



September 17, 2020

At Mexican Camp near US Border Asylum Seekers Grow More Desperate

~by David Agren, Catholic News Service

Matamoros, Mexico - When Sr. Norma Pimentel used to query the needs of asylum seekers in a tent camp along the Rio Grande in this Mexican border city, they asked for supplies such as utensils and blankets. Now when she speaks with them they voice fears for their safety and ask about an exit.



Sr. Donna Pimentel speaks with a young resident of a tent camp in Matamoros, MX.

CNS photo/ David Agren

“We’re moving to a more desperate situation: ‘Get me out of here, I am afraid for my child,’” she said they tell her.

Residents of Dignity Village – populated by asylum-seekers waiting in Mexico as their cases proceed in US courts, part of the Migrant Protection Protocols plan – have endured everything from cold snaps to hurricanes, from rats and snakes to vermin infestation, and from criminal gangs to kidnapping them to the COVID-19 pandemic. But fear has gripped the camp in recent weeks as at least seven individuals have been found murdered in an area where camp residents used to wash and bathe.

“It’s hard to know (what’s happening) because the authorities are not saying and they’re not identifying the person(s)” said Sr. Pimentel, a member of the Missionaries of Jesus and Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. “It’s dangerous and everyone wants out.”

As time drags on, desperation sets in, especially as the temporary tents residents use become battered by the elements – Hurricane Hanna stormed through in August nearly flooding them out – and the COVID-19 pandemic postpones their US court appearance for the foreseeable future.

There’s nothing in sight that can really move them forward...They have endured months of hardship and COVID-19 doesn’t make it any easier,” said Pimentel.

The camp’s population has dwindled to less than 1,000 residents, roughly a third of its peak occupancy. Some of the camp’s residents are also attempting to cross the Rio Grande into the



The Matamoros tent camp.

United States – a risky proposition. The river has deceptively strong currents and organized crime demands a payment to attempt the crossing.

Pimentel often deals with Mexican immigration officials, taking requests from residents to them for consideration. She also listens to petitions, such as the pleas of a group of pregnant women, who were wondering if US officials would expedite their hearings. For all the desperation, she said, many have not given up hope on reaching the United States for one simple reason: “They can’t return to their countries.” To read the entire article click [here](#)

Vatican Letter to Religious Communities: No Virtual Chapters or Voting

~ By Dan Stockman, *Global Sisters Report*

Because of the global pandemic, schools, conferences and even Masses are held virtually. Religious congregations’ chapters, however, are not.

Under rules announced in a letter earlier this summer, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, colloquially known as the Congregation for Religious, says superiors may meet with their leadership council through telecommunications during the crisis, but they cannot hold a chapter that way. Chapters that had been postponed until plans were made for a virtual version will now have to be postponed until it is safe to gather in large numbers.



Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz

The letter, signed by Cardinal João Bráz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Religious, says canon law requires chapter delegates to be physically present "as a way of safeguarding and promoting the constant search for the common good," noting that it "is the expression of walking together in direct discussion, and communication, not only verbal, in taking on the challenge of different approaches."

Mercy Sr. Sharon Euart, executive director of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes and a canon lawyer who previously was the executive coordinator of the Canon Law Society of America, said

congregations can still gather virtually for meetings or assemblies and do anything that does not elect leadership or make final decisions that bind the entire community.

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus were originally scheduled to hold their General Chapter in March of this year. Due to the pandemic those plans had to be set aside. The lack of elections means those in leadership whose terms would normally end this year have another year tacked on, which for some congregations whose leaders are elderly, can be a burden.

Sr. Marlene Weisenback of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, also a canon lawyer, said, “Those that have to reschedule their chapter – we don’t even know if it’s possible for them to hold it next summer. We don’t know if this – [pandemic] – will be over, and that’s unsettling.”

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



we are one family under God

The White House is currently preparing to set the goal for the number of refugees that will be allowed to be admitted to the United States for the coming fiscal year (FY). This process is called the “Presidential Determination” (PD). Before setting the new refugee Presidential Determination, the President is required by federal law to consult with

the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Judiciary Committees.

Nearly two hundred organizations, including the USCCB and many JFI member organizations, have already sent a letter to President Trump urging him to build back the U.S. resettlement program **by setting a goal of 95,000 refugees.**

Jesus, was part of a refugee family. Refugees contribute greatly to the United States in ordinary times and have continued to contribute as essential workers during the COVID-19 crisis, including 176,000 refugees serving in the healthcare field and 175,000 laboring as part of the food supply chain. Resettlement will continue to be done safely as all refugees must and do undergo medical checks for COVID-like symptoms prior to entering the United States and are required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

TAKE ACTION

Join Justice for Immigrants by contacting your Members of Congress to ensure the Trump Administration honors its legal obligation to meaningfully consult with Congress about this year’s refugee admissions level before September 30th and to build back the refugee resettlement program by setting the goal at the historic average of 95,000 refugees allowed to be admitted this year.



Ask your Members to urge the Administration to build back the refugee resettlement program by setting the goal at the historic average of 95,000 refugees allowed to be admitted this year.

[Click here](#) to send a message to your Senators.

Creation Must Be Protected, Not Exploited

~ by Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

Vatican City – Human beings must change their relationship with nature and view it not as an “object for unscrupulous use and abuse” but as a gift they are charged by God to care for and protect, Pope Francis said.



Pope Francis greets the crowd as he arrives for his general audience. (CNS/Reuters/Yar Nardi)

People are called to contemplate creation as a reflection of “God’s infinite wisdom and goodness” and not act as if people are the “center of everything” and the “absolute rulers of all others creatures,” the Pope said yesterday at his weekly general audience.

“Exploiting creation – this is sin,” he said. “We believe that we are at the center, claiming to occupy God’s place and thus we ruin the harmony of creation, the harmony of God’s design. We become predators, forgetting our vocation as guardians of life.”

Departing from his prepared remarks, the Pope warned that those who are incapable of contemplating nature and creation are often incapable of contemplating their fellow human beings.

Citing a recent report that the Pine Island and Thwaites glaciers in Antarctica are collapsing due to global warming, Francis said the consequential rising sea levels “will be terrible,” and he called on people to “guard the inheritance God has entrusted to us so that future generations can enjoy it.”



Join Sisters for their world debut!

This new video release is part mystery, part drama and has thousands of superheroes! From the GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT - now playing at a click of your mouse:

["Sisters in Ministry: The Gospel in Action."](#)

Explore something that's a mystery to too many people: Why do these women do what they do?

Discover the drama of Catholic sisters around the world who live their faith in brave and selfless ways! Be amazed at the wondrous women -- not in capes, but some in habits -- who pursue truth, justice and the narrow way! ~ with thanks to Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC

CABRINI NATIONAL SHRINE 2020 VIRTUAL BENEFIT

The National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini will host its first Virtual Benefit on Thursday, September 24 from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm CT. Each year we come together in person to celebrate our beloved Saint, Mother Cabrini and YOU, our loyal and dedicated community. This year we will celebrate virtually from the comfort of home.

Janet Davies from ABC 7 Chicago will be the Emcee for this event and Auctioneer for our Paddle Raise. She will share with you the importance of this year's Benefit and will extend individual gratitude to our supporters.

Our Silent Auction will start at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 17 and bidding for these items ends September 24th at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are complimentary, but don't forget to register. Click on the link below to register and to view some of our silent auction items:

<https://aesbid.com/ELP/CABRINI>

In addition to registering, you can also become a Sponsor for this year's event. Sponsorship is paramount to the Shrine's growth and existence and as a Sponsor you will enjoy unique experiences and hospitality at the Shrine. Click on the link below to learn more about Sponsorship Opportunities:

<https://www.cabrinationalshrine.org/become-a-sponsor> or you can contact our Development Director, Barb Willis at development@cabrinationalshrine.org or call 773-360-5746 for sponsorship details.

It is suggested that you watch the event on your tablet, laptop or desktop computer. Smart phones are best used for bidding and donations. When registering, the link to bid will be sent directly to your phone. For updated information on how to view this event, go to our website at www.cabrinationalshrine.org



**COME INSIDE THE SHRINE ON SEPTEMBER 24th
FOR A HISTORICAL TOUR AND NIGHT TO REMEMBER.
We look forward to seeing you then!**

Cabrini High School Alumna Named Louisiana Elementary School Teacher of the Year

Angelle Bourgeois, current assistant principal of Allemands Elementary School and former teacher of Norco Elementary School, was announced as **the 2021 Louisiana Elementary School Teacher of the Year** at the 14th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Awards Gala.



Angelle Bourgeois

In partnership with Dream Teachers and the Louisiana Association of Principals, the Louisiana Department of Education annually recognizes and celebrates some of the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. These programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge teachers and leaders who are making exceptional gains with students.

In a communication with Yvonne Hrapmann, Cabrini High School Principal, Bourgeois, a proud alumna of Cabrini High School, Class of 2005, wrote, "I promoted Cabrini and the outstanding Catholic school education I received in the two interviews I gave this weekend. I am so proud to be a graduate of Cabrini High School which helped prepare for my successes in college, career, and in life." ~ submitted by Yvonne Hrapmann, Principal, Cabrini High School

Congratulations, Angelle!



The CLM Corner

Last week, an occasional feature in The Update made its debut...The CLM Corner. The CLM Corner will provide periodic updates on the Cabrini Lay Missionaries of the Guadalupe Province and their ministerial works.

Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs) are women and men, single or married, who come from different cultures, backgrounds, professions and economic situations. They are called and invited by Jesus to live the special charism of Mother Cabrini.

The CLMs in the Guadalupe Province currently live in California, Washington State, New Jersey and New York. All are involved in different ministries and volunteer services. Through their witness and example, they are spreading the charism of Mother Cabrini.

~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director

From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Team...



This slide/screenshare lists the various nations across the globe that have a religious sister or priest participating in the workshop via

Rooted in God, Sent on Mission is the current workshop being presented via Zoom by Sr. Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, PhD. The workshop series provides an opportunity for vocation and formation ministers to explore topics directly related to the accompaniment of women and men discerning religious life. One hundred consecrated religious and order priests representing ten nations are participating in the workshop which will be held on one Monday each month from September to December.

Participating on behalf of the Missionary Sisters are Sr. Patricia Godoy, MSC, Sr. Genet Henok, MSC, Sr. Lucy Panettieri, MSC and Nancy Costello.

Each month a different topic will be explored. September's workshop held this past Monday addressed Emotional Intelligence/Affective Maturity: Bedrock of Interculturality. In October, the topic will be Sexual Integration: The Capacity for Fruitful Celibate Living. The session in November will explore Formative Conversations: The Heart of the Formative Journey. The concluding workshop in December will address Maximizing Ministry Experiences in Initial Formation.

In seeing so many congregations represented it's affirming to know that so many are serving as instruments of God's call in the world. ~ submitted by Nancy Costello, Guadalupe Province Vocation Team

Prayer Requests

Fred Coldwell

Karen Coldwell, a faculty member at Cabrini University, asks for prayers for her husband, Fred, who is experiencing some health challenges following a major surgery he had last year. Please pray for his return to full health.

Friend of the Missionary Sisters

A good friend of the Missionary Sisters asks for your prayers of intercession that she may successfully sell her house.

Hurricane Sally victims

We unite in prayer on behalf of all those impacted by Hurricane Sally. We pray that all will be safe and that people will soon be able to rebuild their lives and restore their communities.

Kitty McCormick

Kindly remember Kitty McCormick, a cousin of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, in your prayers as she copes with cancer.

Sr. Mary Frances Mills, OSF

Lorraine Campanelli, Director of Cabrini Lay Missionaries, requests prayers for her good friend, Sr. Mary Frances Mills. Sr. Mary Frances is having a difficult time with a leg wound. Please pray that her wound will soon heal.

Sherry Morano and family

Please unite in prayer for Sherry Morano, a longtime friend of the Missionary Sisters, who is a resident of California. The wildfires are near her family's residential area. Please pray for the safety of her family and all those whose lives, homes and livelihoods are threatened by the fires in the western United States.

Sr. Regina Palamara, MSC

Kindly keep Sr. Regina, who is missioned in California, in your prayers. Pray that she will remain safe and healthy as the fires continue to ravage California towns and neighborhoods.

Mario and Angela Raviglione

Your prayers are requested for Mario Raviglione (a member of the MSC International Health Commission) and his wife, Angela, who are dealing with Covid-19. They are members of our extended Cabriniworld community.

Sr. Chris Wagner, OSF

Please pray for Sr. Chris Wagner, a Franciscan Sister of Aston, PA, who has experienced a recurrence of cancer. Pray that her current course of treatment will be successful and that she will be restored to full health. Sr. Chris would be most grateful for our prayers.

Mrs. Bernie Waters

Prayers are asked for Mrs. Bernie Waters, a family member of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC who will be undergoing surgery in the near future. Please pray for a successful procedure and a complete recovery.



In Loving Memory

Charles Sbarboro

The Cabrini University community is saddened by the passing of Charles Sbarboro, the brother of Delphine Sbarboro Pape '61. Together, they created the Charles and Delphine Sbarboro Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of their parents. May Mr. Sbarboro rest in God's eternal light. Please pray for his family at this sad time.