



U.S. Capitol Besieged by Protestors

~ by Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

The following are excerpts from an article that appears on the Catholic News Service website.

WASHINGTON (CNS) Lawmakers, including the vice-president, were rushed to safety after [an] angry mob broke into the [Capitol] building...breaking down doors and some asking the whereabouts of the vice-president, who was said to have defied President Trump by refusing to block Congress from certifying the results [of the presidential election].

Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement on the evening of January 6 saying he joined “people of good will in condemning the violence today at the United States Capitol.”

“This is not who we are as Americans,” he said, adding that he is praying for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staff members, police officers “and all those working to restore order and public safety.”

The Archbishop called the peaceful transition of power “one of the hallmarks of this great nation” and stressed that in this “troubling moment, we must recommit ourselves to the values and principles of our democracy and come together as one nation under God.”

From Dallas, Bishop Edward J. Burns, tweeted, “Let us pray that this one nation, under God, will always follow the paths of peace and justice.”

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori released a statement saying, “We fervently pray for peace and for God’s protection over our country, our lawmakers and all those in harm’s way. May peace-loving Americans of good-will throughout the United States come together to engender peace, reconciliation and healing in our wounded and broken nation, which remains and must always be one, under God.”

In the hours after the initial chaos unfolded, the Biden transition team gathered religious leaders for around the country to pray for healing during a Zoom call. The prayers offered by leaders called for peace and justice and for a renewed strength in the midst of this dark time.

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



The U.S. Capitol as seen from The Peace Monument.

Repair Our Democracy



The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) joins with the world in praying for peace after witnessing the violence and lawlessness yesterday in our nation's capital. We are deeply concerned about the state of our country and the future of our democracy. Our hearts ached as we watched these despicable actions that threaten not only to destroy the seat of our government but to rend the bonds that unite us. We commend and thank the members of Congress who courageously continued their service to the nation last night even amid the chaos.

In our increasingly divided nation, we renew our commitment to the common good and pledge to take up the challenge to use our energy to repair our democracy and contribute to the work of building a more perfect union. We invite all people of good will to join us and we call on our elected leaders to point the way.

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[The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus support this statement of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.](#)

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, is 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

Vatican Calls for Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

~Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

The Vatican's coronavirus commission and the Pontifical Academy for Life issued a joint statement calling for a coordinated international effort to ensure the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide.

The document highlights the “critical role of vaccines to defeat the pandemic, not just for individual personal health but to protect the health of all,” the Vatican said in an accompanying statement.



On December 14th, Sandra Lindsay, a nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center on Long Island is inoculated with the coronavirus vaccine by Dr. Michelle Chester. CNS/Pool via Reuters/Mark Lennihan

The Vatican commission and the Pontifical Academy of Life remind world leaders that vaccines must be provided to all fairly and equitably, prioritizing those most in need,” the Vatican said.

The pandemic has exacerbated “a triple threat of simultaneous and interconnected health, economic and socio-ecological crises that are disproportionately impacting the poor and the vulnerable,” the document said. “As we move toward a just recovery, we must ensure that immediate cures for the crises become stepping-stones to a more just society, with an inclusive

and interdependent set of systems.”

The document quoted Pope Francis, who said in his Christmas message that humanity could not allow “the virus of radical individualism to get the better of us and make us indifferent to the suffering of other brothers and sisters,” not could it allow “the law of the marketplace and patents take precedence over the law of love and the health of humanity.”

The Vatican COVID-19 commission and the Pontifical Academy for Life also called for widespread campaigns to educate people on the “moral responsibility” to get vaccinated.

Due to the “close interdependence” between personal and public health, the commission and the pontifical academy warned that refusing to take the vaccine “may also constitute a risk to other.”

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

Cabrini High Creates a Brighter Christmas



It's the season of giving, and Cabrini High School has been working hard to give back to those less fortunate over the past month. Having "service" as one of the school's core values, the Cabrini community finds ways to serve others every day, and the holidays are a time to do even more.



Photo above: Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC (2nd I.) and students help to load food for donation to St. Anthony of Padua Church.

Photo right: Students held a sock drive to aid young people at Covenant House in New Orleans.

In November, Cabrini High School's National Honor Society and Campus Ministry Team partnered to host the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive from November 11 through November 17. Approximately 250 pounds of food products were donated to the food pantry at Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in New Orleans to feed the hungry.

The CHS National Honor Society also hosted "Sock-ember," a sock drive during December where members of the Cabrini community donated new socks for Covenant House New Orleans. These socks will ensure that homeless teens and teens in crisis are kept warm during the winter months. The drive began on December 8 and ended December 15 when students celebrated with a Crazy Christmas Sock Day. The Freshmen Class donated the most socks, and to celebrate they built a Christmas tree with their sock donations.



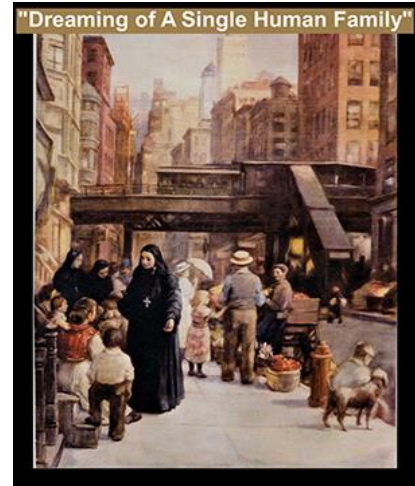
CHS adopted three families for Christmas making their holiday brighter.

To wrap up the semester before Christmas break, Campus Ministry coordinated with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans to "Adopt a Family" for Christmas. Due to the sock drive and Cabrini being virtual for the week after Thanksgiving, the school was unsure if it were possible to sponsor any families this year. However, when our Campus Minister learned there were three families unclaimed, CHS jumped at the chance to help. Religion classes donated to two families, and the faculty and staff sponsored the remaining family. All items on these families' wish lists were bought and donated to ensure they have a "Merry Christmas."

During these unprecedented and uncertain times, everyone has had to endure unique impacts due to COVID-19. However, Cabrini High School joined together during this special, yet challenging, time of year to help those in need by "sharing what you can." ~ *Katelyn Ehrhardt, CHS.*

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>

“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

Christina Assini

Please pray for Christina, the niece of CLM Director Lorraine Campanelli. Pray that her pregnancy will go full-term and that all will be well. Please pray, too, for Christina's husband Nick as they anticipate the birth of their child.

Peter Cellucci

During the Christmas holidays we were asked to pray for seven-year-old Peter Cellucci, who underwent surgery for a malignant brain tumor. Despite some initial, serious post-operative setbacks, Peter is now recovering at home with his family. On Tuesday, January 12th, he will begin an extended course of radiation treatment. Please continue to keep Peter, his parents, and his siblings in your prayers as they continue this journey. Pray for their strength, stamina and courage.

Pray for the United States of America

In light of the tragic events at the U.S. Capitol yesterday, let us pray for truth, peace, justice, understanding, enlightenment, and the willingness to respect the dignity of all. May we rekindle the ability to peacefully disagree. Let us pray that our democracy will withstand the divisions currently among us and that we can, once again, come together as 'one nation, under God, indivisible'.



**“Do not interfere with anything in the Constitution.
That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.”**

~ *A. Lincoln*

August 27, 1856 - Speech at Kalamazoo, Michigan