  
FOUNDATION GALA**

**JOIN US**

**October 7, 2020**

**Metropolitan Club New York  
One East Sixtieth Street  
New York, NY 10022**

For more information contact:  
[ecunningham@cabrinifdn.org](mailto:ecunningham@cabrinifdn.org)

# Prayer Requests



## ***A Prayer for All Mothers***

Lord, on Mother's Day, this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have borne us, those who have nurtured us, and those who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb. Amen. Happy Mother's Day!

## ***Barbara***

Please unite in prayer for Barbara, a Certified Nursing Assistant at St. Cabrini Nursing Home who has been hospitalized and on a ventilator for more than three weeks. The physician said she needs a miracle so please pray to Mother Cabrini for one.

## ***Father Michael Connolly, OFM Cap.***

You are asked to keep Fr. Connolly, a good friend of Pat Krasnausky of Cabrini of Westchester, in your prayers. Fr. Connolly is hospitalized with COVID-19. Please pray for his healing and complete recovery.

## ***Coronavirus Pandemic***

This week, we ask prayers for those who have been termed 'last responders' in the pandemic - those who are funeral directors and those who work in cemeteries and crematoriums. They, too, are essential workers. We ask prayers for their well-being as they tend to those who have lost loved ones and are grieving.

## ***Grayson Maldonado***

Kindly pray for Grayson Maldonado, the grandson of Amarilis Maldonado, an Administrative Assistant at Cabrini Immigrant Services in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Grayson is two years-old and is having a liver transplant today. Please pray his surgery is successful and that that this little one will be restored to vibrant health.

## ***Peggy Norris***

Margaret, a Mother Cabrini High School (NYC) graduate, asks prayers for her cousin, Peggy Norris, who will be undergoing surgery for cancer.

## ***Nurses and Midwives***

National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6th and ends on May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday. As of 1998, May 8 was designated as **National Student Nurses Day**, to be celebrated annually. And as of 2003, **National School Nurse Day** is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurses Week (May 6-12) each year. This year 2020 also has been dedicated to nurses and midwives.



This Nurses' Week is unlike any other. As a society, we have asked more of nurses than we ever have by asking them to put their lives on the line in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We are always grateful for the skill and care of nurses and this year, we offer special prayers and thanks for their courage and dedication as they selflessly treat those with COVID-19. Pray for their safety and the safety of their loved ones.

***St. Cabrini Nursing Home Residents and Staff***

Please continue to remember the residents and staff of St. Cabrini Nursing Home – both those affected by the virus and those providing care – in your prayers. Pray for their strength and courage.

***Mary Short and all senior citizens***

Sr. Grace Waters, MSC asks that we remember in prayer her friend, Mary Short, and indeed, all senior citizens. Mary Short shared with Sr. Grace how lonely and frightened she and other seniors are at this time, many of whom live alone and are without family and friends nearby. With the pandemic, these experiences of feeling isolated are exacerbated. Pray for their peace of mind.

***Terezinha and Iri Venturin***

Kindly pray for Terezinha and Iri, from Brazil, the sister and brother-in-law of Sr. John Giani, MSC. Terezinha recently began dialysis and has been dealing with other medical issues. Iri sustained a severe injury due to a tree falling on him. He has three broken ribs and has an injury to his lumbar spine. At present he is in ICU. Pray that they will both be healed.

## In Loving Memory

***Judy Brown***

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Judy Brown, kind and devoted friend of Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC and many Missionary Sisters. Judy passed away yesterday evening, May 6<sup>th</sup>, following a brief illness. Judy was a generous and loving woman whose presence among us in the Cabrinian community will be deeply missed. May she rest in God's eternal light.