



MISSIONARY SISTERS
of the SACRED HEART of JESUS
Bringing Christ's love to the world

THE UPDATE

February 4, 2021

A Sacred and Joyous Occasion

On February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation, Sr. Ayantu Abera Bishaka and Sr. Tigist Hailemariam Loha, each from Ethiopia, made their first profession of vows in a ceremony at the Sacred Heart Novitiate in New York City.

The following account is a reflection on the ceremony by Evarlyne Ndunge Ndeti, an MSC candidate.



Sr. Ayantu (l.) and Sr. Tigist (r.) receive a blessing and the official MSC cross from Sr. Genet Henok, MSC during the ceremony for their first profession of vows.

I do believe in meaningful words that are made deeply from the heart as a promise. These vows were something that I witnessed as Sister Ayantu and Sister Tigist were offering their lives and service completely to God for His greater Glory.

The significance of religious life is embodied in the profession of vows taken before God and all those who gathered for the ceremony.

Sister Diane Dalle Molle, MSC, Superior of the Holy Spirit Region, and Sister Genet Henok, MSC served as the official witnesses of the recitation and signing of the vows. In declaring their intentions, Sister Ayantu and Sister Tigist answered their call and responded, "HERE I AM".

The two radiant young women vowed that they would live out their words and continue spreading the Love of Jesus to the entire world. They were full of joy, hope and enthusiasm.



I could not stop rejoicing and thanking God for the opportunity of attending this special occasion, albeit virtually.

While listening and watching their ceremony, I gave my silent word and prayer to God and asked Him to continue blessing and protecting them. ~ MSC Candidate *Evarylne Ndunge Ndeti*

May God Bless You, Always.

What special occasion would be complete without the ceremonial cutting of the cake? Here Sr. Tigist (l.) and Sr. Ayantu (r.) do the honors.

Biden to Begin Efforts to Reunite Migrant Families

~ by Kevin Sieff, *Washington Post*

The Biden administration on Tuesday announced plans to identify and reunite hundreds of families who were separated at the U.S.-Mexico border by the Trump administration and still remain apart years later.

Biden will create a new task force to reunite families through an executive order, following a campaign promise to undo some of the damage inflicted by the Trump administration's most controversial immigration policy. Administration officials did not yet have details on the scale or timing of the reunification effort. They said the task force would make recommendations on how separated parents and children could be brought back together.

The task force will “work across the U.S. government, with key stakeholders and representatives of impacted families, and with partners across the hemisphere to find parents and children separated by the Trump administration,” a senior administration official said.



A guard extends a hand to a toddler as parents are separated from their children at the US-Mexico border in June 2018.

Photo: NBCNews

The Trump administration separated at least 5,500 children from their parents along the border between July 2017 and June 2018 in an attempt to deter migration. The American Civil Liberties Union, which sued the government over the policy, says it's likely that at least 1,000 of those families remain separated — [parents](#) scattered mostly across Central America and children living with relatives in the United States.

“The first order of the task force will be to get a better handle on these numbers and start reuniting children with their parents,” said the senior administration

official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the matter before it was formally announced.

Many of those parents, unsure if or when they would ever be together again, have spent the past several years trying to raise their children over video calls. Some returned to the U.S. border in hopes of finding their children but were once again apprehended by immigration agents and deported a second time.

“It’s a daily horror for us who are living without our children. It’s an endless sadness,” said María, a Guatemalan mother who was separated from her 10-year-old daughter on the Arizona-Mexico border in July 2017. “All we want is the opportunity to see our kids, to be with them again.”

Advocates have emphasized the need not only to reunite families, but also to provide them with protection from deportation and a path to citizenship. When a court ordered the Trump administration to reunite families in 2018, many reunited parents were not given any legal status, making them immediately deportable and raising the prospect of re-separation. For full article click [here](#)

As Biden Rewinds Immigration Policies, an Uncertain Future Looms

~ by Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

HALATENANGO, El Salvador (CNS) – For U.S. advocates of migrants and refugees, January 20, 2021 couldn’t have come soon enough.

Joe Biden had barely been sworn in as the 46th President of the United States when he moved to quickly undo some of the pain they felt from the past four years. He reversed his predecessor’s “Muslim ban” keeping people from some Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S. He also strengthened a program for young adults (DACA) who entered the U.S. illegally as children.

Biden also announced a 100-day halt on deportations and unveiled a preliminary plan to provide a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants.

But just six days later, on January 26, a federal judge in Texas – a Trump appointee – temporarily blocked the new president’s executive order on deportations. Republicans in Congress also began signaling a fight ahead on any immigration legislation.

Some see a tough road ahead, one paved with legal and political obstacles by those seeking to continue Trump’s legacy against immigration – legal and illegal. Others see it as an opportunity for the Catholic Church in the U.S.,



Migrants wait at the border unsure as to what comes next.
Photo: El Paso Times

which has long favored immigration reform, to play a part in advancing several elusive pieces of legislation.

Some Catholic organizations and leaders already have been making appeals to the new president.

On January 28th, five U.S. bishops who serve along the border, along with Sr. Norma Pimentel, a Missionary of Jesus, who works with immigrants near the border town of McAllen, Texas, and other Catholic leaders and organizations including the Hope Border Institute, sent a letter to the new president. It accompanied a list of policy recommendations.

“We must urgently begin a new process of mutual engagement that allows us to rediscover as sisters and brothers those whose dreams have been shattered by broken immigration policy. We must re-learn to see those who continue to flee to the border as neighbors in need,” the letter said.

“We need grace to dream new dreams as well as repentance and courage to recognize all of the ways in which our country has produced harm and continues to harm migrants and their communities,” it said.

“And we must come to see as citizens of a common home, those in Mexico and Central America who imagine a future where their children are offered security and hope,” it added.

[There are those] who believe that a Biden administration and changing attitudes of Americans about immigration signal the right time to make a new attempt at immigration reform.



A young mother and her baby at the border.

Photo: abcnews

“This time the fate of immigration reform legislation could be different than in year’s past, as polls show that Americans have grown more supportive of immigrants during the Trump era, not less,” wrote J. Kevin Appleby, a board member of the Hope Border Institute in El Paso, Texas. “The Catholic community, working with a Catholic president, can play a key role in ensuring a positive outcome.”

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

World Must Recognize Common Humanity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The world must begin to realize its shared humanity in order to live peacefully, otherwise it risks falling apart in endless conflicts, Pope Francis said. “Today, there is no time for indifference,” the Pope said on February 4 at a virtual event commemorating the first International Day of Human Fraternity.

We cannot wash our hands of it, with distance, with disregard, with contempt. Either we are brothers and sisters or everything falls apart. It is the frontier, the frontier on which we have to build; it is the challenge of our century, it is the challenge of our time,” he said.

The pope was among several world and religious leaders who took part in the virtual event which was hosted in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince. The date chosen for the event marks the day in 2019 that the Pope and Sheikh el Tayeb signed a document promoting “human fraternity”. To learn more, click [here](#)

~ with thanks to Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC

Pope Francis Establishes World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

~ by Vatican News Staff Reporter

VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis announced the institution of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will take place each year on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

Recalling the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple [which we observed on Tuesday of this week] when the elderly Simeon and Anna encountered the child Jesus and recognized him as the Messiah – Pope Francis said, “the Holy Spirit even today stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly. The voice of the elderly “is precious,” he said, “because it sings the praises of God and preserves the roots of the peoples.”



The elderly, he continued, “remind us that old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between the different generations to pass onto the young, the experience of life.”

The Holy Father said he instituted the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly because “grandparents are often forgotten, and we forget this wealth of preserving roots and passing on” what the elderly have received.

He emphasized the importance of grandparents and grandchildren getting to know one another, because, “as the prophet Joel says, grandparents seeing their grandchildren dream,” while “young people, drawing strength from their grandparents, will go forward and prophesy.”

It is necessary to bridge the gap between the elderly and younger generations, said Vittorio Scelzo who is involved with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, adding. “The elderly are not saved by themselves.” Pope Francis wants to remind us that similarly, “young people, adults and our society cannot save themselves without the elderly.” Intergenerational dialogue is essential.

Scelzo said, “In order to come out of a crisis better and not worse, every society needs to come to terms with its roots and develop a new synthesis of its values, starting also from dialogue with the elderly.” ~ with thanks to Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC

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



High Profile Events Exacerbate Human Trafficking

As COVID-19 cases surge, another hidden issue is taking its toll on our country's most vulnerable. Human trafficking cases have risen 185% compared to this time last year, according to Cast (one of the nation's largest providers of services for survivors). Cast has also seen a dramatic rise in homeless clients since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. One-hundred-percent of its cases classified as "urgent" human trafficking cases have been comprised of homeless survivors during the pandemic. This desperation has led to more people being tricked into modern-day slavery.

Another upcoming concern where human trafficking will take place in the US is during the Superbowl, which will be played on Sunday, Feb. 7 in Tampa, Florida. With Florida ranking third among U.S. states in volume of human trafficking victims, this is a high-priority issue.

High-profile events that draw big-spending, out-of-town visitors, even during a pandemic that has curtailed the crowd sizes and party scene, are natural targets for traffickers. In Atlanta two years ago, the FBI reported that an 11-day pre-Super Bowl operation yielded the arrests of 169 people, including 44 alleged traffickers, and the rescues of 29 juvenile victims.

Florida's Attorney General Ashley Moody stated that her office is providing virtual training to Uber drivers and hotel staff members to help educate them on the signs of human trafficking and how to report it. They will also put warnings on buses, billboards, and all-around town to let people know what trafficking signs to look for. ~ submitted by Karol Brewer, Cabrini Action & Advocacy Coalition

February 8 is the annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8 is also the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a saint in 2000 and is the Patron Saint of Human Trafficking Victims.

St. Josephine Bakhita,

you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.

Amen.





Mother Cabrini Shrine *announces the* Heart of Jesus Capital Campaign

For over 70 years, Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO, has been a blessing and a sanctuary to her countless visitors. People have come to worship and pray during difficult times of hardship, struggles and uncertainty, as well as in joyous times of weddings, baptisms, and anniversaries.

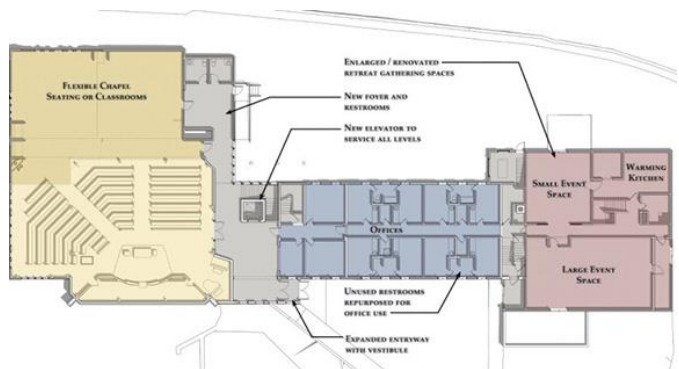
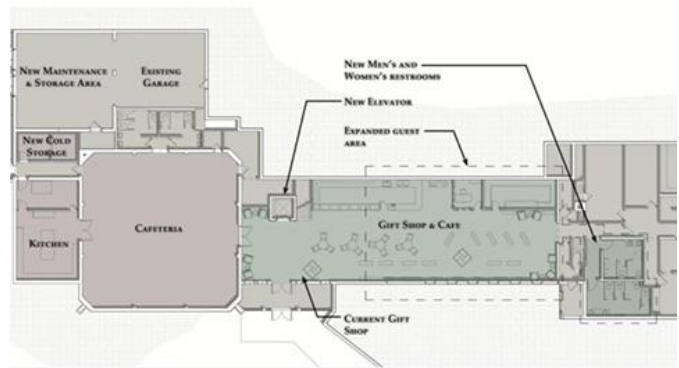
Individuals and groups have come to renew and enhance their faith, pray for their loved ones, and to find solitude in the beauty and serenity of the Shrine. It is for this reason we need to take time and give added care to these precious buildings and our grounds.

About the Campaign

For the last two years, the Shrine leadership has been meeting to determine the needs of our facilities. The community at large provided input and feedback which have been appreciated and heard as the Shrine staff determined the best use of our buildings and property to meet demonstrated needs. After a successful feasibility study was conducted, the time is NOW to begin the important work of raising \$4.5 million to restore and enhance the Mother Cabrini Shrine.

The \$4.5 Million Capital Campaign will fund:

- Expansion of the NE building corner exterior walls adding space to the chapel and lower level.
- New space in the rear of the chapel with movable walls to accommodate seating from 250 to 400 or more. Also, included are conference and meeting rooms and bridal dressing area.
- Remodeling of chapel interior to include stained glass
- Addition of a new elevator for visitors
- Additional kitchen storage and amenities
- Expansion of the Gift shop with café style seating and coffee and snack service
- Additional restrooms for visitors



To view the Campaign video click [here](#)

To join the Campaign click [here](#)



Cabrini University is celebrating Black History Month with a month-long series of discussions and activities that will showcase Black talent and culture, while also gathering the community to examine Black history, its champions for justice, and its connections to the present day.

“Understanding American history is one of the most powerful tools we have to combat the inequities of the present moment,” said José Rodriguez, Chief Diversity Officer. “I’m proud of this wide range of programming produced by our Cabrini community to encourage a better understanding of the contributions of our past and present members from our Black/African American communities.”

Events will be both virtual and in-person and will highlight Black art, music, and creativity, while examining issues of faith, injustice, violence, and racism. The month’s programming is a community-wide effort by the Office of University Diversity Initiatives (OUDI), the Black Student Union, Student Engagement and Leadership (SEaL), the Holy Spirit Library, various academic departments, and Cabrini Athletics, among others.

“Cabrini’s faculty, staff, and students are engaged in conversations to promote the healing that needs to happen in the country, particularly after the events of last summer and the impact of COVID,” said Chioma Ugochukwu, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. “Black History Month has always been seen nationally as an opportunity to shed light on the challenges and struggles of African Americans, but beyond that, this month is also important to highlight the achievements of African Americans.”

The full and detailed listing of Black History Month events is available on the [OUDI website](#).

~ submitted by Matt Nestor, Cabrini University Marketing and Communications

Calendar Notes:

February 11 – World Day of the Sick

For resources click [here](#)

February 17 – Ash Wednesday.

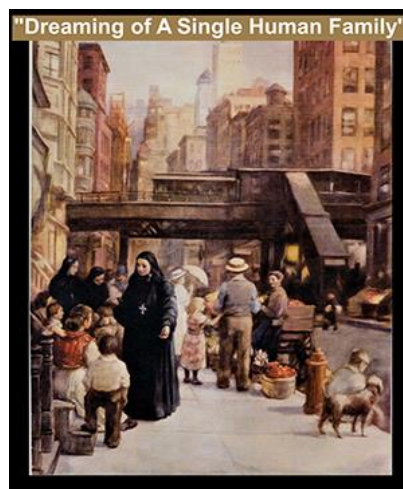
For resources click [here](#)

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

Fermin Careaga

Prayers are requested for Fermin Careaga who is coping with some serious medical issues at this time. He and his wife Doris would be so grateful for the prayerful support of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrini community. Knowing that we are holding them in our prayers would give them strength and a great lift.

Eileen and Jim Devine

Your prayers are invited for Eileen and Jim Devine, the daughter and son-in-law of Peggy Becker, a former staff member at Cabrini College. Eileen and Jim are both ill with COVID-19. Peggy asks that we please keep them in our prayers for a full recovery.

Greg and Julie

Please keep Greg and Julie, friends and benefactors of the Missionary Sisters, in your prayers. Julie is undergoing diagnostic tests at this time. They would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

Sr. Tommasina Lanski, MSC

Please continue your prayers for Sr. Tommasina who remains hospitalized in serious condition following a surgical procedure.

Phyllis and Beth Lucas

Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC requests prayers for Phyllis and Beth Lucas. Beth is a former Cabrini Mission Corps missionary. Beth's mother, Phyllis, recently received a serious medical diagnosis. Please pray for each of them as they navigate Phyllis' course of treatment. They would be most grateful for the prayers of the Cabrini community.



Leonard Primiano, PhD

Continuing prayers are requested for Dr. Primiano, a professor in the Religious Studies Department at Cabrini University. Dr. Primiano is currently on medical leave and would be grateful for our prayerful mindfulness.

Rita Ratzlaff's Family

Kindly remember Rita Ratzlaff's brother Jim and his wife Roseann in your prayers. Roseann is very ill and is in need of our prayers. Please pray for Jim, as well, as he cares for Roseann.

In Loving Memory

Paul Hester

Kindly unite in prayer for the repose of the soul of Paul Hester, a lifelong friend of Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC and Sr. Arlene's sister. Mr. Hester passed away after contracting COVID-19. Please pray for Mr. Hester's wife and loved ones at this sad time.

Brother-in-law of Debbie Kavorius

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the brother-in-law of Debbie Kavorius, a longtime friend of the Missionary Sisters. Debbie's brother-in-law passed away from COVID-19. Please pray for him and for his family as they mourn his loss.