



February 25, 2021

“Oh Mercy”- A Documentary on Migration

Highlighting the Refugees and Migrants Entangled in the Crisis at the U.S. – Mexico Border

~ by Soli Salgado, Global Sisters Report

A face familiar to most North American sisters takes center stage in the upcoming film “Oh Mercy,” a 10-minute documentary that highlights the refugees and migrants entangled in the crisis in the U.S. - Mexico border.

The filmmakers chose Missionary of Jesus Sr. Norma Pimentel to be the lens through which they view the issue of migration, focusing on the refugee camp in Matamoros, Mexico, where she regularly ministers.



Missionary of Jesus Sr. Norma Pimentel with “Oh Mercy” director Robert Bilheimer.

Photo courtesy of Veronica Gabriela Cardenas

With Pimentel as the film’s “heroine,” the audience can witness the realities on the border in a “highly compassionate, not preachy way,” Robert Bilheimer, the director of the documentary, said in an interview with Global Sisters Report. Bilheimer thought Pimentel was a “compelling figure” to tell the story at the border. (Bilheimer’s previous films covered South African apartheid, human trafficking and the AIDs epidemic.)

“If you can help people see and believe that basic goodness and humanity in people, and if they see, unvarnished, their suffering – our experience is that people respond to it,” he said.

Seeing [migration] as the “defining geopolitical, cultural, humanitarian issue of our time,” Bilheimer said the series was an effort to “deconstruct” the many forces behind the involuntary migration seen around the world, whether it is due to climate change, gang violence or government failure.

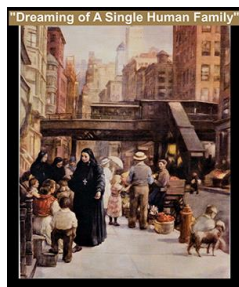
The documentary depicts just a few of the thousands of violent and desperate situations that have driven families to flee their homes in Central America. Bilheimer said it’s up to the viewers to determine what the film is about, but for him, it’s a demonstration of the capacity for “deliberate evil

– and I use the word carefully and advisably” – in the form of exclusionary U.S. immigration policies. “It’s a scar on our nation’s history.”

“Oh Mercy” will premiere today, Thursday, February 25 at 5 p.m. EST, and a panel with Sr. Pimentel, Bilheimer and other speakers will follow the premier. To read the complete article, click [here](#)

To view a short promotional video on the documentary, click [here](#)

To register for the premier of the documentary and panel discussion, click [here](#)



Challenges in Migration and a Cabrinian Response

In the second webinar in the series on immigration, Abel Rodriguez, JD, Director of the Center on Immigration and Assistant Professor of Religion, Law and Social Justice at Cabrini University gave an informative and illuminating presentation on Wednesday, February 24th.

While global human displacement is at its highest levels in recorded history, the causes of displacement and migration are being further exacerbated during the pandemic. 37,000 people a day are displaced. In the hour that Dr. Rodriguez was speaking, 1,800

people were displaced. The causes are many: violence, trafficking, persecution, war, poverty, climate change, disasters, imperialism, etc.

Abel presented an overview of migration trends around the world. The primary drivers are economic.

While there are many challenges with US immigration, Abel remains cautiously optimistic regarding policy changes in the US. The Biden Administration has ordered a comprehensive review of the regulations put in place by the previous administration, noting however, that for the moment the MPP or Migrant Protection Protocols remain in place. Those seeking asylum in the US cannot enter the US and must remain in Mexico for the duration of their immigration proceedings.

As Director of the University’s Center on Immigration, Abel detailed the variety of areas of engagement in which students and the University community have become involved: education and dialogue, advocacy and activism, research and scholarship. Cabrini University students have traveled to Washington, D.C. and to Harrisburg, the capital of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to engage with lawmakers and to advocate for immigrant rights.

Abel put forth ways in which people can take action: Support grassroots organizations/volunteer at a local non-profit/accompaniment/sanctuary families/letter writing/phone calls/lobbying/and marches.



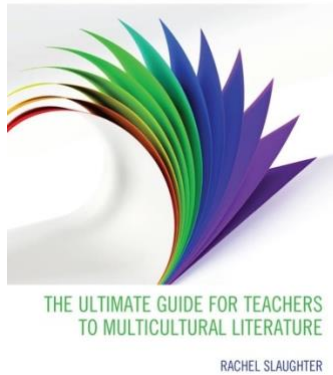
Abel Rodriguez, JD, (right) points out the many ways in which the University’s Center for Immigration advocates for immigrant rights.

To access a recording of the webinar click [here](#)
The webinar will also be posted on the website of the National Shrine click [here](#)
And on the Guadalupe Province website click [here](#)

~ submitted by Natalia Osias
National Shrine of St. F.X. Cabrini

Cabrini University Trustee Rachel Slaughter ('89) Publishes 'Ultimate Guide for Teachers to Multicultural Literature'

TURNING THE PAGE



A new book by Rachel Slaughter ('89), EdD, aims to help teachers curate inclusive literature that reflects the increasingly diverse, multicultural makeup of American classrooms. Slaughter, a Cabrini Trustee since August 2020, said the book, *Turning the Page: The Ultimate Guide for Teachers to Multicultural Literature*, was inspired by the experiences of students of color who have reported feeling “loneliness and invisibility” in schools where multiculturalism is absent in the curriculum.

“In these racially turbulent times, multicultural literature is a perfect academic vehicle to learn about race, racism, and cultural tolerance,” said Slaughter, a Yeadon, PA, native who serves as a learning specialist at Friends’ Central School in Wynnewood, PA.

The book centers upon a peer-reviewed rubric that helps educators—particularly pre-service teachers studying to teach in secondary schools as well as in higher education—evaluate and choose multicultural literature that “celebrates, respects, and recognizes multiculturalism,” Slaughter said.

“There are books about people of color that don’t respect people of color and should not be in the classroom,” she said, citing *Bud, Not Buddy*, a 1999 novel by Christopher Paul Curtis, as an example of a text that celebrates Black culture without leaning on stereotypes.. “My book teaches educators how to know the difference.”



Cabrini University alumna and trustee Rachel Slaughter, EdD

In 2018, she published “Daddy, Read to Me,” a book that creates a reading relationship between African American men and their sons. Slaughter’s latest, “Turning the Page,” is a culmination of her work as an author, teacher, and mentor.

As a Cabrini student, Slaughter double-majored in English/Communications and English Secondary Education, while also serving as a reporter at the *Loquitur* and a member of the Black Student Union. She said she had formative experiences as a pre-service teacher in Cabrini’s Education program,

teaching in Philadelphia, where the student population was predominantly African American, and then in the suburbs where it was mostly Caucasian.”

She said she was inspired by the teachings of Cabrini Communication faculty, including Jerry Zurek, PhD, Professor of Communication, who began teaching at Cabrini in 1971.

“These professors were aptly prepared to discuss white supremacy and racism and were well-researched, awesome scholars who taught us how to get along with another,” Slaughter said.

Zurek said Slaughter, who earned the Distinguished Achievement Alumni Award in 2000, has been, “A positive force to help the University live up to our mission.”

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

Slaughter’s book will be available on Monday, March 1.

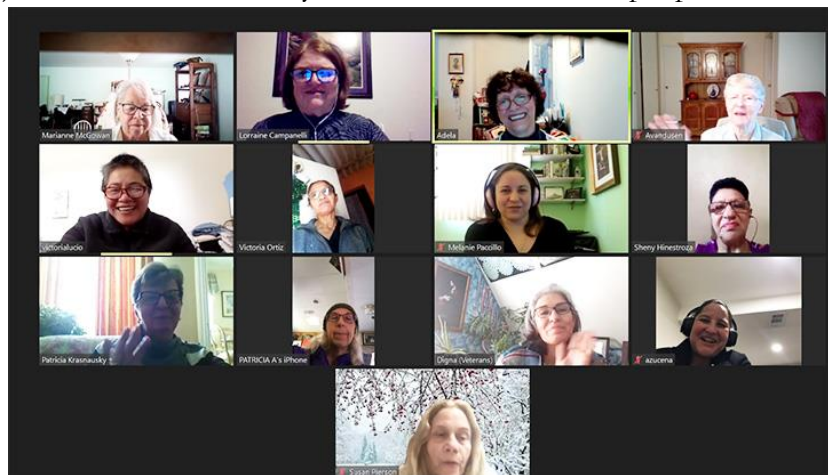


The CLM Corner

This is an occasional feature about the Cabrini Lay Missionaries and their ministries.

Getting to Know You

What a beautiful meeting we had on February 20th. The current Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs) and Sr. Catherine Garry, MSC met several of the people who are interested in becoming CLMs. Thanks to the gift of Zoom, we were able to connect from different areas. We had people from California, Colorado, Guatemala, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington State! We introduced ourselves to one another so that we can learn more about each other and the wonderful works that are being done in the name of St. Cabrini.



The meeting was in English and Spanish. Thank you to Adela Jarquin and Digna Merchan for helping with the translating. As we listened to each other and heard the beautiful works that everyone is involved in, you couldn’t help but see Mother Cabrini smiling down on all of us. Everyone is involved in a ‘helping ministry.’ In addition, many are enrolled in different scripture classes, etc. as well as reading and learning about being a CLM. We look forward to many more meetings where we can share our love of Jesus, the Sacred Heart and Mother Cabrini.

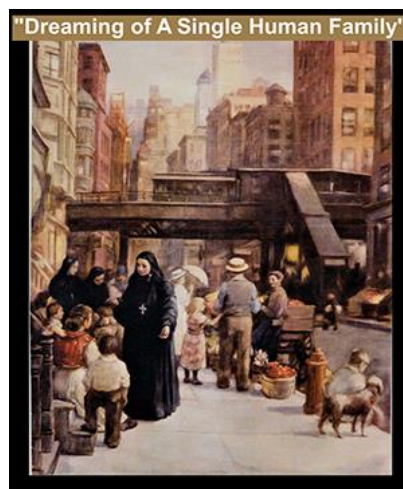
~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director of the CLMs

The Third and Final 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, March 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/92533568427?pwd=NUxJWGdnKzB0RmcrdVNabnoxcWlkdz09>

Passcode: 993541

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,92533568427# or +13126266799,,92533568427#

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: 925 3356 8427

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/aev2SEVWzG>

**“Immigration from the Perspective of the Cabrinian Charism, on a local, national and international level.
Highlighting the focus of Cabrini University Wolfington Center”**

We will discuss some of the ways that the Wolfington Center at Cabrini University puts our commitment to solidarity with migrants into practice and look for ways that participants in the session can find new opportunities for engagement in their own communities. Initiatives include a middle school mentoring program with newly arrived immigrants in Norristown, PA; immigration simulations through our CRS Ambassadors chapter; and a grant-funded faculty cohort focused on migration.



Presenter:

Raymond Ward, PhD

Dr. Ray Ward is the Director of the Wolfington Center at Cabrini University. He earned a PhD in Christian Ethics from Boston College, writing on the concept of collective moral agency and responsibility in the Christian tradition. He serves as an advisor to several student-run organizations and also teaches the Faith, Service and Advocacy and College Success Seminar.

*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

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](#)



The CLM Corner

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

The Second Sunday in Lent

Lenten prayers?... ☒ **Fasting?...** ☒ **Giving?...** ☒

We're now one full week into Lent, and everyone is busy checking those three major boxes for the season. List-users love this little way to get ourselves complete for Lent. It's a useful tool, but a tool has never been held responsible for art.

The season of Lent, as the banners in church remind us, is meant to be a reconciliation - a coming back to our God. That doesn't have to be a scary word, or even as dramatic as potentially sacrificing your own child. It is an invitation to ask ourselves how much we walk with God in our everyday lives. Do we know who goes before us? Do we know who stands behind us? The second reading this week reminds us that all is well when we go through life allowing God to be our guide and companion. **This week, let's focus on simply being aware of grace within the little moments and be thankful for the spirit of God among us.** ~ submitted by Melanie Paccillo, CLM

Prayer Requests

A friend

Continuing prayers are requested for a friend of the Cabrinian community who will be undergoing surgery on Monday, March 1st. Please pray that the surgery will be a successful procedure and that the recovery time will be brief and uncomplicated.

Kim Baxter

Prayers are requested for Kim, Cabrini Masters of Education alum and part of the PA Circle of Friends group, as she undergoes surgery for uterine cancer on Friday. Praying for a positive outcome, a speedy recovery, and complete healing

Cabrini University Athletes

Cabrini University Coach Jackie Neary requests prayers for all Cabrini University athletes, saying that “we want them to test negative, so that they can remain positive”. Please unite in prayer for all these young people so that they may have a safe and successful spring sports season.

Ana Costello

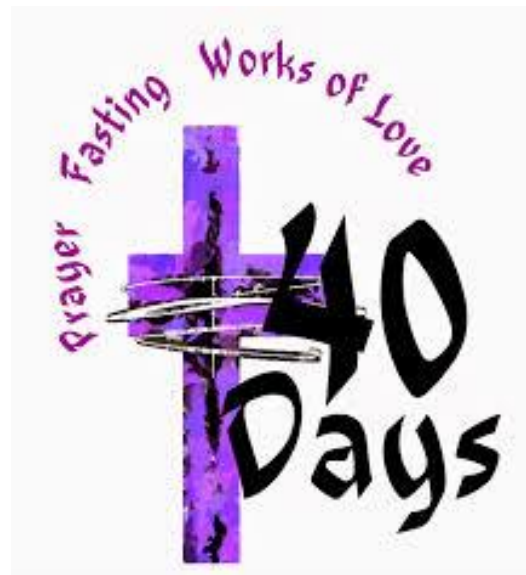
Prayers are requested for Ana Costello, daughter-in-law of Nancy Costello in the Province Communications Office. Ana underwent surgery yesterday and is now recuperating at home. Please pray for a swift and uneventful recovery.

Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC

Please continue to hold Sr. Tommasina in your thoughts and prayers. She would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

Nancy Wilson

Prayers are requested for Nancy, aunt to Cabrini University alums Robin Larkins and Debbie Larkins Damiano. Nancy suffered a bad fall the day after celebrating her 86th birthday, and fractured several bones and her hip. Praying for her rehab after hip surgery, her strength to get through this ordeal and relief from her pain and anxiety. Earlier this year, this very active and vibrant woman battled COVID-19 successfully.



Jandir Zanin

Continuing prayers are asked for Jandir Zanin, the brother of Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC. Mr. Zanin is currently hospitalized in Brazil with COVID-19. His five children and grandchildren are inviting the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community for his recovery. Sr. Bridget and her family would be so grateful for our prayers.

Mother Cabrini, Patroness of Immigrants

Pray for us.

At the conclusion of the second webinar on immigration, Abel Rodriguez offered this prayer for immigrants written by a Cabrini University student who is an immigrant herself.

