



January 28, 2021

Asylum Seekers at Mexican Border Express Hope

~by David Agren, Catholic News Service



Idalia Reyes an asylum seeker from El Salvador in a tent camp. CNS/David Agren

MATAMOROS, Mexico (CNS) - Idalia Reyes is living in Matamoros – opposite Brownsville, Texas, as part of the Migrant Protection Protocols, (MPP), which forces asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico as their cases are heard in U.S. courts.

Details on what comes next for the asylum-seekers remains uncertain, and many still have U.S. court dates, which had been pushed repeatedly into the future during the pandemic.

Catholics working with program participants are urging them to remain patient. Some are encouraging the Biden administration to wind down the program, which they describe as “unjust” and designed to discourage asylum-seekers.

“(It) should be eliminated. It doesn’t make sense for anyone,” said Scalabrinian Father Pat Murphy, director of a migrant

shelter in Tijuana. “An asylum process that is fair should be started after so many years of injustice.”

Despite the dearth of details, the prospect of an overhaul under a new U.S. administration has buoyed the spirits among asylum-seekers stranded in unsafe Mexican cities the length of the U.S. – Mexico border.

“Biden is their hope,” said Juan Sierra, a lay volunteer with the Diocese of Matamoros’ migrant ministry. Adding to the expectations, he said, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden visited the camp in December 2019 and served them lunch.

Sierra and the local diocese – along with volunteers, mostly from the United States – have attended to the camp, which once hosted an estimated 3,000 asylum-seekers. Its population has dwindled to roughly 700 as people found other housing, applied for asylum in Mexico, returned to their country of origin or risked [crossing] the Rio Grande.

Many people, in their desperation, go to the river and try to cross. But, many drown,” said Dominican Brother Obed Cuellar, director of the diocesan shelter in Piedras Negras.

Sandro Hernandez, an Afro-Honduran, traveled to Mexico in a 2019 caravan. “When I heard about Biden, I headed here,” he said. “I am looking for a better future. Hopefully, I can fix my paperwork like the U.S. president is talking about.” To read the complete article click [here](#)

Latino Communities Have Enriched the Church

~ by Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service/National Catholic Reporter

VATICAN CITY – The presence of Latin Americans around the world has enriched the Catholic Church with a renewed zeal for the Gospel, Pope Francis said.

Christian communities in northern and central Europe have “benefited” greatly from Latin American devotions such as the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Mexico and the feast of Christ of the Miracles, which originated in Colombia, the Pope said recently to students and faculty of Rome’s Pontifical Latin American College.

“The rich cultural mix that made evangelization possible is reproduced again today,” he said. “The Latino people meet among themselves and with other people thanks to social mobility” and new forms of communication.



In a photo taken pre-COVID, Pope Francis addresses the students and faculty of the Pontifical Latin American College. CNS photo

The students’ formation and ministry, he added, must include three concrete actions:

- Opening the door of their hearts and helping others open their hearts to God’s love
- Pitching in and calling others to cooperate for the good of all
- Working to heal the world of the great evil that afflicts it and that the pandemic has brought to light.

“Create a space where God and your neighbor can meet,” Pope Francis told them.

“Never fail to manifest this availability, this openness,” he said. “Never close the door to those who, in the depths of their hearts, long to be able to enter and feel welcome. Think that the Lord is calling you under the garb of that poor man, to sit together at his banquet.”

Pope Francis said that the students’ continuing formation in Rome is a sign that God has a “plan of love and service for each one of you” and that they are called to be shepherds who “consecrate themselves to the care of the sheep.”

“Fight against the throwaway culture, social segregation, distrust and prejudice base on race, culture or faith, so that the feeling of brotherhood prevails over all differences,” he said.

From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Team...

February 2nd is World Day for Consecrated Life


About World Day for Consecrated Life

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

World Day for Consecrated Life is celebrated on February 2nd however, it is observed in parishes on the Sunday after February 2nd. In 2021, this day will be celebrated in parishes February 6-7, 2021.

"This then is the consecrated life: praise which gives joy to God's people, prophetic vision that reveals what counts. Consecrated life is not about survival, it is not about preparing ourselves for *ars bene moriendi*: this is the temptation of our days, in the face of declining vocations. No, it is not about survival, but new life. "But... there are only a few of us..." – it's about new life. It is a living encounter with the Lord in his people. It is a call to the faithful obedience of daily life and to the unexpected surprises from the Spirit. It is a vision of what we need to embrace in order to experience joy: Jesus" -
-Pope Francis, WDCL Homily on February 2, 2019




Collaborative online event Feb. 2 to focus on Fratelli Tutti



**25TH WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE
THROUGH THE LENS OF FRATELLI TUTTI**

A reflection on Consecrated Life by newer members in light of the Gospel call presented in *Fratelli Tutti*. There will be time for prayer, listening, and small group conversation.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 | 6:00-7:00PM CT | ONLINE VIA ZOOM

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|--|---|--|
|  Sr. Cella Ashton, OCD Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore |  Fr. Joseph Bach, OIF Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn |  Rev. Steve Des Sautels, OPM, Missionaries of the Precious Blood |
|  Sr. Leslie Keenan, OIF Congregation of Divine Providence, Melbourne, FL |  Fr. Chris Patoke, FSC De La Salle Christian Brothers |  Sr. Nicole Truhler, PM, Manantial Sisters, Daughters of Mary Immaculate |

On February 2, 6-7 p.m. Central Time all are welcome to a reflection on Consecrated Life given by newer members in light of the Gospel call presented in *Fratelli Tutti*. There will be time for prayer, listening, and small group conversation. Sponsors for this event include the National Religious Vocation Conference, Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Religious Brothers Conference, and Religious Formation Conference. Communities are encouraged to save the date and share this [downloadable flyer](#). You must register for this event here using this [link](#).

Cousins with a Cause: Missionary Priest and Missionary Sister Nurse

~ by Tom Maguire, Associate Editor, *The Catholic Sun*

Both cousins picked ministry...unbeknownst to the other.

Father Michael Bassano, 72, was born on December 22, the same calendar that Mother Cabrini died. "It was a sign of a calling to be a missionary as well," he wrote in an email.



For many years, Sr. Joan Marie Sariti, MSC and her cousin Fr. Michael Bassano, were unaware of each other's religious vocation. Photo: Catholic Sun

The Binghamton, NY native is now a Maryknoll missionary serving as the Catholic chaplain for people who have been displaced by civil war in the UN Protection of Civilians (POC) camp in Upper Nile State, South Sudan, where his routine includes writing poetry.

Impressed as a youth by the

happiness of the nuns who instructed her Sr. Joan Marie Sariti, MSC, 95, Father Bassano's first cousin once removed, became a nurse – "that's what I like."

A native of Scranton, PA, about 50 miles from Binghamton, she is one of 18 sisters living at Sacred Heart Convent in Lower Manhattan. A priest brings her copies of the *Catholic Sun*, the newspaper of Syracuse, NY, so she can read about her cousin's life in the African country.

"As I was growing up in Binghamton and was deciding to become a priest," Fr. Bassano wrote, "my parents and family never told me about my cousin who is a religious sister. I finally found out about her years later."

"I didn't know he was going to be a priest until he was ordained," Sr. Joan Marie said, "and then we went to Binghamton before his first Mass [in 1975]. And then we went back again in 2000 when he had his 25th up at Maryknoll – a nice Mass and luncheon out on the grounds, under the tents, beautiful," the last word pronounced in classic Big Apple style: "beauteeeeful."

Fr. Bassano called his cousin "a creative, amazing woman" with "a funny sense of humor and a warm personality. Her story helps me to understand my own journey as a missionary."

A public-school student Sister Joan Marie went for catechesis, First Holy Communion and Confirmation instruction with the nuns who had a convent in the school that was connected to St. Lucy's Church in Scranton.

“I went to visit them every Tuesday, when I went for the novena,” she recalled. “And...they seemed so happy, so I said, well, this is what I really want.”

Sr. Joan was a postulant and a novice in West Park, NY, and after her first profession there, she went to Chicago to study nursing. She made her final vows where she graduated from the nursing school at the now-closed Columbus Hospital. Within walking distance was DePaul University where she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing. She worked at two hospitals in Chicago and one in Seattle. She did surgical and pediatric nursing and also worked in nursing administration.

Fr. Basano has served Maryknoll in Chile, Thailand, Tanzania and steadily since 2014, South Sudan.

A few years ago she enjoyed a visit from Fr. Bassano and his brother Ted. He told the sisters all about South Sudan. “It was very interesting...I hope he’s safe.”

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

Fr. Michael reflects on Mother Cabrini

Fr. Michael Bassano is a poet. While he has been in quarantine with COVID, Sr. Joan Marie asked him to write a poem about Mother Cabrini:

Mother Cabrini

Courageous woman

voyaging overseas

clarity of mission

Italian immigrants embracing

Fearless, trusting faith

helping the poorest

seeking solace of refuge

in direst time of need.

Overflowing heart

full of Christ’s love

facing challenges

focused with determination

Bringing hope

when all seemed lost

uplifting hearts

to greet each morn

Appreciating diversity

of culture and race

compassionate acceptance

gracefully welcoming all



HUMAN FLOW

You are invited to join the Archdiocese of Chicago Immigration Ministry as we pray, learn and discuss the issue of migration in a respectful virtual environment. As missionary disciples we explore how we can respond to give welcome: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matt: 25:35).

The evening includes prayer, viewing of the film Human Flow and a moderated group discussion.

Thursday, January 28, 2021
8-10 pm EST/7-9 pm CST/ 6-8 pm MST/5-7 pm PST



HUMAN FLOW (film summary)

More than 65 million people around the world have been forced from their homes to escape famine, climate change and war, the greatest displacement since World War II. Filmmaker Ai Weiwei examines the staggering scale of the refugee crisis and its profoundly personal human impact. Over the course of one year in 23 countries, Weiwei follows a chain of urgent human stories that stretch across the globe. ~ with thanks to Nancy Golen, Executive Director, Cabrini Retreat Center

To view the video and join the discussion **at the times delineated above** click on this link sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago:

Zoom link: zoom.us/j/96333104706

Gathering for Life



From left: Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC, CHS student Elizabeth Gerarve, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, CHS student Heather Pitre and CHS Assistant Principal Vivian Coutin recently gathered for a “Right to Life” meeting for high schools.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans conducted a high school meeting for “Right to Life” on January 20, 2021.

Cabrini High School was represented by Vivian Coutin, Assistant Principal, Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC, and students Heather Pitre '21 and Elizabeth Gerarve '25.

They are pictured with Archbishop Gregory Aymond.

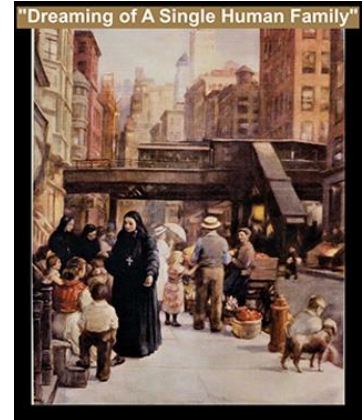
~ submitted by Katelyn Ehrhardt, CHS

“Dreaming of a Single Human Family”

“Today love must not be hidden... It must be living, active, and true.”

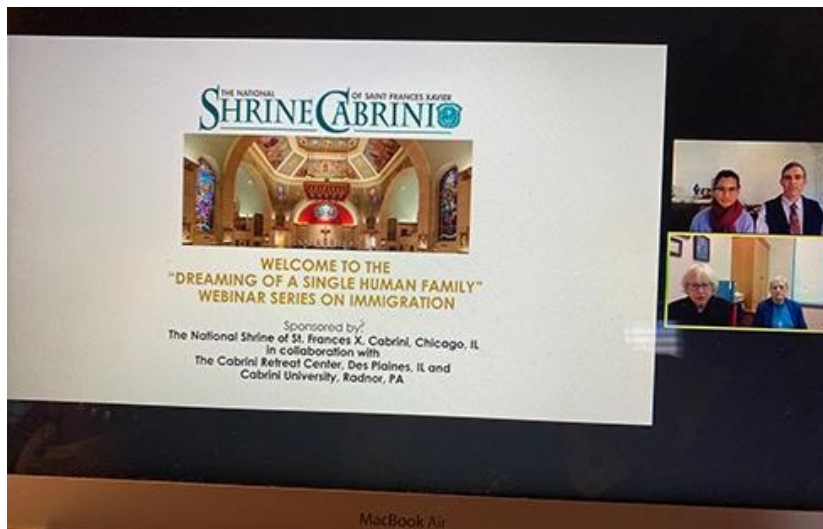
– Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

The National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini - in collaboration with the Cabrini Retreat Center and Cabrini University - hosted a wonderful webinar on Wednesday, January 27th. We would like to thank all those who made it possible, as well as all those who were able to attend.



Webinar themes

The talk with Ms. Michelle Sherman and Dr. Nick Rademacher entitled “*Themes from the Life and Spirituality of Mother Cabrini, Patroness of Immigrants*” was a joyful expression and extension of Mother Cabrini’s spirit.



Dr. Rademacher presented an historical overview of the times in which Mother Cabrini lived and ministered which provided the foundation for her integration of faith and justice as well as her Gospel-inspired commitment to serve immigrant communities extends to the here and now as illuminated by Ms. Sherman.

Her devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, her spirit of openness and flexibility to God’s call, and her missionary vocation are reflective of God’s love in action.

The webinar series made its debut with Nancy Golen and Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC (lower photo) serving as moderators and Michelle Sherman and Dr. Nick Rademacher as our presenters.

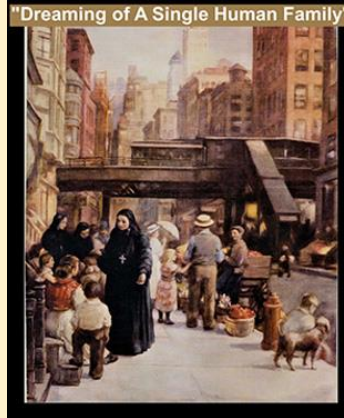
Change is a matter of the heart. With an openness of heart and a deep listening, we can approach others as true brothers and sisters. We can build and dream together.

‘How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together.’ Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.’ (#8, Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis)

Coming up next:

Please join us Wednesday, February 24th, to continue to dream and build together! This next webinar, presented by Abel Rodriguez, JD, will address a Cabrinian response to immigration challenges and provide suggestions for people seeking to work for justice with people on migration. Learn how we can be love in action, encourage nonviolent public witness – direct action as a method of social transformation. ~ submitted by Natalia Osias, National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Couldn't Attend Yesterday's Webinar?



No problem.

The proceedings were recorded.

Kindly click on this link to access the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/YwpRhyvY5PsW2yHR5ptImuykwcC2z5bpoi1k7ck7BhtWwrW-IBcTSRKMkZu-SOzJ.r1Y1LKFN6prIH4W>

The link will also be posted on the website
of the National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Click [here](#)

and

the Mother Cabrini website

Click [here](#)

DO You Know?

- Do you know that on the homepage of www.mothercabrini.org 'a thought for the day' is posted most days for your reflection?
 - Looking for something?

Do you know that you can find archived editions of
The Update on the website?

If you haven't visited for a while, why not stop by!

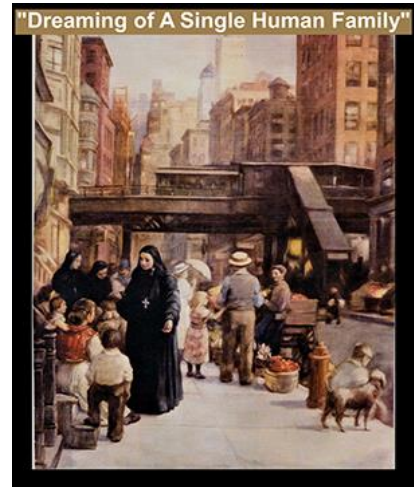
Please Mark Your Calendars

for the Second Webinar

in our **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, February 24, 2021

8:00 am PST/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/99875666298>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,99875666298# or +13126266799,,99875666298#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 998 7566 6298

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/adpY19BXrg>

The Center on Immigration:

Challenges in Migration and a Cabrinian 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

*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 webinar:

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

Prayer Requests

Cabrini University Alum's son

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC requests prayers for a Cabrini University alum whose son is suffering from very serious alcohol addiction.

Cabrini University graduate requests prayers

A Cabrini University alum requests prayers for a priest who has been accused of child abuse and who is suffering very much as a result.

Cabrini University employee

A Cabrini University employee asks for prayers for her mother who suffered a stroke on January 27th. Let us pray that her mother will fully recover.

Dee Campos

Please say a prayer for Dee, the Finance Coordinator in the Guadalupe Province Office. Dee recently sustained a leg injury. Pray for her prompt healing.

Sr. Jean Canora, OSF

Sr. Grace Waters, MSC asks prayers for a longtime friend of hers, Sr. Jean Canora of Syracuse, NY, who recently suffered a slight stroke. Sr. Jean is now at home and would welcome our prayers for her recovery.

Julia

Sr. Grace Waters, MSC requests prayers for a friend, Julia, who is in severe pain and is awaiting the results of medical tests. Let us pray for her comfort and a return to good health.



Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC

Please keep Sr. Tommasina in your prayers. She is currently hospitalized in serious condition. She would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

As we observe World Day for Consecrated Life on February 2nd, we pray especially for our Missionary Sisters. We give thanks for their lives of prayer and missionary activity. We ask blessings upon their missions and ministries. We ask that they receive continuing grace "to be bearers of Christ's love in the world."

Norbertine Priests

We have been asked to pray for two Norbertine priests, Father Michael Lee and Father Joseph Serano, who are currently hospitalized with Covid 19. Pray that each of them will make a full recovery.

Julie Trujillo Stossmeister

Your prayers are invited for Julie, a dear friend to many at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO, where she is one of the regular musicians. Julie has had a recurrence of cancer and will be undergoing treatment again soon. Please pray that her treatment will be successful and that she will be restored to full health.

With Grateful Hearts

Sr. Ayantu and Sr. Tigist

It is with great joy that we share that on February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation and the World Day for Consecrated Life, novices Sr. Ayantu and Sr. Tigist will make their first profession of vows. We give thanks for their vocation in the service of God's people and wish them every grace and blessing on this sacred occasion.

In Loving Memory

Daniel Gregory Prial

On the evening of Wednesday, January 20th Warrant Officer 2 Daniel Prial died suddenly during a helicopter training mission. He was 30 years of age. Please pray for his parents, grandparents, siblings and extended family at this very sad time. His funeral Mass will be this Saturday, January 30th.

