



## **Gracious Lord, Child of Bethlehem,**

*As you were born into a family that had to flee as refugees,  
help us to grow in solidarity with immigrants and refugees everywhere,  
to know we are all refugees until our hearts find refuge in you.*

*As it was workers, the shepherds, who first came to know you,  
the carpenter's son, let us remember the dignity of human labor,  
that you share a special love for those who work hard for their sustenance.*

*Let us honor you in work and prayer.*

*As you were adored by the Magi who came from far-off nations to honor you,  
let us bring to all nations the good news that is your love.*

*As your coming was joyfully sung by angels,  
let us celebrate the gift of newborn children  
and honor that gift with our loving care.*

*As you were denied any birthplace but a stable,  
help us to open our homes, our lives, our hearts  
to the coming of God and his presence in your people.*

*Be born into our world, dear Lord, and be born into the cradle of our hearts.*



## Show the World the Joy of Faith

~ by Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Joy should be the hallmark of a Christian’s life, a reflection of knowing that one is loved by God, saved by Jesus Christ and committed to leading others to him said Pope Francis.

The closer the Lord is to us, the more joy we feel; the further away he is, the more sadness we feel. This is a rule for Christians,” the Pope said on December 13<sup>th</sup>, Gaudete Sunday.

Speaking to visitors in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis told them, “Once a philosopher said something more or less like this: ‘I do not understand how one can believe today, because those who say they believe have a face from a funeral wake.’”

Many Christians have that face – yes, a face from a funeral wake, a face of sadness. But, Christ is risen! Christ loves you! And you have no joy?” the Pope asked.

As the celebration of Christmas approaches, Pope Francis asked Christians to think about how they communicate the joy of being loved and saved.

“Think well today: how do I behave? Am I a joyful person who knows how to transmit the joy of being Christian, or am I always like those sad people who seem to be at a funeral wake? If I do not have the joy of my faith, I cannot bear witness.” To read the entire article click [here](#)

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*Many Missionary Sisters, Cabrini collaborators and friends will remember former Cabrini Mission Corps Missioner Michelle Woodruff. Michelle is now a Sister of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and a public health nurse serving Navajo people in New Mexico. Recently, the Global Sisters Report did a feature story on Sr. Michelle. A brief excerpt is printed here.*



**CROWNPOINT, NEW MEXICO** — Sr. Michelle Woodruff works as a public health nurse at the [Crownpoint Health Care Facility](#), about two hours northwest of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and an hour east of the Arizona border. Her main duty in recent months has been doing contact tracing of people with coronavirus. In May, the Navajo Nation had the highest per capita coronavirus infection rate in the country, and as of December 1 had [16,711 cases](#) of COVID-19 and 656 confirmed deaths from a population of about 175,000.

Woodruff, a native of South Hutchinson, Kansas, made her final profession in September 2010. She graduated from Bethel College, a small Mennonite college, and has been a nurse for 25 years. Amid the reality of health and socioeconomic disparities that she faces each day in her ministry, Woodruff said she has learned from the Diné (Navajo people) who are her coworkers, and the faithful of [Crownpoint-St. Paul](#) Catholic parish. To learn more about Sr. Michelle’s ministry click [here](#)



# The CLM Corner

*The CLM Corner provides periodic updates on the Cabrini Lay Missionaries of the Guadalupe Province and their ministerial works.*

## United in Spirit and Prayer



The Missionary Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent (Photo: upper left) and Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC (Photo: bottom row, center) joined with CLMs (Clockwise from top row center: ) CLM Director Lorraine Campanelli; Marianne McGowan; Vicky Lucio; Adela Jarquin Soza and Melanie Paccillo for a time of Advent prayer and reflection. Sr. Dianne McKenna (not pictured) joined the group, as well.

As the saying goes, “Prayer can move mountains!” Even COVID-19 could not stop several of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs) sharing an Advent prayer service with the Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent in New York City.

Once again, we were thankful for technology as we met via Zoom. It was wonderful to see each other as we have been quarantined and not able to visit in person. After some ‘catching-up,’ we shared in song and prayer. Thank you to Sr. Isalia Carvalho, MSC, for being so supportive of our coming together and making sure all the technology was in place. We look forward to being together again, hopefully in person, but until then, we are blessed to see each other via Zoom.

*~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CLM*

### Weekly Update – Publication Notice

Today’s edition of The Update is the final edition for 2020.

The Update will resume publication on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

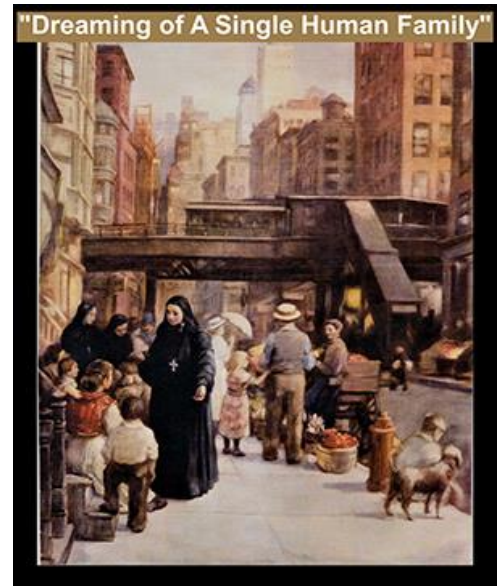
Prayer requests are always welcome. Please send to [cabrininews@mothercabrini.org](mailto:cabrininews@mothercabrini.org)

The prayer requests will be published on Thursdays as they are received.

**Save the Dates**  
for a **Compelling Webinar Series on**  
**Immigration:**  
**“Dreaming of a**  
**Single Human Family”**

Sponsored by:  
The National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini, Chicago, IL  
in collaboration with  
The Cabrini Retreat Center, Des Plaines, IL

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021**  
**9:00 am MST/10:00 am CST/11:00 am EST**



**“Themes from the Life and Spirituality of Mother Cabrini, Patroness of Immigrants”**

In this talk, Nicholas Rademacher and Michelle Sherman will discuss the integration of faith and justice in Mother Cabrini’s Gospel-inspired commitment to serve immigrant communities in the United States and Latin America. Set within the context of major turning points in her life, their talk will explore Mother Cabrini’s missionary vocation, her devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and her spirit of *disponibilita’*, that is, her flexibility and openness to God’s call.



Presenters:

**Nicholas Rademacher, PhD**

Dr. Rademacher is professor and chair of Religious Studies at Cabrini University. His teaching and scholarship focus on historical and contemporary expressions of Catholicism in the United States. Dr. Rademacher earned his PhD at the Catholic University of America. A published author of journals and books, he serves as Vice President of the American Catholic Historical Society and recently completed service on the historical commission for cause for canonization of Fr. William Atkinson, OSA. Dr. Rademacher can be reached via [nr725@cabrini.edu](mailto:nr725@cabrini.edu)



**Michelle Sherman, MA**

Michelle Sherman is the Campus Minister for Retreats at Villanova University. A former Cabrini Mission Corps missionary at Mother Cabrini H.S. in NYC, she is honored to contribute to this important Cabrini series. She holds a BA in Humanistic Studies from St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, IN; a MA in Theology and Certification in Lay Ministry from Villanova University; and Certification in Spiritual Direction from the Cranaleith Spiritual Center.

Ms. Sherman can be reached at [michelle.sherman@villanova.edu](mailto:michelle.sherman@villanova.edu)



# “Dreaming of a Single Human Family”

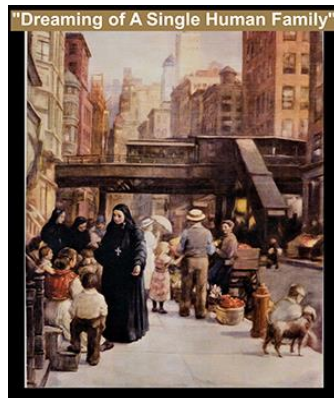
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

**9:00 am MST/10:00 am CST/11:00 am EST**

**The Center on Immigration:**

## **Challenges in Migration and a Cabrini Response**

As global politics further restrict migration, push factors such as global inequality, unyielding violence, and irreversible climate change persist and intensify. This virtual webinar will provide a concise overview of challenges facing immigrant communities at a local, national, and international level. It will also address how The Center on Immigration at Cabrini University is responding to these challenges and provide suggestions for people seeking to work for justice with people in migration.



Presenter:

### **Abel Rodriguez, JD ('01)**

Abel Rodriguez is Director of the Center on Immigration and Assistant Professor of Religion, Law and Social Justice at Cabrini University. His scholarship, teaching and advocacy focus on migrant justice. He is an expert and frequent presenter on immigration policy and the intersection of criminal and immigration law. Rodriguez earned a Juris Doctor at U. of Penn, a Masters of Theological Studies at Harvard, and a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies at Stanford, and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish at Cabrini College.

Mr. Rodriguez can be reached at: [ar3269@cabrini.edu](mailto:ar3269@cabrini.edu)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021**

**9:00 am MST/10:00 am CST/11:00 am EST**

**“Immigration from the Perspective of the Cabrini Charism, on a local, national and international level. Highlighting the focus of Cabrini University Wolfington Center”**

We will discuss some of the ways that the Wolfington Center at Cabrini University puts our commitment to solidarity with migrants into practice and look for ways that participants in the session can find new opportunities for engagement in their own communities. Initiatives include a middle school mentoring program with newly arrived immigrants in Norristown, PA; immigration simulations through our CRS Ambassadors chapter; and a grant-funded faculty cohort focused on migration.



Presenter:

### **Raymond Ward, PhD**

Dr. Ray Ward is the Director of the Wolfington Center at Cabrini University He earned a PhD in Christian Ethics from Boston College, writing on the concept of collective moral agency and responsibility in the Christian tradition. He serves as an advisor to several student-run organizations and also teaches the Faith, Service and Advocacy and College Success Seminar.

Dr. Ward can be reached at: [rew68@cabrini.edu](mailto:rew68@cabrini.edu)

If you are unable to join the webinars on the scheduled days/times, please note that the webinars will be recorded and will be posted on the websites of the National Shrine and MotherCabrini.org for viewing at any time. We will also include the links to the recordings in The Update.

# Advent

*Each week during the season of Advent, one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries will be offering a reflection. This week's reflection is presented by CLM Patricia Stancato-Purkey.*



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

The first reading is taken from 2 Samuel 7:1-5; 8-11;16 and refers to when David was anointed king in Hebron by all the tribes of Israel and Judah and his first step was to capture Jerusalem from the Jebusites and make it the political capital of his kingdom.

The second reading is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 26:25-27 where he introduces himself to the Christians in Rome and he gives an incomplete synthesis of his theology. His words remind us to give glory to God this Christmas and always, for the marvelous things he has done for us.

The Gospel is from Luke 1:26-38. At the moment our Lady said: "be it done to me according to thy word" the most stupendous event that ever happened, or ever could happen on earth, took place on this planet of ours. The Son of God took on human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. We are familiar with this story from childhood. We often say the Angelus in which this tremendous act of God's love is described. Although familiarity, in this case, does not breed contempt, it does help to blunt the real impact on our minds of such an extraordinary occurrence. If God had created a very special child, and made him into an outstanding saint, so that he could intercede with God for us, this would be a great act of love for us on God's part. Or, if he had sent an angel from heaven in human form, to teach us all about God and to help us to lead holy lives, this would deserve our deepest gratitude. But neither a saintly man nor a holy angel could do for us all that God wanted. No man or angel could make us adopted sons of God and heirs of heaven. It was necessary, in God's plan for us, that his divine Son should become man, should share our humanity so that we could share his divinity.

Could infinite love have gone any further? Our creation, the fact that we exist as human beings on earth, is a great gift to us on the part of God. Of what value could eighty, a hundred, even seven hundred years of a continuously happy life on this earth be for us if we learned that we had to depart

life forever one day? In a world tormented by sin and its evil effects our normal span of life would be less satisfying. However, when God created us, he so planned that our stay here would be but a stage, a steppingstone in fact, toward our everlasting home. We are well aware indeed of the lengths to which God's love has gone in order to make us his children and heirs to his kingdom. Are we, however, grateful to him for the love he has shown us? Are we honestly and sincerely trying to make ourselves worthy of the great future he has in store for us?

Today is a suitable occasion to look right into our hearts, to see how we stand with God. During the week we shall be keeping the feast of Christmas. The Baby in the manger will remind us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Have we shown our gratitude by living as true followers of Christ? If most of us must answer: "no," this is the time to change our course and return to the right road once more. God is asking this of us today. Shall our answer be: "behold here I am Lord, your humble and grateful servant, let it be done to me according to your word"?

*~excerpted from The Sunday Readings by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.*



*We continue our series of reflections by the Cabrini Lay Missionaries. The reflection for Christmas Day is presented by CLM Melanie Paccillo.*

*Unto us a child is born...*

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 2020**

**“It’s a Boy!”**

How amazing is it to welcome a child into the world? It’s exciting, a bit scary, and fills a family with an overwhelming feeling of love. Who will this person be? What will he or she be like? Will he or she give their mother premature grey hair? A baby changes everything. We instinctively gather to greet this new life and celebrate the growth of our extended human family.

When Jesus came into the world as a tiny baby, we welcomed not only a new life, but the incarnation of God. For born unto us was our savior, and for this reason we doubly celebrate the coming of this baby. A very special boy was born, indeed. It was a moment that changed everything.

The mystery of the Nativity isn’t only that He was born. It is that Jesus is continually born into our world every day. We can see it all around us. Every time we share a smile, offer help, pray urgently, Jesus is there. He who is love itself is brought forth into the world and we can sing “Emmanuel” - God is with us.

*Happy Christmas, Sisters and friends. May you notice today  
and every day of the coming year that our Lord is with you.*

# Prayer Requests

## ***Anita Catalanotto***

In your prayers please remember Cabrini University staff member, Anita Catalanotto. Anita will be undergoing knee surgery on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Pray that her surgery will be successful and that she will quickly be on the road to recovery.

## ***Peter Cellucci***

Please unite in prayer for seven-year-old Peter Cellucci, who underwent surgery for a brain tumor yesterday. Peter's surgery appears to have gone well, but, there are still unknowns about his prognosis. Please pray for his complete recovery and for the strength and comfort of his parents as they care for Peter.

## ***Mary Shrader's father***

Mary Shrader, a staff member at Cabrini University requests prayers for her father who is in his nineties and has just tested positive for COVID-19 and is experiencing some symptoms. Pray that his illness remains mild.

Pray, too, for Mary's mother that she will remain free from the virus.

# In Loving Memory

## ***Sam Villanueva***

Sr. Beatriz Santos, MSC, asks prayers for her family member Sam Villanueva who returned home to God. May he rest in God's eternal light.







## *Now the Work of Christmas Begins*

~ by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

On behalf of the Missionary Sisters, Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC and the Provincial Council  
wish to extend to our Cabrinian collaborators, friends and benefactors...

*A peaceful and Merry Christmas and  
abundant blessings in the new year.*