



June 4, 2020

## Pope Francis expresses concern about 'disturbing social unrest' in the US

~ by Joshua J. McElwee, National Catholic Reporter/ Gerard O'Connor, America Magazine

Pope Francis expressed concern on June 3 about what he termed the “disturbing social unrest” taking place throughout the United States. The pontiff called for the confrontation of racism, but said violence is “self-destructive and self-defeating.”

In his weekly live-streamed general audience, the Pope directly addressed his “dear brothers and sisters” in the U.S.

Francis says he is following “with great concern the disturbing social unrest in your nation in these past days, following the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd,” a 46-year-old African American father who was killed by a Minneapolis police officer on May 25.



“My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life,” said the pontiff. “Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost” quoting Archbishop José Gomez of the USCCB.

Pope Francis, like his predecessors, including Sts. Paul VI and John Paul II, has always advocated nonviolence. Indeed, he has [often cited Martin Luther King Jr.](#) in this regard, including during his address to the U.S. Congress on September 24, 2015, when he recalled the peaceful march Dr. King led from Selma to Montgomery.

In the last part of his message, Pope Francis said, “Today I join the Church in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and in the entire United States, in praying for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and of all those others who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism.” His inclusion of the many “who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism” is highly significant, especially at the present moment but also in the light of the history of racism in the United States. To read the complete articles click [here](#) and [here](#)

# SO MUCH NEEDED: **WHEN WILL WE RESPOND?**

~ A reflection by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN  
Cabrini Retreat Center



We would prefer to take a positive spin on the challenging time we are in, but this pandemic has unleashed the worries and anxieties of so many. The disproportionate numbers of people of color who have succumbed to this virus, the negative impacts of sheltering in place, and issues of racism have compounded the release of bottled up emotions of grief, fear and injustice. The

racism issue has been taken to the streets...we hope those with the power to make a difference are noticing. Given the unprecedented events of COVID-19 and the riots now rampant, it seems for some government officials, immigration issues may have taken a back seat to all else that is transpiring in our country.

## **What are some of the issues for immigrants that still urgently need our attention?**

- COVID 19 Relief for immigrants  
    who pay taxes,  
    those with Social Security numbers,  
    mixed status families
- Path to citizenship for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS (Temporary Protected Status) recipients
- Reinstatement of asylum norms
- Access to counsel for detained immigrants and those forced to wait in Mexico
- Raising the number of refugees admitted to the United States (now lower than ever)
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- All the issues around our currently closed borders



These are the critical immigration issues needing to be addressed and each of them could be a story in itself. The lives of so many individuals and families are hanging by a thread with the prospect of separation and deportation looming heavily upon them.

Most likely, if you are reading this, you know personally, or are at least are aware of immigrants whose lives are affected by all the legislation (or lack thereof) being enacted today. Politics aside, the welcome, generosity and outreach which are the foundations of our country cannot be put aside. All the more, the foundations of our very Christian faith call us to love, respect and assist those most vulnerable among us.

So, how am I called to answer Jesus' command of love of neighbor? How do I learn more about how I can help? And how do I then respond...not to ISSUES but to PEOPLE IN NEED?

# *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 weeks, we have been sharing some elements of the study; this week we bring you the concluding segments.

### Hope for the Future

Though fully aware of the concerns and challenges that their communities face, newer entrants to religious life are optimistic about the future. They hope to see their communities be bold, take risks, work collaboratively with other communities and lay partners. All of their hopes have at their core a desire to continue the good works of prior generations while forging a new path for religious life.

*My hope is that we work at increasing our numbers  
by living a joyful witness to the gospel.  
That we consolidate our ministries, but in doing so,  
that we work at rebuilding them.  
I hope that we become very deeply rooted in prayer,  
both personally and communally.*

### The Call Continues

Since 1988 the NRVC has encouraged thousands of vocation directors to do justice to the beauty of religious life by professionally promoting it, inviting a new generation to consider it, and assessing and mentoring those who express interest. As religious life continues to evolve to address the signs of the times, the NRVC encourages all in the church not to question whether to act, but how to act. Why? Because both God's call to consecrated life, and people's response to it, continue. For your information, the NRVC website, [nrvc.net](http://nrvc.net) provides myriad ideas for action built on accurate information and awareness. Let us - all of us, religious and laity – continue to dare to invite women and men to this joyful life of witness and service.



*If we are indeed convinced that the Holy Spirit  
continues to inspire vocations to the priesthood and the religious life,  
we can “once more cast out the nets” in the Lord’s name, with complete confidence.  
We can dare, as we should, to tell each young person to ask  
Whether this is the path that they are meant to follow.*

~ Christus Vivit, 274



## 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)

As an expression of Cabrinian resilience, we invite you to attend a [webinar](#) on

### The 2020 Global Perspective: What are we Seeing?

*In the midst of a pandemic, there are responses that can bring out the best or the worst in us.*

*Throughout our Cabrini World, we have seen many signs of hope and solidarity. In this webinar session we invite you to take a look; you are invited to a “see” change.*



### Save the Date:

**Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> – 10 am CDT**

The webinar is sponsored by the National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini in collaboration with the Cabrini Retreat Center.



*Presented by ~*  
**Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC**  
**MSC General Councilor**

Sr. Bernadette is a member of the MSC General Council and resides in Rome. Her primary areas of responsibility are formation and communication. Her ministry experiences have been in teaching, retreat work, vocation promotion, campus ministry, parish ministry, fundraising and formation work with candidates, novices and Sisters in first vows.

**For more webinar information:** Call 847.297.6530 or email: [info@cabrinicenter.org](mailto:info@cabrinicenter.org)  
**New to Zoom?** A tutorial will be offered on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am CDT. Please see information on the following page.

## Want to join the Webinar and are New to Zoom?

For those using Zoom technology for the first time, you are encouraged to download and test Zoom on your computer well before the webinar.

### TECH TIPS

- For best results log in through your computer, laptop, iPad, or tablet
- A wired connection is always more stable than wireless if you have that capacity.

### NO COMPUTER ACCESS?

- There is a zoom app available for smartphones.
- There is an option to call in from any phone for audio only.

### If you are new to Zoom, these YouTube videos will help you get started:

- One-minute video to help you get started on Zoom: [How to Join a Zoom Meeting](#)
- One-minute video to show you how to test your audio and video: [Configuring Audio & Video](#)
- Ten minute video about participating in a meeting with zoom: [How to Navigate the Meeting Controls](#)

### Tech Test Time - Friday June 12, 2020 at 10 - 10:30 am CDT

- Want to test-drive zoom in preparation for the webinar?
- Log into to this zoom link to meet the friendly Chicago Cabrini Tech Team:
  - [Zoom Tech Check](#)

This will be an opportunity to test out the controls and ask any questions you have.

- You will need to have downloaded zoom on your computer or smartphone to participate.
- You will need a video camera and a microphone on your computer to engage on the call otherwise you will participate as a viewer only.

Questions? email [info@cabrinicenter.org](mailto:info@cabrinicenter.org) or call 847-297-6530 (leave a message with a good time to return your call).



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## Prayer Requests

### *IHM Sisters*

Prayers have been requested for several Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) in Immaculata, PA, who are not well. Kindly pray for their healing.

## In Loving Memory

### *George Floyd*

The Cabrinian Community extends their prayers of sympathy to the Floyd Family as they mourn the death of their father, son and brother, George Floyd. May his family be consoled as they grieve the tragic loss of their loved one.