



July 2, 2020

## U.S. Deportations Have Led to Spread of COVID-19

~ by Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

A report by the Washington-based Refugees International organization charges U.S. immigration policy with [exacerbating] the spread of the coronavirus in Guatemala, as federal agencies in the U.S. and Mexico have repatriated infected Guatemalans through deportations.

In “Harmful Returns: The Compounded Vulnerabilities of Returned Guatemalans in the Time of COVID-19,” a report released on June 23, Refugees International urges that Guatemalans seeking refuge be allowed to apply for asylum in the U.S., instead of being turned over to Mexican authorities or repatriated, and that they be allowed to go with U.S. sponsors while they wait for their day in immigration court.



A bus driver outside Guatemala City directs people boarding a bus after they were deported from the United States.

*Photo: CNS/Reuters/Fabricio Alonso*

But U.S. policies such as the “Remain in Mexico” program, also called the Migrant Protection Protocols or MPP, which asks those seeking asylum in the U.S. to wait in Mexico until a U.S. immigration court can adjudicate their case, have led to the eventual return home of many Guatemalans and other Central Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier this year, Guatemalan officials halted flights carrying deportees into the country, saying that at least 20% of its COVID-19 cases had resulted from deportees who contracted the virus in U.S.

detention centers. Citing those figures, Refugees International said once they were returned to Guatemala, deportees tested positive for COVID-19, “despite having clean bill of health documents from the United States.”

And, once they return to Guatemala, they were met with stigma, lack of jobs and still facing dangerous conditions in addition to having contracted the virus, the group says.

“These measures force home many Guatemalans with valid refugee claims who are at risk of persecution upon return,” the group said. “Others have legitimate fears for their security and safety when they get home because returnees are at greater risk of becoming targets of violence and extortion.



Deported Guatemalans returning home face hardship and peril as well as illness.

“Once back, Guatemalans often struggle to reintegrate. They face unique challenges in earning a livelihood; and women, indigenous groups and children face particular barriers to accessing many basic public services. Also, healthcare is lacking, particularly for psychological or specialized services.”

The main concern is that people seeking refuge in the U.S., including children, are exposed to unsafe conditions during detention and then

turned away or put in conditions that risk their health and their lives while in custody.

The organization has recommended testing prior to deportation as well as testing once the returnees arrive, saying a lack of such measures puts those deported and the general population at risk.

Deported Guatemalans return only to face hunger, a stagnant economy, and restrictions on their movement. To read the entire article click [here](#)

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## A Place to Call HOME during the Pandemic

~ by the Global Sisters Report (GSR) Staff



Home.

That word has meant more in recent months. As COVID-19 spread across the globe and shelter-in-place orders followed, some were able to hunker down in a familiar, safe space to ride out the unprecedented pandemic.

However, that wasn't necessarily the case for the estimate 1.6 billion people around the globe who live in substandard housing; tent settlements, rickety shacks, dilapidated urban apartments with two or more families, makeshift shelters fashioned out of junk cars and truck trailers and more.

Those who are homeless are at a higher risk of catching and dying from COVID-19; in the United States alone, [more than half a million people](#) were deemed especially vulnerable to the virus because of their lack of suitable housing.

In February, months before the coronavirus had infected more than 10 million people globally, GSR launched an ambition series [A Place to Call Home](#) that focused on Catholic Sisters from multiple congregations and countries helping those who are homeless or lack adequate shelter. We call your attention to the series which is continuing to spotlight how COVID-19 fears and restrictions have affected their ministries. We invite our Update readers to follow the series [here](#)

## Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

The economic collapse of the Juarez, Mexico where I was born, was dire when my parents set a plan in motion to seek a better life in the U.S. I was three. Poverty was increasing, crime too. My father made frequent trips into the U.S to work to supplement my family's income, but this was unsustainable, not to mention hard on our family. Soon enough, the choice was made to bring us up further north, to Oregon. We settled into a largely immigrant community in the suburbs of Portland. My parents worked hard to



Giovana Oaxaca  
*NETWORK Lobby*

provide my siblings and me with a well-rounded education and encouraged us to apply ourselves in our studies. They taught us to be self-sufficient and critical of injustices, and in the undercurrent of their stories of tilling the soil in *el rancho*, how to be good stewards of the earth. In a way, they were warning us about the exploits of capitalism and corruption, which had uprooted them from their hometowns and cast them on the restless search for a better life.

In 2011, my mother was arrested and detained by CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) a couple of miles from the border during a Greyhound bus sweep. She was attempting to reunite with us after she made a visit to my ailing grandmother, her only visit in over a decade. Her return was marked by difficulties. However, an incredible attorney agreed to take her case and helped us fight her deportation.

I was fortunate to apply for DACA when it was announced. DACA was a lifeline and instrumental in helping me attain an education. In college, I started on a path of political activism and community service. It led to NETWORK Lobby where I currently work as a Government Relations Associate. I am using my experience with the immigration system as a young activist and DACA recipient to be outspoken in denouncing racism and demanding changes to systems that perpetuate poverty, violence, and oppression for Black and people of color.

We all have a stake in dismantling systems of oppression; otherwise, we allow horrible injustices to go unchecked. The recent tragedy of George Floyd's murder at the hands of law enforcement comes to mind. Like countless other Black Americans, George died a victim of racialized policing. These moments have cast new light on the devaluation of Black lives in our society. It further crystallizes the need for demanding structural reform and accountability for instances of abuse of power. If we are to seek justice in every channel of life, we must strive to understand the intersectionality of race and politics and have the courage to challenge these injustices head-on.

People with privilege can build authentic relationships and join in solidarity with Black, Indigenous and People of Color by devoting time to understanding the structural and root causes of racial inequality, listening to Black leaders of this movement, and contributing to bail and immigration bond funds so no one has to suffer being separated from their loved ones.

— Giovana Oaxaca is a DACA recipient and a current Government Relations Associate at [NETWORK Lobby](#), a JFI core member organization, in Washington, DC ~ *Justice for Immigrants*



# Celebrating Jobs Well Done!



On Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, a caravan of at least 30 cars paraded through the grounds of Cabrini of Westchester in Dobbs Ferry, NY, while the song “*Ain’t No Stopping Us Now*” was blasted for all to hear! The cars were decorated with signs of appreciation in honor of the members of the 1199 Service Employees International Union who are employed at St. Cabrini Nursing Home. As the cars made their way to the front of the building, staff members emerged out of the doors while dancing, singing and wearing huge smiles.



Really getting into the beat of the music are from left: Devonte Martin, Imee Garcia, Anthony DelValle and Miriam Hunte of the Rehabilitation Department as the caravan passes by.

Organized by the administration of the 1199 Union, the parade was to thank the dedicated employees who tirelessly care for the residents of the home, most especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the parade, organizers arranged for New York State Senate Majority Leader and friend of Cabrini of Westchester, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, to attend and address the group with words of thanks. “During the COVID-19 pandemic, you showed up to work every day and proved that you are beyond essential. I came here on behalf of myself, the

Senate and every elected official throughout Westchester County and the State to say thank you for being our backbone, our constant and our heart.”



President and CEO Pat Krasnausky (l.) and Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

As festive as the atmosphere was, it was apparent that there was a special individual that was missing from the celebration. A moment of silence was held in memory of Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Barbara Holmes, who succumbed to the COVID-19 virus in May. Barbara was employed at Cabrini for

almost 41 years and was a passionate advocate for both residents and co-workers. It seemed appropriate that Patricia Krasnausky, President and CEO of Cabrini of Westchester announced that the monthly Values in Action Award will be renamed in Barbara’s honor, since she was the epitome of Cabrini’s core values of pride, dignity, compassion and respect. ~ submitted by Susan Herveg



CNAs Georgia Castle and Jony Luchthamas enjoyed the festivities.

# What Would Mother Cabrini Do?

## Contemporary Issues – Cabrinian Perspectives



The **NEXT webinar** sponsored by the National Shrine and the Cabrini Retreat Center will be on Mother Cabrini's 170<sup>th</sup> birthday, **Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am CDT**. Sister Eileen Currie, MSC will speak about the charism of Mother Cabrini and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and its application today.

Sister Eileen is a Spiritual Director at the Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat House in Sedalia, Colorado. After spending twenty-four years in various levels of education, including serving as President of Cabrini University (then Cabrini College) from

1982 to 1992, Sr. Eileen completed a master's degree in spirituality at Creighton University. She then completed a residential internship program in retreat direction for the Spiritual Exercises at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, Pennsylvania. She has extensive experience in spiritual direction and in giving conference retreats for groups.

*~submitted by Lori Schneider, National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini*



We hope you will join us on July 15 for our second Cabrini Webinar Series.

To access information on the webinar please visit the National Shrine's website [here](#)

Once on the Shrine's homepage, click on **EVENTS** in the topic header and it will bring you to the webinar information page.

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### To Join the Zoom Webinar

Topic: Cabrini Shrine Webinar - Sr. Eileen Currie

Time: Jul 15, 2020 09:30 AM **Central Time** (US and Canada) –

**Please note your own time zone.**

Join Zoom Meeting - **Log-in any time after 9:30 am - start time: 10:00 am CDT**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84514102877>



## From the Province Vocations Promotion Team...

*Over the past month we have brought you insights from the National Religious Vocations Conference (NRVC) 2020 Study of Recent Vocations to Religious Life. As a follow up to that study, this week, we continue with the series written by Carol Schuck Scheiber, the editor of HORIZON, the journal of the NRVC on best practices for new membership.*

### Best Practices for Encouraging New Membership

#### 6. Focus on other-centered ministry

Ideally vocation ministry should be outward-looking and other-centered. A sense of healthy focus and balance in the way that vocation ministry is conducted is a theme that comes through in particular in the focus group reports of the 202 NRVC study. In relating their own vocation journeys, newer members expressed gratitude to those who walked with them, sharing wisdom, allowing them time, understanding that life experience and perspective at age 25 is different from age 45 or 65.

The NRVC study participants - members who joined and stayed – by and large feel they have found their genuine vocation, a process that required time and freedom. The challenge for institutes is to maintain a vision that is both outward (What do young people need to help them uncover God’s call for their lives?” and inward (How can we encourage a healthy community? How can we promote our community so that as young people determine their life path, they can consider life with us?)

There is a mystery to the process of vocation discernment, and each person’s journey is unique.

Maintaining a focus on the pastoral needs of those making life decisions keeps institutes grounded.



#### 7. Communicate, communicate, communicate

Both the 2009 and 2020 study clearly show that an essential part of vocation ministry is communication. Religious communities need to communicate to multiple audiences. The general public should know that the community exists and is open to new membership.

Young people need to brush shoulders with religious; many have never met a Catholic sister, nun, or brother. Others have never spoken directly to a priest. Vocation ministers (sometimes in tandem with communications directors) must get the word out about who the community is, what it is doing, and what opportunities there are for interacting with the community, such as joining it as a volunteer, associate or lifelong member.

Every community that is welcoming new members needs an attractive, updated website that clearly communicates how to get in touch about becoming a member. Religious institutes need to have visibility in their local community and beyond.

Because social media is a crucial form of contemporary communication, communities that want to invite targeted populations ideally have a presence on social media platforms as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Such communication should steer people toward live contact with the community so that a relationship can be built – advertising community events such as open houses, service opportunities, on-line discussions, and webinars. Such events bring people together and a relationship begins and grows.



# Prayer Requests

## ***Beth Scarpello***

Please unite in prayer for Beth Scarpello who is currently hospitalized in very serious condition. Please pray that God's touch will bring about her healing and that she will soon fully recover. Also pray for the Scarpello and Reilly families as they rally around Beth during her illness.

## ***Gerri Thatcher***

Your prayers are requested for Gerri Thatcher, a dear friend of Lorraine Campanelli, Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Gerri has been experiencing some health issues and is awaiting the results of some medical tests. Please pray that the medical personnel will be able to determine the source of her illness.

*This weekend, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, those of us in the Cabrinian community who are in the United States will be observing Independence Day, a national holiday.*

*At this unprecedented time in our world and in our nation's history we pray:*

God of justice and Lord of all, you guide all of creation with fatherly care.  
On this Independence Day, we recall the day when our country  
took its place among the family of nations.

You reveal that those who work for peace will be called  
your daughters and sons.  
Continue to send your Spirit to touch the hearts and minds  
of all who cherish the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of  
happiness.

As you have called us to be one nation, grant that under  
your providence our country may share your blessings  
with all the peoples of the earth.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
for ever and ever.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless you, your loved ones,  
and all those who believe in the promise of peace and good will.

Amen.

*~ Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sacred Heart Monastery*

