



January 14, 2021

Congregations of Women Religious React to Assault on U.S. Capitol: 'Shameful Moment in History'

~ by Dan Stockman, *Global Sisters Report*

Sisters across the nation responded to the January 6th attempted insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, calling for prayers, peace and, in some cases, new leadership.

[As was reported in last week's *Update*, the Missionary Sisters joined with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in saying that "The LCWR joins with the world in praying for peace after witnessing the violence and lawlessness in our nation's capital. We commend and thank the members of Congress who courageously continued their service to the nation even amid the chaos."]

Further statements from other religious communities:

The Adrian Dominicans

"Today, with heavy hearts we depart from our accustomed role of issue advocacy to take the unprecedented step of adding our voice, as religious leaders, to those of others in the civic life of our nation who call for the immediate removal of the sitting President of the United States," they wrote in a January 8th statement. "The President who incited this insurrection much be held accountable for his seditious acts." The declaration came after an earlier statement calling for prayer.



Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Kentucky

"Our nation is divided. We commit ourselves to pray for peace and healing for our country and to work for the common good. President Abraham Lincoln, who led our country through the most divided period of [our] history, said, 'We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Let us all appeal to our better angels as we strive to form a more perfect union, together.'"

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

"We, the Leadership Council of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan, were stunned and heartbroken at the insurrection that took place at the United States Capitol. What unfolded at the Capitol is the direct result of unchecked hyper-partisan hostility fomented by false

claims of wide-spread voter fraud perpetuated by President Trump and enabled for too long by members of his own party. While we must begin the difficult work of healing the deep wounds of our nation, we cannot do so unless our nation's leaders lead by example and publicly acknowledge the legitimacy of this election...and urge their supporters to do the same."

U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph

"We are deeply concerned about the state of our country and the future of our democracy. Our hearts ached as we watched white nationalists participate in these despicable actions that threaten not only to destroy our government but to rend the bonds that unite us. We commend and thank the members of Congress and staff who courageously continued their service to the nation amid the chaos as well as the law enforcement who helped protect and secure the building.

We cannot ignore the juxtaposition of the law enforcement response to the violence at the Capitol versus the violence inflicted on the Black Lives Matter protestors in June. We invite all people of good will to reflect on the next steps we must take to repair our democracy, eliminate white privilege and contribute to the work of building a more perfect union."

Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods

The congregation in Terre Haute, Indiana, issued a joint statement with the InterFaith Council of the Wabash Valley:

"We of diverse religious faiths and humanitarian belief systems join with...so many others in our country in condemning Wednesday's display of hate and violence against people and property as well as our democratic institutions and processes. We hope and pray that our country will return to a politics guided by wisdom, facts and truths."

Network:

"The Constitution protects our rights and dignity as humans created in the image of God. We have a Constitutional remedy that holds unfit Presidents accountable. The Catholic advocates of Network call on Vice President Pence and the Cabinet to do their faithful duty to the nation and invoke the 25th Amendment now."



Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque, Iowa

"Let us pray to God that we will resolve our nation's differences using peaceful means and not fighting one another."

To read the complete article along with the statements from each of the religious congregations in their entirety click [here](#)

Capitol Riot Mirrors Insurrections outside US say Sisters with International Duties

~ Chris Herlinger, Global Sisters Report

The January 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol has global implications and mirrors insurrections outside the United States, sisters with international duties and experience told Global Sisters Report. Their comments came as sister congregations called for prayers, peace and, in some cases, new leadership.

"It was a chilling sight to see," said Irish Sr. Winifred Doherty, who represents the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd at the United Nations in New York City and who worked in Ethiopia from 1991 to 2007.

"I almost have no words," she said. "I never thought I'd see such a thing in the United States."



Sr. Nonie Gutzler
President, Maryknoll Sisters
GSR Photo/C. Herlinger

Sr. Nonie Gutzler, the president of the Maryknoll Sisters, said she and other sisters "were shocked and moved to tears" by the January 6 events. She said a member of her congregation based in Latin America remarked that coups and insurrections are part of the history of that region but that it was startling to see one unfold on the streets of Washington.

Doherty said the events reminded her of her own mission experience in Ethiopia. She recalled street violence, including gunfire, during the 2005 Ethiopian parliamentary elections marked by violence and political repression.

"It was all evoked for me," Doherty said of the U.S. insurrection. "It is chilling to live in a society where there doesn't appear to be law and order."

Sr. Teresa Kotturan, U.N. representative for the Sisters of Charity Federation, who is Indian, said the events served as a warning of the fragility of democratic institutions everywhere. "We can't take the institutions of democracy for granted," no matter if it is in India, or the United States." She continued, "Democracy is not established forever. We have to work on it and the values of the rule of law. If we don't pay attention, democracy will wash away."

The global trend toward authoritarian leaders diminishes democracy because such leaders "are concerned only about control and power and self-aggrandizement," Kotturan added. But in all places, she said, there is a familiar pattern of "small lies adding up until we're not able to tell the difference."

Sr. Gutzler, called leadership the heart of the current crisis and said the idea of the common good needs to be affirmed in the coming years.

"A leader needs to bring unity to a country; not false unity, but unity that promotes the common life," she said. In the U.S. it requires asking the question of what 'Make America Great Again' means. Does it mean becoming insular, or to acknowledge and to delight in a diversity of different cultures?" To read the complete article click [here](#)



Sr. Teresa Kotturan, SC
UN Representative
GSR/File photo

January 2021 is National *Anti*-Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January 2021 is National Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is a key time for all of us, as individuals, to educate ourselves about human trafficking and to learn to spot the signs of trafficking. It is also a time for us to take these messages to our workplaces, our churches, our schools, our families and our friends.



The Director of the National Human Trafficking Hotline # says the first months of COVID-related shutdowns brought a 40-percent increase in crisis calls, while requests for shelter nearly doubled. Traffickers prey upon people experiencing heightened vulnerabilities linked to pandemic-related lock downs, stay at home orders, and job loss. **Knowing how to ‘spot the signs’ could save lives.**

Someone you know may be in a sex trafficking situation if:

- They want to stop participating in selling or trading sex but feel scared or unable to leave.
- They disclose that they were reluctant to engage in selling sex but that someone pressured them into it.
- They live where they work or are transported by guards between home and workplace.
- They are children who live with or are supported by or dependent on a family member with a substance abuse problem or who is abusive in other ways.
- They have a manager in the sex trade.
- They have visual signs of abuse.
- They work in an industry where it may be common to be pressured into performing sex acts for money, such as a strip club, illicit cantina, go-go bar, or illicit massage business.
- They have an older, or simply controlling parent, guardian, romantic partner or “sponsor” who will not allow you to meet or speak with the person alone or monitors their movements, spending and/or communications. ~ Polaris Project. ~ submitted by Karol Brewer, CAAC

IF YOU SUSPECT TRAFFICKING, REPORT IT!

**CALL THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE # 888-3737-888
and BE SURE TO ADD THIS NUMBER IN YOUR CELL PHONE.**

Monday, January 11 was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Please pray the following prayer, daily, and join together in ending modern day slavery:

Loving Father,

We seek your divine protection for all who are exploited and enslaved.

For those forced into labor, trafficked into sexual slavery, and denied freedom,
we beseech you to release them from their chains.

Grant them protection, safety, and empowerment.

Restore their dignity and provide them a new beginning.

Show us how we might end exploitation by addressing its causes.

Help us reach out in support of victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Make us instruments of your spirit for their liberation.

For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Awareness of Human Trafficking

An Economy Without Trafficking

A major driver of human trafficking is neoliberalism, the dominant economic model of our time. It relentlessly promotes the assumption that creating wealth for those businesses and individuals who are already well-off will “trickle down” to those in the greatest need. Over and over again, this has proven to be false. The rich see immense gains in their wealth while those who are poor continue to struggle against ever-greater odds. Under this model, there are currently more people trafficked and in slavery than ever in history. And the profits derived from the victims of human trafficking are enormous, especially in sectors of mining, agriculture, hospitality, manufacturing, construction, domestic work, prostitution and organ transplants.

Pope Francis has implored us to “promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature.” If we accept this invitation and open ourselves to living more simply and compassionately, and to challenging our economic and political leaders, our economic models may finally begin to eliminate the differences between privilege and poverty. If we choose not to accept this invitation, the liberation of the oppressed that Jesus calls for in Luke’s Gospel will be difficult, if not impossible to be realized. ~*Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis 2015*

A Gesture of Commitment

You are invited to light a candle as a sign of your commitment to help to free those who are oppressed through human trafficking and slavery.

A Prayer for Victims of Trafficking



St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

O, St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity.

Those whom people enslave, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith.

Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.

We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.

Amen.

~ Pope Francis, 2018

Catholic Refugee Resettlement Groups Look to Rebuild

~ by Christopher White, National Catholic Reporter

Less than a week after Joe Biden's election victory, Rachel Pollock began receiving emails and phone calls from Catholic refugee resettlement officers across the country asking how soon it would be before they could get back to work.

During the last four years, Pollock, Director of Resettlement Services for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has seen program after program shutter due to the continual slash in refugee admissions by the current administration.

"In 2016, we had 71 offices throughout the U.S., and we are currently operating 40," she told the National Catholic Reporter (NCR). Now, Pollock and her collaborators are hoping that Biden's pledge to increase the annual admission target to 125,000 refugees, up from the current administration's cap of 15,000 individuals will open doors for new arrivals that will help restore their programming efforts."



A young girl dances at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in January of 2017 as women pray during a protest against a travel ban imposed by President Donald Trump's executive action. (CNS/Reuters/Laura Beckman)

"What the past few years have meant for us and other resettlement agencies across the U.S. has meant we've lost a lot of capacity to do this work," said Pollock, who contracts with local Catholic Charities agencies throughout the country who resettle refugees in local communities.

"We know the goal that the Biden administration has set is a lofty goal and it's going to take time and investment," said Pollock. "The infrastructure for

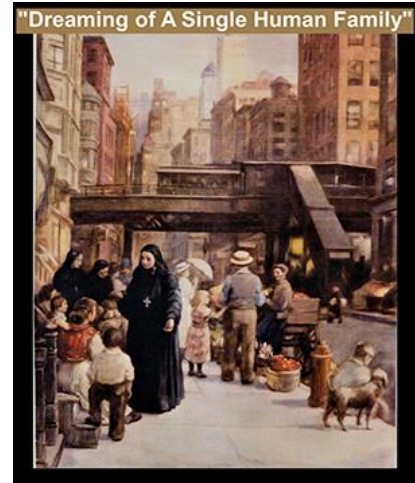
resettlement has been decimated over the last few years, but we're really eager to do this because it's been so critical to our mission and we're hopeful that the Biden administration will be good federal partners in our goal to do this."

Susan Gunn, Director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns said, "It's been really hard for the resettlement offices to close their doors. When you're doing this work, you're hearing about the specific dangers they're [the refugees] are fleeing. You are hearing about the family members with whom they want to reunite, and you're hearing about and seeing their determination to reestablish their lives...in the U.S. and it's been heartbreaking to have to stop that."

"These programs have been maligned and misunderstood, said David Woodyard, CEO of Catholic Charities of Dallas. "None of the refugees coming through are illegal."

Beginning this Month 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
with the gracious participation
of Cabrini University faculty and staff members



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

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/94980725342?pwd=TCs5QVd3dIFFRnNIWG9DM2s1MWIXQT09>

Passcode: 281493

Webinar ID: 949 8072 5342

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/acpfSoTzsk>

If you would like, upon entering the webinar, you have the **option** of introducing yourself to webinar participants via the CHAT feature.

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

In this presentation, 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



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

*If you are unable to join the webinar as it is being presented live, the presentations will be recorded and will be available on the websites of the National Shrine: www.cabrinationalshrine.org and the Missionary Sisters: www.motherscabrini.org

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming webinars:

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 and Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 9:00 am MST/ 10:00 am CST/ 11:00 EST

Prayer Requests

Peter Cellucci

Please continue your prayers for seven-year-old Peter, who, following brain surgery the week before Christmas, now begins 15 months of radiation and chemotherapy. His mother asks for our prayers saying that the family “has been dreading the start of treatment because we don’t want him to suffer.” Please pray that Peter will do well with his course of treatment. His family would be so grateful for our prayers.

Elay Fadlen

Cabrini Lay Missionary Vicky Lucio invites our prayers for Elay Fadlen, her grandnephew, who is 22 years of age, and who is suffering from a serious medical condition. We pray for his healing and recovery. Please hope and pray for his family as well.

Sr. Ann Herkenrath, SNJM

We are asked to pray for Sr. Ann, a good friend of the MSCs and a former board member at Cabrini Senior Housing in Seattle, WA. Sr. Ann is currently hospitalized; however, her condition is improving. Sr. Ann is the niece of Blessed Solanus Casey, Cap. whose beatification took place on November 18, 2017. Blessed Casey is now one step closer to canonization. Please remember Sr. Ann in your prayers.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Brazil

Please unite in prayer for the Missionary Sisters in Brazil, many of whom have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Pray that all the MSCs will be restored to full health. Knowing that those of us in Guadalupe Province are united in prayer will be reassuring for them all.

Prayers for a Peaceful Transition of Power

We ask the Good Lord to bless the United States with a peaceful transfer of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government and to bestow calm and unity upon the nation thereafter.

Mary Young

Please keep Mary Young, the sister of Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC in your prayers. Mary is experiencing some medical issues at this time and would appreciate our prayers.

With Grateful Hearts

Infant Domenick Assini

Lorraine Campanelli, Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY and the Director of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries, is thrilled to share the news of the arrival of her grand-nephew Domenick Assini, who made his debut on Tuesday, January 12th. Domenick was 5lbs. 10 ounces and 19 inches long. Lorraine’s niece, Christina, her husband Nick, and baby Domenick are all doing well. Thanks to all for your prayers for a safe delivery.



In Loving Memory

Sr. Gema Cappellari, MSC

The Missionary Sisters share news that Sr. Gema Cappellari, MSC, of the Santa Cabrini Community in Sao Paulo returned home to God on January 6, 2021. We pray that the Lord may welcome our Sister into His Kingdom of light and peace.

The Sisters of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Sr. Anita Quigley, SHCJ asks our prayers for her congregation. The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus have lost 4 sisters in 5 days and their Province is dealing with a great deal of grief at this time. Please pray that the sisters will be comforted in their sorrow and that those sisters who have been called home will rest in God's eternal light.

