



February 18, 2021

Advocates: Central American Migrants Choose HOPE over Hunger and Violence

~ by David Agren, Catholic News Service

MEXICO CITY – Fr. Noel Ortiz listened to the frustration of his parishioners in northern Honduras as floods following the twin hurricanes that struck Central America last November wiped out their homes and livelihoods, and government officials provided little assistance for rebuilding.

Many in his parish of garment factory workers in the gang-ridden city of Choloma mused about migrating and jumped at the chance to join caravans leaving the country.

The twin hurricanes compounded the misery of the COVID-19 pandemic, which drove millions to economic despair and left many with a sense of hopelessness as government responses were plagued by ineptitude and corruption.

Two large caravans have departed since Hurricanes Eta and Iota soaked Central America. In January 2021 [the caravans] swelled in size to more than 7,500 travelers. Both caravans were broken up by security forces before reaching Mexico.



A caravan of mostly Honduran migrants heading to the U.S. kneel in prayer in Vado Hondo, Guatemala on January 17, 2021. Catholics working with migrants welcome the positions of President Biden on immigration reform but note mounting opposition. (Photo: CNS/Reuters/Luis Echevarria)

But the formation of caravans and the desperation to leave reflect the rough realities of life in the northern triangle countries of Central America: Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

“[There’s] a mass exodus of people with [the] illusion of reaching the United States under this new president Biden – with the illusion that he will open the doors to the United States for Central American migrants,” said Franciscan Fr. Gabriel Romero Alamilla, director of Mexico’s southern Tabasco state.

“People are no longer scared of being infected [with COVID 19.] They’re not scared of dying in a pandemic. They’re choosing between dying of hunger or dying without work or dying without land or being massacred – or they’re choosing to search for a destination with a more hopeful future,” Romero said.



A child in La Lima, Honduras, carries his brother in a street covered in mud after flood waters caused by the twin hurricanes receded.
(CNS/Reuters/Jose Cabezas)

Rick Jones, a former migration adviser to Catholic Relief Services in El Salvador, told Catholic New Service, “people figure we’ll face the border and anything else when we get there,” adding, “COVID has led to major corruption in all three countries: El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. People just get desperate at that point.”

President Biden has promised to overhaul U.S. Immigration policy. He has signed a series of executive orders on immigration and started to undo policies implemented by

his predecessor. His office has also warned that now is not the time to come to the United States.

“There are positive signs. But it’s cautious optimism for us,” said Jesuit Fr. Ismael Moreno, director of Radio Progreso in Honduras. “We have a good opportunity with the new U.S. administration to open spaces for dialogue that we didn’t have before.”

The Trump administration “cut off foreign aid to Central America, they removed support for the anti-corruption effort...which was actually working, and that sent a message to people. Help is not on the way and your only option is to leave,” Jones said.

“We need to be thinking that development and migration go together. It’s not just about stopping the flow of people,” he said. To read the complete article click [here](#)

VATICAN to Bishops: Be Prudent About Easter Services as Pandemic Continues

~ by Joshua J. McElwee, National Catholic Reporter

ROME – The Vatican’s worship congregation asked Catholic bishops globally to make “prudent decisions” about how their communities should celebrate Easter this year given the continuing danger of spreading the coronavirus. The congregation emphasized that while some regions may be able to hold more traditional services, others will not.

It said that measures put in place last year to allow for simplified celebrations of Holy Week remain valid in 2021. “We are still facing the drama of the COVID-19 pandemic which has brought many changes even to our normal way of celebrating the liturgy,” said the Vatican office.

To learn more click [here](#)

Cabrini University Helps Nonprofit Notch Milestone Donation



Cabrini University's annual *Give Love, Give Socks, Give Hope* drive helped The Joy of Sox reach a notable milestone: With its delivery on Saturday, Feb. 13 to Prevention Point Philadelphia in Kensington, PA, the Radnor-based nonprofit has donated a half million pairs of socks since 2010. In the past four years, Cabrini has contributed 6,000 pairs of socks to The Joy of Sox's donation efforts in the Philadelphia area.

Cabrini's Give Love, Give Socks, Give Hope campaign, held in early February to align with Socks for the Homeless Day on Feb. 14, raises funds for not only The Joy of Sox's many sock donations in Pennsylvania and around the United States, but also for the University's Wolfington Center, which fosters community-based learning through Catholic social teaching in the spirit of Mother Cabrini. Since 2017, Cabrini students, alumni, staff and Missionary Sisters have been among those who have volunteered to package and deliver socks on behalf of The Joy of Sox.



With Cabrini University's collaboration, celebrating the distribution of their 500,000th pair of socks to provide health and joy to the homeless community are (from left) The Joy of Sox founder Tom Costello; Joy of Sox Board Chair Tracy McGuckin; and Joy of Sox Board Secretary Michelle Giffroy-Rossi.

"The Cabrini community's commitment to service is integral to the University's Education of the Heart and we are proud to support the impactful work of organizations within our community like The Joy of Sox," said Ray Ward, PhD, Director of the Wolfington Center. "It is an honor to have played a part in this milestone of 500,000 pairs of socks donated to those experiencing homelessness. I am also grateful to the donors whose contributions to the Give Love, Socks, Hope

fundraiser will support further service opportunities for Cabrini students through the Wolfington Center.”

Founded by Nancy Gorevin Costello ('71) and her husband Tom Costello Jr. (HON'11), The Joy of Sox receives donations of new socks and raises funds to purchase new socks which are then delivered to homeless shelters and clinics throughout the United States and as far away as Uganda and Afghanistan. The organization has succeeded in making 'Socks for the Homeless Day' a recognized observance in five states, including Pennsylvania.

“We observe Socks for the Homeless Day in mid-February as a way to increase winter-time charitable giving, which traditionally drops off after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays,” said Tom Costello, Chief Sock Person at The Joy of Sox. “As we reflect on our 10th anniversary and this milestone of 500,000 pairs of socks donated, we express sincere gratitude for the continued service of countless volunteers and key partners like Cabrini and its mission-driven community.”

Prevention Point Director of Community Engagement and Volunteer Services, Clayton Ruley, said Saturday's milestone donation comes at an ideal time for the city's unhoused population. “We take for granted that we're able to change our socks on a daily basis, but that's just not the case for a lot of people we work with,” Ruley said. “In the cold months, if homeless people can't change their socks, it leads to illness and disease that the cold and wetness brings.”

~ with abundant thanks to Steve Highsmith, Jackie Marciano, Matt Nestor, Emily Rowan and John Verdi for their help in initiating, orchestrating and publicizing the Give Love, Give Socks, Give Hope campaign.

Cabrini University Partners with St. James School

Cabrini University has announced a partnership with St. James School, a middle and high school committed to educating traditionally under-resourced students in a nurturing environment, aimed at ensuring St. James graduates earn college degrees. The partnership's goal is to change the current statistics on college completion rates for low-income students who are often first-generation college students and under-represented on college campuses.



The partnership will include regular student visits to the University campus, a strong Cabrini admissions presence at St. James School, and the continued cultivation of relationships between St. James School students and its graduates. Additionally, the creation of various multicultural connections programs will attempt to bring together Cabrini and St. James students from similar first-generation backgrounds.

“Attending Cabrini University will help our graduates take the next step in making a better life for themselves and others,” said David Kasiech, Head of School for St. James School. “Cabrini is an excellent choice for our alumni as they prepare for graduate school or to start successful careers, all while focused on how to make the most positive impact on society.”

To ensure high rates of student matriculation and graduation, St. James School students who attend Cabrini University will have regular “check-ins” with a designated University team member, such as an academic advisor or campus minister, as well as with the St. James School Graduate Support Staff. To visit the St. James School website click [here](#)

~ by Matt Nestor, Cabrini University websit

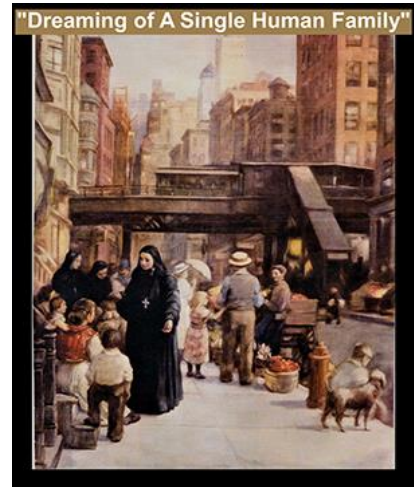
NEXT WEEK!

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/j/99875666298>

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

Get Ready for Catholic Sisters Week!

March 8 – 14



National Catholic Sisters Week, an annual event inaugurated in 2014, will be observed on March 8 – 14th.

There are so many ways in which women religious can shine a spotlight on their congregations during this special week.

Sisters are encouraged to get creative with virtual delivery of events: Zoom conversations and conferences; livestream events; Facebook

encounters; virtual tours of mission sites and ministries; book discussions, interviews, Q and A sessions with vocation directors; photo galleries.

And, this year in light of increased food insecurity, religious congregations are invited to join the LCWR Region 4 challenge and plan a **FOOD DRIVE for your neighboring area. On site or virtual, collect funds and food for those in need. Celebrate Catholic Sisters Week by doing what sisters have always done: respond to the need of others, especially the most vulnerable.**

To watch a video by Fr. James Martin, SJ, about National Catholic Sisters Week, click [here](#)

To learn more about Catholic Sisters Week please visit: www.CatholicSistersWeek.org/events

From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Team...

Called to Follow

Discerning your vocation is a lifelong process of learning to follow Jesus as a faithful disciple in these times, in this world. Who and how are you called to be *now*? You have probably already said “yes” to God’s call, maybe many times over in your thirty or fifty or seventy plus years. Perhaps you are well settled into God’s niche for you. But you will know in your heart when the space



opens in your life to listen again for a new direction. You will feel the gentle or not-so-gentle prodding of the Spirit. You will find yourself listening again for the rhythm of God’s voice. Vocation is lived in a wide variety of ways; there are many different pathways even in one faithful life. ~ Marie Dennis, *Diversity of Vocations*

In what possible new direction might the Spirit be calling you to

???



The CLM Corner

*Each week during Lent,
one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries will be offering a reflection.
The reflection for **The First Sunday in Lent** is offered by
Lorraine Campanelli.*

The First Sunday in Lent

Sometimes I hear people say, “I don’t know how you could miss it, it’s so obvious.” Well, I think very often, we can miss the obvious. For example, in the readings for Mass on the First Sunday of Lent, three times we are told how we can attain Heaven and be with God. But, do we always get it?

In Genesis 9:8-9, God said to Noah and his sons, “See I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you. We ARE those descendants!! We are the people to whom God was referring. The covenant with Noah, which is often depicted as the rainbow, was not only meant for him, his family and friends, but for generations to come. The same God has made a covenant with you and me.

In 1 Peter 3:18, we are again reminded that God is there for us and gives us a pathway to follow. All we have to do is respond. In 1 Peter, we are called ‘*Beloved*’, a term of endearment, a term of relationship. We are told that Christ suffered for sins once so that we might be led to God.

In the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 1 verse 15, we are told how to reach the Kingdom of God: “The Kingdom of God is at hand, REPENT and BELIEVE in the Gospel”. The Kingdom is here and now, not after I die and go to Heaven.

As we begin our Lenten journey, we know straight from God that God wants us, we have a covenant with God, we are God’s beloved and if we repent and believe in the Word of God, we will be with God not only in this life but in the life to come.

What touched my heart in this reflection:

- Do I really believe that I am God’s beloved?
- What can I do this Lent do repent and believe even more deeply on the Word of God?



~by: Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director

Three Spiritual Disciplines for Lent

We use the three traditional disciplines of Lent (Mt 6: 1-18) as pathways to greater balance and wholeness in our spiritual lives.

Prayer: Balance your spiritual life by integrating the body, mind and soul in your prayer life. Increase the quality, not the quantity of your prayer. Enhance meditative prayer by “unplugging” from the TV, the iPad, and the car radio. Create spaces where God’s voice can be heard. For more active or external prayer, keep a journal, read the psalms aloud, or sing the sacred music from your worship aid. Let your body express your prayer by trying yoga, Tai Chi, or dance movement.

Fasting: Use your fasting, not to impress God with your discomfort, but to feed on the gifts for which you hunger most. Let your fasting serve the lives of others as well as your own. It does little good to give up dessert, but then to grumble at your children’s need for attention. Fast from some of your private pursuits to become food for your family and friends. Fast from anger, blame, and entitlement; feast on forgiveness, affirmation, and the common good.

Almsgiving: Connect your almsgiving to your fasting so that self-denial becomes “other-enhancement”. If you skip a daily latte, give the money to a local food bank. If you have limited financial means, supplement your alms by giving of your time and talent. Volunteer at a soup kitchen or become a minister of care at your parish. Let your own poverty, whatever it may be, enrich the lives of others. Give generously, not just from the leftovers, but from the “first fruits” of your table.

~ Jerry Welte, Words of Grace



Prayer Requests

A Friend

A friend of the Cabrini community has requested prayers for a successful surgical procedure and swift recuperation. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the surgeon’s hands and bless the hands of all those who will provide care during recovery.

Prayers for those in Texas, the Gulf Coast, and the Mid-West

Let us be mindful of our neighbors in Texas, the Gulf Coast, and the Mid-West who are experiencing unusual and dangerous weather and hardship due to the extreme cold. Let us pray that the conditions will soon abate and that power and water service will be restored. Pray as millions struggle to keep their families – particularly their elders and children – safe and warm. Pray too, that the infrastructure of power plants, homes and businesses can be repaired and that the food supply chain can recommence. Pray also that delivery and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine might not be seriously impeded.

Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC

Please continue your prayers for Sr. Tommasina who has been transferred to Calvary Hospital, Bronx, NY for medical reasons and care. If you would like to send Sr. Tommasina a card please do so:

Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC
c/o Calvary Hospital - Room 521
1740 Eastchester Road
The Bronx, NY
10461

In Loving Memory

Jim Gillespie

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Jim Gillespie, a lifelong friend of Cabrini College alumna Sheila Ross Breen '69 and her husband Jim. Mr. Gillespie passed away from COVID-19 last week. Please pray for his family and friends at this very sad time.

Fr. Michael Lee, O. Praem.

Please unite in prayer for Fr. Michael Lee, former pastor of St. Norbert Parish in Paoli, PA, who returned home to God on February 11th after becoming ill with COVID-19. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the peace of Christ to fill the hearts of his family, the Norbertine Community and all who are mourning his loss.

Dawn (Winchester) Lewis

Kindly pray for Dawn Lewis, age 56, who passed away on February 4th. Dawn is the sister of Desiree Winchester from St. Cabrini Nursing Home. Let us hold Dawn and her family in prayer during this time.

