



January 21, 2021

Pope Francis Sends Greetings to President Biden

~ by Gerard O'Connor, *America Magazine*

In a message of “cordial good wishes” to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. after his installation as the 46th president of the United States, Pope Francis assured him of his prayers that “Almighty God will grant you wisdom and strength in the exercise of your high office.”



With his son Hunter (l) looking on Joe Biden extends his hand as he greets Pope Francis. New York Times photo

He told the president that he prayed that “under your leadership, may the American people continue to draw strength from the lofty political, ethical and religious values that have inspired the nation since its founding.”

“At a time when the grave crisis facing our human family calls for farsighted and united responses,” Pope Francis wrote, “I pray that your decisions will be guided by a concern for building a society marked by authentic justice and freedom, together with unfailing respect for the rights and dignity of every person, especially the poor, the vulnerable and those who have no voice.”

Furthermore, the Pope said, “I ask God, the source of all wisdom and truth, to guide your efforts to foster understanding, reconciliation and peace within the United States and among the nations of the world in order to advance the universal common good.”

Pope Francis concluded by invoking God’s blessing on the president, his family and “the beloved American people.”

President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden begin Inaugural Day with Mass

~ by Mark Pattison, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hours before his inauguration as president, Joe Biden and incoming Vice President Kamala Harris were joined by their spouses and congressional leaders from both political parties for what was termed a Mass of Thanksgiving early January 20 at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington.

Among those invited to the Mass were House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-California, a Catholic, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, new Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, tweeted, “Such an honor to be able to attend the inaugural church service this morning at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew. It is aptly called the ‘Mass of Thanksgiving.’”

Jesuit Father Kevin O’Brien, president of Jesuit-run Santa Clara University in California, was the scheduled celebrant.

It was important to Biden that a bipartisan group of congressional leaders join him as “the beginning of a path forward” to national healing and political unity at the outset of his term.

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



President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden began Inauguration Day by attending Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral inviting congressional leaders to join them.

CNS Photo/Tom Brenner/ Reuters

One Minute Meditation

Learning to Love

So often we live our lives at 5 percent of our full potential. But, of course, there is no measure to our potential; the Christian tradition tells us it is infinite. If only we will turn from self to the other, our expansion of spirit becomes boundless. Conversion is just this liberation and expansion arising when we turn from ourselves to the infinite God. It is also learning to love God, just as in turning to God we learn to love one another. In loving, we are enriched beyond measure. We learn to live out of the infinite riches of God.

~ John Main, *Essential Writings*

Biden Administration Sets New Immigration Policies in Motion

~ by Maria Sacchetti, *Washington Post*

Acting Homeland Security Secretary David Pekoske issued a memo hours after President Biden's inaugural Wednesday setting strict limits for arresting and deporting immigrants while the department reviews its policies and practices. He also imposed an "immediate" 100-day pause on the deportations of certain noncitizens, to take effect no later than Friday. Pekoske is in charge as the Senate considers the nomination of [Alejandro Mayorkas](#), the former deputy DHS secretary during the Obama administration.

The [memo](#) is the first step in a broader plan to find a different solution for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, many of whom have lived here for years and have U.S.-citizen children. Many are essential workers — delivery workers, caregivers, even physicians — but Congress has not passed a major citizenship bill since 1986.

Biden has [unveiled](#) legislation that would allow millions to apply for citizenship, following in the footsteps of former presidents [George W. Bush](#) (R) and Barack Obama (D), who attended his inauguration Wednesday, and also advocated, albeit unsuccessfully, for immigration reform.

In the memo, Pekoske ordered DHS' chief of staff to review the agency's immigration policies over the next 100 days and recommend revisions.



DHS also suspended the Migrant Protection Protocols on Wednesday, ordering that no new migrants are to be added to the program, which requires Mexico to host asylum seekers as they await their hearings in the United States. But Covid-related travel restrictions remain in place, so asylum seekers are unable to immediately enter the United States, officials said Wednesday.

“All current MPP participants should remain where they are, pending further official information from U.S. government officials,” DHS said in a statement. But the Pekoske memo signaled that the new administration is focused on expanding asylum processing at the southwest border, which has been paralyzed during the pandemic.

DHS intends to “fairly and efficiently” process asylum claims while adhering to health protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the memo said.

Biden is expected to announce additional immigration actions on Jan. 29.

To read the full account click [here](#)

Religious Sisters Express Hope in President Biden's Character and Catholicism

~ by Dan Stockman, *Global Sisters Report (GSR)*

Catholic women religious in the United States want to see many different things [as] the Biden administration enters the White House. While it's no surprise that those sisters interviewed by the Global Sisters Report want to see policies more in line with Catholic social justice teaching, over and over, all of them kept coming back to the issue of character.

As the nation reels from a January 6 insurrection at the Capitol and impeachment in Congress, sisters said the new administration, led by President Joe Biden, will be a relief.



Sr. Joan Chittister

“Did anyone notice during this entire presidential campaign what was said most about Joe Biden? It was that he is a good man,” Sr. Joan Chittister, a Benedictine Sister of Erie, PA, and the co-chair of the Global Initiative of Women told the GSR, “[people] are looking for character. They’re looking for quality.”

Sr. Marcia Hall, of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, MD, said she is looking for a return to civility.



Sr. Marcia Hall



Sr. Simone Campbell

Sr. Simone Campbell of the Sisters of Social Service, executive director of Network, a Catholic social justice lobby, said Biden's Catholic faith is inseparable from who he is.

Chittister said sisters' calls for better policies on issues such as ecology, the economy, healthcare, just wages and racial equity will have a chance of being answered.

Chittister continued, “What I will be looking for is the character and the quality of the leadership and the recommitment to the Constitution. I'm looking for character.”

Chittister said that Biden's win restored her faith in the electorate.

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

Do you enjoy reading The Update?

Do you know someone else who might like learning more about
the Missionary Sisters and their ministries?

If so, please send their name(s) and email address(es) to:

Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org

We will be happy to enter them in our database.

They will receive a link to The Update each Thursday.



Sr. Damien Ciminera, MSC give a thumbs up as she receives her second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccinated and Relieved!



Monday, January 11, 2021 was a very exciting day at Cabrini of Westchester because residents and staff received the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine! A team from CVS Pharmacy was on site to administer both doses of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine, the first of which was distributed on December 21, 2020. In total, 217 residents and 177 staff members opted to be inoculated. Another site visit is planned for February 1, 2021.

“We are fortunate that the Covid-19 vaccine has demonstrated safety and is highly effective,” said Dr. Jeffrey Gold, Cabrini of Westchester’s Medical Director. “Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is the most effective way that we can protect ourselves, and most especially the residents, in order to address the global pandemic.”

With the second dose, the vaccine is said to be more than 90% effective against the on-going threat of the COVID-19 virus. This is a great relief to the residents, staff and most especially the family members, who haven’t seen their loved ones in person in quite a long time. “A renewed sense of hope accompanies the availability of the vaccine for the residents and our hard-working staff,” said Patricia Krasnausky, President and CEO. “Reuniting residents and their families with in-person visits is our greatest hope for this year.”

~ submitted by Susan Hecceg, Cabrini of Westchester



Sr. Mary Ann Hawes, MSC rolls up her sleeve to get her vaccine.



The CLM Corner

This is an occasional feature about the Cabrini Lay Missionaries and their mission and the ministries in which they engage.

Imparting the Spirit and Charism of Mother Cabrini

When individuals feel they are being called to be a Cabrini Lay Missionary (CLM), they begin a period of initial formation. During this time, they learn more about St. Cabrini, her spirituality, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and their different missions. We are blessed to have five people currently in formation.

On January 16th, Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC, a General Councilor for the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Rome, gave a beautiful presentation about *Mother Cabrini, the Patroness of Immigrants and Missionary of the New Evangelization*, to those in initial formation. Sr. Bernadette, spoke about the works of Mother Cabrini and all she did for immigrants and for so many people throughout the world. We heard about how Mother Cabrini never let an obstacle stop her. Rather, she would find a way to work around it. Mother Cabrini is truly a role model to all of us who are trying to help people today.

Based on the various comments of those participating in the gathering, everyone learned a great deal about Mother Cabrini and her countless works.

Thank you, Sr. Bernadette, for sharing your love and knowledge of this amazing woman with all of us.

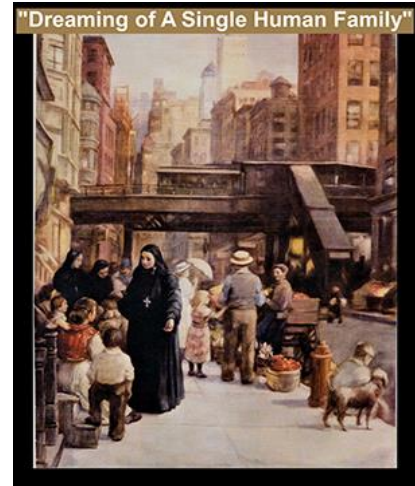
~submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CLM, Guadalupe Province



Lorraine Campanelli, Director of the CLMs, (top c.) hosted a formation session via Zoom for prospective CLMs that featured Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC (top r.) as the presenter.

Beginning Next Week!
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=TCs5QVd3dIFFRnNIWVG9DM2s1MWIXQT09>

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.mothercabrini.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

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.**

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

Prayer Requests

Peggy Becker

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC asks for prayers for a former Cabrini University employee, Peggy Becker, who has suffered a second stroke and is now on hospice care. Please pray for her comfort and serenity.

Pat Bietzel

Your prayers are requested for Pat Bietzel, a good friend of Pat Nowry, the sister of Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC. Ms. Bietzel has severe COPD. Pray that she will receive healing.

President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris

From the words of the invocation of Fr. Leo O'Donovan, SJ at yesterday's inauguration:

“For our new president [and Vice-President], we beg of you the wisdom Solomon sought when he knelt before you and prayed for "an understanding heart so that I can govern your people and know the difference between right and wrong. Be with us, Holy Mystery of Love, as we dream together, to reconcile the people of our land, restore our dream, and invest it with peace and justice and the joy that is the overflow of love. To the glory of your name forever. Amen.”



Paul Hester

Please unite in prayer for Paul Hester, who is hospitalized with a severe case of Covid. He is a good friend of Pat and Jack Nowry, Sr. Arlene Van Dusen's sister and brother-in-law. Please pray for Paul and his wife Judy during this time that Paul will make a full recovery.

Doreen McFarland

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC asks for prayers for Doreen McFarland as she faces some medical challenges and has to make an important decision. Please pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in her decision making.

Raj

Prayers are requested for Raj, a friend of Maria Valente Breeser, a 1973 graduate of Cabrini (College) University, and her husband Bob. Raj has lost his job as a software engineer and will be required to leave the United States and return to his home in India if he does not secure employment in his field within fifty days. Raj is married and has two young children. Pray that Raj will secure employment.

Special Intention

A request has been made of the Missionary Sisters by a member of the Cabrinian community to pray for the granting of a special intention.

Continued Prayers

Peter Cellucci

Please continue to think of seven-year-old Peter Cellucci for whom we have been praying. Peter underwent surgery for a malignant brain tumor and is now undergoing radiation and chemotherapy. Kindly pray for his strength and stamina as he continues his course of treatment. Pray too, for his parents and siblings as they journey with Peter.

Missionary Sisters in Brazil

Please continue your prayers for the Missionary Sisters in Brazil, many of whom have been ill with COVID. Pray that they will experience mild symptoms and that soon be retored to full health.

Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC

Sr. Lucille recently underwent knee surgery. She is doing well in her recovery and is now once again at Sacred Heart Convent. Sr. Lucille has been grateful for the prayers of the Cabrini community during her time of recuperation.

In Loving Memory

Eugene Francis McCormick, Jr.

Eugene Francis McCormick, Jr. died on January 13, 2021 at home in New Orleans, LA. Gene served as Chairperson of the Board of Cabrini High School in New Orleans and President of Cabrini Mission Foundation in New York City. Private services will be held at Jesuit High School Chapel of the North American Martyrs in New Orleans. Please pray for his wife Elizabeth Wetzel McCormick and all his family.

For his obituary, please click [here](#)

