



March 11, 2020

On March 11, 2020, one year ago today, the World Health Organization said COVID-19 could be characterized as a pandemic. One year later, millions of lives have been lost to the virus, and people worldwide are taking stock of the last year and what the future holds.

Sisters Find Spiritual Sustenance During Year of COVID Hardship

~ by Elizabeth Eisenstadt Evans, Global Sisters Report

For Catholic Sisters, as for many others in America and across the globe, it's been a brutal year.

Isolation. Disrupted schedules and forced adaptation. Dark nights of the soul. Loss.

Sisters have experienced the death of community members, separation from loved ones, painful months of isolation, and uncertainty. Some sisters shared in candid reflections how the past year had brought not only lifestyle changes, but, also prompted them to grapple with deep spiritual questions, such as the purpose of suffering, community, and what it feels like when God seems to go quiet. Some sisters have provided examples of how – in addition to prayer – spiritual practices rooted in such activities as cooking, acts of kindness and dancing provided a sense of peace and stability.

“The pandemic has reminded us that we are essentially not in control of our lives,” said Sr. Sallie Latkovich, a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph who serves as a spiritual director. “For sisters there’s a fundamental belief, but [also] a new kind of questioning, coming to new awareness and probably actually a deepening of faith.” Her directees are “talking about decluttering, how to lead a less hectic life. I don’t think we realized how hectic the [religious] life was,” she said.

Sr. Dorothy Trosclair, a Dominican Sister of Peace, said that her directees, who include sisters, have found themselves bringing their most profound emotions into prayer. “They find God working amid contemporary suffering, political unrest, racism and violence. All of these seem to bring people into deeper dependence on God and each other. They wrestle with suffering and understand on a deeper level that God is also suffering.”

“Being in a nursing home, you really do think of suffering and how you would relate to it,” said Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister and Camilla Hall resident Sr. Anne Kelly, 83. But, “being in a situation where everyone is experiencing some diminishment, you can feel blessed.”

Some sisters said that they were taking advantage of experiencing virtual liturgies outside their normal parishes or convents. Sr. Latkovich noted the “exquisite” quality of the eucharistic liturgy at [Old St. Patrick's Church](#) in Chicago. “It’s as good as livestream liturgy gets,” she wrote in an email.

Several sisters said that they made an intentional connection between the social unrest of the past year and the tragic impact of the virus. The killings of George Floyd and others by police, the resulting Black Lives Matter protests of last summer and grappling with pervasive racial injustice will always be intertwined with their experience of the pandemic, they said.

In addition, Sr. Clara Mahilia Roache, a sister of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, said that the pandemic has sparked creativity and a deeper desire for connection with sisters here and around the world. A discernment retreat she hosted via Zoom included women from the U.S., Nigeria, Australia, Ireland and Canada. Many of these international conversations have continued.

For sisters here and abroad, the pandemic has been a time of “powerful learnings”, suggested Sr. Lynn Levo, a member of the community of St. Joseph of Carondelet. “We have been strongly reminded that we are relational, emotional beings, with a humanity that is rooted in connection with others,” said Levo.

To read the complete article along with a list of spiritual resources related to the pandemic click [here](#)

To read a related article on women religious and the pandemic click [here](#)

To read a related article on US sisters connected on-line during the pandemic click [here](#)



Catholic Sisters Week

March 8 – 14

Celebrating Traditions, Changing the World

Fifty-two weeks a year women religious stand with the poor and immigrants, teach children, fight injustice, heal the sick, share spirituality, empower women, defend the planet, promote peace, create community, offer hope ...

But for one week, March 8-14, we shine the spotlight on women religious and encourage a wide range of campaigns and events that invite all who follow Jesus to

- expand and support their gospel witness
- grow the service networks they have seeded
- share their spirituality, charisms, and community
- encourage young women to consider a vocation to religious life
- support their pastoral, teaching and prophetic works
- and focus on the new world they call into being.



We thank and celebrate all our Missionary Sisters during Catholic Sisters Week!

Celebrating International Women's Day 2021

Women Who Made a Difference: The Original Sisterhood

~ written by Maria Patricia Williams, PhD

Maria Williams is a Cabrini scholar who completed her PhD studies in 2019 at the UCL Institute of Education. She had researched and written extensively about St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Most recently she had published in an online magazine for International Women's Day.

<https://adamah.media/women-who-made-a-difference-the-original-sisterhood/>



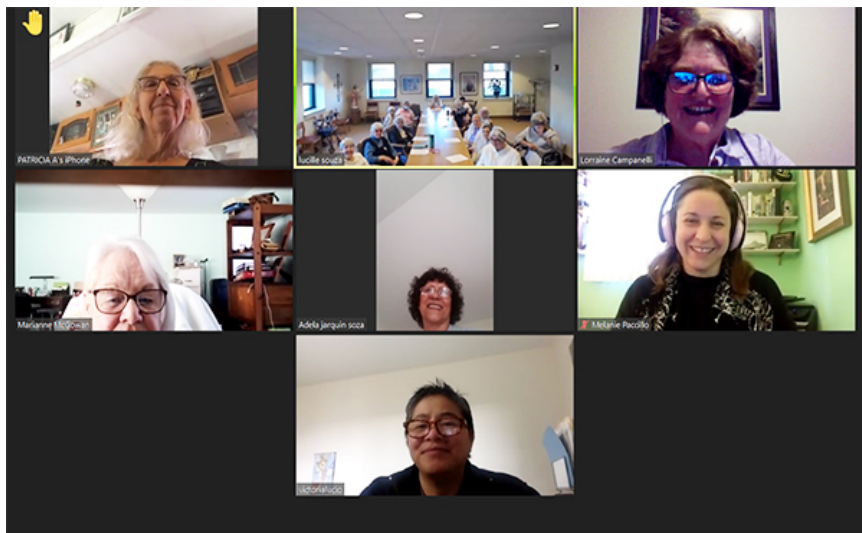
She graciously shares this link with our Update readers. The article is a fascinating take on Mother Cabrini and women religious foundresses of the 19th century.



The CLM Corner

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

United on the Lenten Journey



The Cabrini Lay Missionaries united in prayer with the Missionary Sisters at the Sacred Heart Convent (center photo) for a Lenten prayer service.

As we prayed the blessing, we were reminded that God is our strength and our stronghold. *~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director*

This past Sunday, several of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs), shared a Lenten prayer service via Zoom, with the Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent in NYC. We were reminded throughout the prayer service that God calls each of us by name and asks us to, "Return to God with all our hearts."

As Patricia Stancato-Purkey, CLM, played on her guitar and sang, *Hosea*, we heard God's love song to each of us. The prayer ended with a video of Fr. Austin Fleming giving a special Lenten

An Important Request for Missionary Sisters

Dear Sisters,

Recently, a woman named Celeste Morello contacted the Province Office to inform the Missionary Sisters that she has been working on having St. Donato Church declared an historical site because of Mother Cabrini's presence there. Evidently, Ms. Morello has been working on this effort for two years. She has reached some degree of success and requested that the Sisters write some emails of support for the St. Donato cause to the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

In doing some follow-up research, Anne Schwelm, the Director of the Holy Spirit Library at Cabrini University, discovered that the cause of St. Donato Church was on the Philadelphia Historical Commission agenda on March 3, 2021.

The staff member at the Historical Commission is Ms. Laura DiPasquale Zupan. The emails of support can address in some way the significance of St. Donato Parish, most likely through its relationship to St. Cabrini, as is discussed in the nomination for the property. Emails of appreciation and support for St. Donato can be sent directly to her at: laura.dipasquale@phila.gov

Your assistance with this endeavor would be greatly appreciated.

With thanks,
Sr. Catherine Garry, MSC

VIRTUAL 2021 Human Trafficking Conference



The Virtual Human Trafficking Conference took place this week on Monday, March 8 and Tuesday, March 9, each day from noon to 3 pm.

For those of who were unable to view the conference at the scheduled times, you can now access the recordings for our 2021 Shine the Light Human Trafficking Conference: Root Causes and Intersections on Human Trafficking:

Day 1: https://youtu.be/5GIE_rnuox4

Day 2: <https://youtu.be/Lrtg0YGAPJU>

They also are embedded in the Digital Toolkit page, as well, <https://www.gsadvocacy.org/human-trafficking-conference-packet.html>

Cabrini University's Common Hour in Celebration of Women's History Month



Rev. Dr. Antoinette "Toni"
Schiesler



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini



Sr. Ursula Infante, MSC

On Wednesday, March 10, via YouTube, Cabrini University hosted its Common Hour, this month, in celebration of Women's History Month. This was an opportunity for the University community to celebrate women leaders at Cabrini, particularly, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the University's namesake, and Mother Ursula Infante, MSC, the founding President of Cabrini College. Additionally, the Common Hour highlighted the Rev. Dr. Antoinette Schiesler, a former Dean, at the College.

The panelists were Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, University Campus Ministry Associate; Nancy Costello, University alumna and former trustee; Vanesa Evers, University reference librarian; and Michelle Filling-Brown, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The panel was moderated by Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu, University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The panelists focused on the leadership styles of women and shared stories of the women leaders at Cabrini University and their impact on society at large.

To view the presentation, please click on this link: <https://youtu.be/jniwi88k5ql>. You will need to **fast forward to the 15:22 minute mark for the start of the program.**

One Minute Meditation Speaking of Grace

Grace is a sharing of participation in the life of God that is given as a free gift from God and communicated by the Holy Spirit to human persons so that they might establish and maintain the right relationship with God and others.

~ Words of Grace

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=NUxJWGdnKzB0RmcrdVNabnoxWlkdz09>

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/j/92533568427?pwd=NUxJWGdnKzB0RmcrdVNabnoxWlkdz09>

**“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

CABRINI WALK with Educational Stations



SAVE THE DATE!

Human Trafficking Education/Awareness

April 26, 2021 at 3:00 pm

Cabrini University – Grace Hall

Sponsored by ECG 200 Class

Voices for the Vulnerable and

Community Partner - Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition/Cabrini Closet

For more information:

Karol Brewer – 610-902-1038 cabriniformation@mothercabrini.org



JOIN THE CONVERSATION
www.exploringintersections.org

*Sponsored by the Leadership Conference
of Women Religious (LCWR) Region X*

professional—will skillfully steer the conversation among three selected panelists. The panelists offer unique perspectives, notable achievements and invaluable insight on their particular topic.

Mark your calendar for the second Wednesday of each month!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: info@exploringintersections.org

Are you looking for constructive, nuanced conversation about the big issues of our day? Join Catholic Sisters and other panelists for a year-long monthly discussion series Exploring Intersections: Catholic Sisters on Racism, Migration and Climate.

Each month, we'll focus on a social issue and explore how it intersects with racism, migration and climate in a thought-provoking and engaging conversation. Host Charish Badzinski—writer, communication consultant, strategic planner, and public relations



The CLM Corner

*Each week during Lent,
one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries will be offering a reflection.
The reflection for **The Fourth Sunday in Lent** is offered by
Vicky Lucio, CLM*

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

H.E. Paul D. Etienne, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle, declared a Year of the Eucharist in our archdiocese from June 2020 to June 2021. Such a declaration, I think, is very timely during this difficult time of pandemic.

We need the Eucharist in our lives more than ever. The pandemic is not an impediment for us not to attend the holy Mass. In fact, this time is a great opportunity for us to maximize the benefits of the Holy Eucharist through the power of technology. Our current eucharistic life is now celebrated virtually or physically wherever it is viable. For those with limited internet or those with no internet at all, I heard they use the traditional use of radio or other indigenous ways of celebrating it. Regardless of how we participate, it becomes a viable alternative for all of us to receive the body and blood of Christ.

Interestingly, Pope Francis declared this year as the Year of St. Joseph in celebration of St. Joseph's 150th anniversary of his declaration as Patron of the Universal Church. We also celebrate his feast day this month. St. Joseph obeyed God with simplicity, silence, and humility. I think his characteristics resonate with what we need to focus on. There is too much noise hovering around us and at times we find it hard to see the simple things in life, to feel the silence of our hearts, and to experience the fruits of humility.

Covid 19, is a virus that is so silent yet extremely dangerous. If this is how silent and deadly the virus is, maybe we need silence to fight it back through the solemnity of each holy Mass being celebrated around the world.



Moreover, we need the intercession of St. Joseph especially during this Lenten season. May his faith and obedience to God be a guiding force and hope for all of us as we continue to rise above the pandemic. ~ reflection by Vicky Lucio, CLM



The Feast of St. Patrick is a cultural and religious celebration held on March 17th, the traditional date of St. Patrick's death. St. Patrick is the foremost patron saint of Ireland. The day commemorates St. Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish, in general. The day is observed by festivals, parades and the wearing of green attire and shamrocks.

Prayer Requests

M.K. Breen

Kindly unite in prayer for M.K. Breen who is hospitalized and struggling with pain and an infection. Prayers for her recovery and return to good health would be appreciated.



Ray Cannon

Cabrini University staff member Anita Catalanotto would like to request prayers for her brother, Ray Cannon. He had a stroke earlier this week and is in the hospital. Please pray for a full recovery for Mr. Cannon.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and all Women Religious

As we continue to observe Catholic Sisters Week (March 8 – 14) please continue to keep all vowed women religious in your prayers. Give thanks for their lives of service to humankind.

J. Moore

Your prayers are invited for J. Moore who will be undergoing surgery in the near future. Please pray that all will be well.

With Grateful Hearts

Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC ...

wishes to express, “my deep gratitude for all who remembered my brother and the family in your prayers. Your prayers, Masses, spiritual enrollments, phone calls, faxes, e-mail and comforting words made it easier to cope with the loss of my dear brother. Thank you, everyone. You are in my heart and prayers. Rest in peace, Jandir!!!!”

In Loving Memory

Jacquelyn “Jackie” Bruno

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jacquelyn Bruno, who passed away peacefully on March 8, 2021 with her children by her side. Jackie, was mother of Fr. Steve Bruno (former Cabrini High School chaplain) and Cabrini High School alumna Stacey Bruno Hamilton. Jackie worked or volunteered in the alumnae/advancement office at Cabrini High School, New Orleans. May she rest in God’s eternal light.

