



April 8, 2021

Lack of U.S. Plan for Asylum Seekers Tempers Hope among Migrants and Advocates

~ by Soli Salgado, Global Sisters Report

For advocates for migrants and refugees, the response to incoming migrants at the border between the United States and Mexico is a source of emotional tension.



People authorized to cross the U.S.- Mexico border line up on the U.S. side of the International Bridge in McAllen, TX. At times, the line to get in stretches the entire length of the bridge which means hours of waiting. Photo credit: Nuri Valbona

There is a sense of victory for the migrants and refugees who made it into the United States after months or years of uncertainty. However, there are also rising frustrations from potential asylees and activists spurred by the new U.S. presidential administration's lack of preparation and clarity regarding the ongoing expulsion of asylum seekers.

Joe Biden fulfilled a campaign promise once lauded among immigration activists when he ended the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), also known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy. The 2019 policy under former President Donald Trump forced more than 70,000 asylum seekers to wait for their U.S. court dates in Mexican border cities.

But no concrete plan for asylum-seekers emerged in its place, so while thousands of migrants were able to enter the United States in triumph since Biden rescinded the MPPs, others who have arrived at the border seeking asylum but who were not affected by the program are being expelled to Mexico.

"We do celebrate the progress that has been made," said Sr. Tracey Horan, a Sister of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods and Assistant Director of Education and Advocacy for the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Arizona. "At the same time, it doesn't feel like the response that we're seeing is equal to the urgency that the people living it are feeling."

The driving factors that make migrants flee their homes are only adding up, she said: the usual violence and corruption are now met with destruction from hurricanes and extreme poverty as a result of the pandemic.

Ambiguity over action

Immigration advocates bemoan the Biden's administration's lack of transparency and clear plans for those who continue their months-or years-long wait to present their cases for asylum, as well as the continuation of the Title 42 policy, a public health order from March 2020 that allows the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to expel migrants to prevent the coronavirus from spreading in holding facilities.

Dylan Corbett, Executive Director of the Hope Border Institute said the government is capable of handling the number of migrants currently crossing the border. But any instability along the border is largely due to the government's "ambiguous response," said Corbett, who lives in El Paso, Texas.

Missionary of Jesus Sr. Norma Pimentel agreed, noting that a "crisis" indicates a shortage of options. "But, I think the options are there – they're just not being put forward," said Pimentel, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley.



Sr. Norma Pimentel greets newly arrived immigrants at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, TX. There, volunteers make travel arrangements and coordinate COVID testing before immigrants proceed to other parts of the U. S. Photo credit: Nuri Valbona

Biden's Department of Homeland Security, unlike Trump's, is not turning away unaccompanied minors at the border. Though the policy is intended to keep vulnerable children safe in the United States, it also tempts parents with the tough choice to send their children north without them.

"When I say 'children,' I'm not talking about 15 or 14 years old; I'm talking about 3, 5, 7 years old, completely by themselves," said Chris Cabrera of the National Border Council, adding he would not have believed it if he had not talked to the children himself.

Joanne Williams, the Executive Director of the Kino Border Initiative remarks that the Biden administration underestimates the desperation of individuals who choose to embark on the dangerous journey north, she added. "People are making rational choices to try to protect their kids as best as they can."

The best ways to respond

Advocates agree that the United States should work to stabilize the Northern Triangle – Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador – so families don't need to become migrants or refugees at all. They are also clear about how the government can respond to the border's immediate needs.

As Sr. Horan put it: more health and human resources, fewer troops.

"What we don't need are more Border Patrol agents," she said. What we need are social workers and asylum officers and judges, people to accompany these families through the legal process they have a right to." To read the complete article please click [here](#) To read a related article click [here](#)

Growing to Serve Others



CIS-NYC is growing! Thanks to your support, we started off 2021 with many exciting new additions to our team and programming. Unfortunately, this also meant saying goodbye to our Staff Attorney, Oscar Montes. Oscar was with us for three years and played an instrumental role in the growth of our Immigration Legal Services Program. He will be missed!

We have lots of big plans in store for 2021. With the addition of a second staff attorney to our team we will be expanding our legal services, including offering legal intakes at the St. Cabrini Shrine in Washington Heights. We have also expanded our Social Services Program, which saw significant growth when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and we had to mobilize rapidly to meet the case management and counseling needs of our community. This year we will continue to offer case management, individual counseling, and support groups. Lastly, our Justice for Immigrants Program has gained a full-time Community Organizer, who has already begun the process of strengthening and solidifying our JFI membership and developing exciting new leadership development, educational, and community building opportunities for our members.

To learn more:

<http://cis-nyc.org>

One Minute Meditation **It is the Lord!**

After his resurrection, Jesus surprised the disciples appearing to them in disguise, only to vanish as soon as he declared himself. The same Jesus still lives and works among us, still surprises our souls whose faith is not sufficiently pure and strong. There is no moment when God is not manifest. Everything that happens to us, in us, and through us, embraces and conceals God's divine but veiled purpose, so that we are always being taken by surprise and never recognize it until it has been accomplished.

If we could pierce that veil and if we were vigilant and attentive, God would unceasingly reveal himself to us and we would rejoice in his works and in all that happens to us.

We would say to everything: "It is the Lord!"

~ Jean-Pierre de Caussade, SJ

From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Team...

CARA Study Highlights Increasing Diversity in Religious Communities

~ by Soli Salgado, Global Sisters Report

As women and men religious in the U.S. become more diverse both culturally and ethnically compared to previous generations, leadership and membership of their religious communities face the challenge of learning how to welcome new members and adjust religious life as they know it to these new cultural changes, according to a recent study.

Georgetown University's [Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate](#) [5] conducted a national [survey](#) of new religious members, "Cultural Diversity in Vocations to Religious Life in the United States," which sampled candidates/postulants, novices, those in temporary vows or commitment, and those who professed their final vows or commitment within the last 15 years.

Of the 231 respondents who are not members of their institute's dominant culture, many elaborated on their observations or the specific challenges they've encountered, including "a presumption that the dominant culture is the best"; frequent reminders (though sometimes done endearingly) that one is the minority in the group; the glazing-over of the diversities within the "generic label of 'Asian'" or Latino; the misunderstanding that comes with one's background being particularly rigid with rules, which can "come off as being cold or distant or impersonal"; and the expectation that the individual learn about the dominant culture while others are not expected to learn anything about the minority culture.



The study found a high correlation between ethnicity and the likelihood of having grown up outside the United States. A total of 64 languages were reported when respondents were asked their first language. Nearly 80% said English, 6% said Spanish, and 4% said Vietnamese. Three in ten respondents speak two languages fluently, while nearly 1 in 10 speak three or more languages fluently.

Though half said they live in a community with members of a variety of cultural/ethnic backgrounds, the 7% of respondents who are the sole member of their ethnic background within their community, the survey found, are especially likely to report feeling "somewhat" or "very" challenged in the following ways:

- Members with whom they live not understanding their culture (49%)
 - Not feeling understood by other members of their institute (32%)
 - Feeling isolated or lonely (28%)
- Feeling they are asked too much to accommodate their culture to fit in with the dominant cohort (23%)
 - Their food preferences not being welcome in their community (23%)

Others reported more openness, with 9 in 10 respondents saying their communities are either "somewhat" or "very open" in welcoming those of different backgrounds in initial formation as well as in recruiting candidates from different cultures and accommodating families visiting from their respective cultures. To learn more click [here](#)

**If you enjoyed our recent
webinar series on immigration,
“Dreaming of a
Single Human Family”
we would like to invite you to
a follow-up conversation
via Zoom
on
Wednesday, April 28th**

11:00 am EDT/10:00 am CDT/ 9:00 am MDT/ 8:00 am PDT

This will be an opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas with Cabrini colleagues and friends about what you learned during the webinar series; to discuss immigration practices and policies and learn more about how you can get involved with immigrant causes and reform.



We hope that many of you who were with us for the webinars will join us for this informal time of dialogue as we share:

- what were your ‘takeaways’ from the sessions?
- what lingering questions about immigration do you have?
- what do you think is necessary to bring about enduring and humane immigration reform?
- what courses of action regarding immigration have you been inspired to undertake?

Cabrini Conversation - Webinar Reflection

Time: Apr 28, 2021 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87060938972?pwd=YkpucFV1R1RNU1JYUjZxRTRQcXdnZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 6093 8972

Passcode: 908189

One tap mobile

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 870 6093 8972

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc8AHZf2Eh>

For a synopsis of each of the immigration webinars:

1 – Themes from the Life and Spirituality of Mother Cabrini – p.7

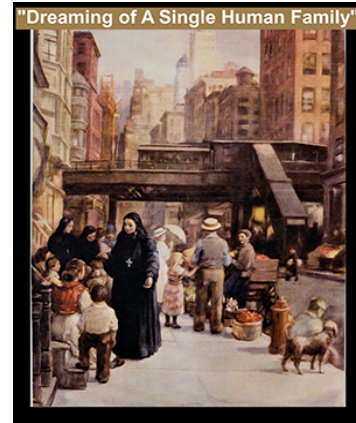
<https://www.mothercabrini.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/1.28.21-D-1.pdf>

2 – Challenges in Migration and a Cabrinian Response – p. 2

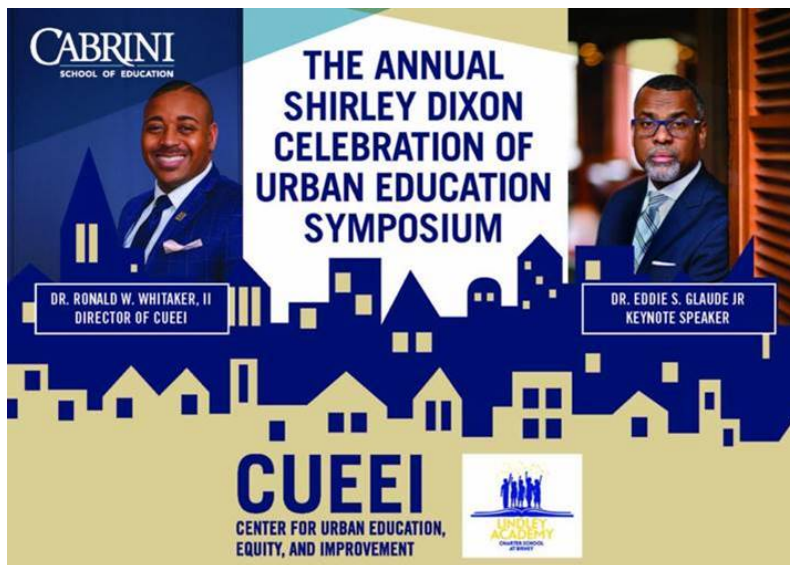
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10 - Immigration from the perspective of the Cabrinian charism – p.2

<https://www.mothercabrini.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/3.25.21.pdf>



The Center for Urban Education, Equity, and Improvement (CUEEI) invites you to join us on Thursday, April 22, for the annual Shirley Dixon Celebration of Urban Education Symposium



*Continue the legacy of
Dr. Shirley Dixon!
View diversity, equity, and
inclusion through ethical and
practical lenses, and navigate the
complexities of race and
democracy in America.*

Keynote Address:
Dr. Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

Progressing Past the Value Gap
and the Lie in Education Spaces

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Virtual Reception | 5:45-6pm

Virtual Keynote Address and Awards Presentation | 6-7:30pm

Register Now!

WALK A MILE
WALK TO LEARN ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS
AND HOW WE CAN HELP

WHY WE WALK

It's time we open our eyes and see the victims of the sex trade, domestic servitude, and forced labor who've been in the shadows for far too long.

The purpose of the event is to shine a spotlight on the 27 million men, women, and children who are still trapped in slavery today.

It's happening right here in our community. Come out and learn more about the signs and how to help end trafficking in your zip code.

JOIN US

Register Here

Monday April 26, 2021

**Walk starts at 3:00 P.M. in front of Grace Hall
Please remember to wear a mask**



Donations of hotel size toiletries: soap, shampoo, toothpaste etc. We will also be accepting donations of gift cards to support the Cabrini Closet

**This walk is sponsored by ECC 200 Anti-Human Trafficking Class, the Cabrini Closet
Contact Karol Brewer at 610-902-1038 or cabriniformation@mothercabrini.org**

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Prayer Requests

Renata Zanin DeFreitas

Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC invites your prayers for her niece, Renata, who is ill with COVID in Brazil. She is experiencing extreme fatigue and muscle aches. Please pray that the symptoms she is experiencing will soon subside and that she will quickly regain her health.

Susan Herren

Please unite in prayer for Susan Herren as she anticipates having some medical tests. Please pray for her peace of mind and a good outcome of her scans.

Special Intentions

Prayers are requested by a member of the Cabrini University community for several special intentions. Please keep these intentions in your heart.

Marcelo Zanin

Please unite in prayer for Marcelo Zanin, the younger brother of Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC, who is hospitalized in Brazil with COVID. Please pray that he will be given the strength to overcome the virus and achieve full recovery.

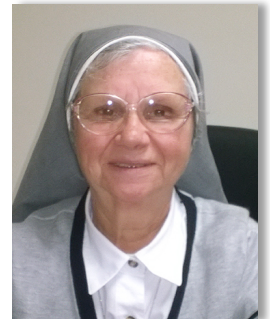
In Loving Memory

Frank Cennamo

Prayers are requested for Frank Cennamo, the husband of Lynda Fernandez Cennamo, Cabrini (College) University Class of 1970. Frank passed away in December. Please remember him in your prayers and pray for the comfort of Lynda and their two daughters.

Sr. Celia Cid, MSC

Our dear Sr. Celia Cid, MSC returned home to God yesterday on April 7th. Missionary Sisters Romualda Molon and Alfonsina Gomes were both with her at the time of her passing at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY. She went home to the Lord very peacefully. Please hold Sr. Celia's sister and niece in your prayers at this time. May she rest in God's peace.



Sr. Celia

Sr. Joan Marie Sariti, MSC

We learned that Sr. Joan Marie, of the Sacred Heart Convent in New York City, was - unexpectedly - called home to God early this morning. Sr. Joan Marie was a great advocate for the poor and the underserved. She was a faithful and humorous communicator with her Missionary Sisters and Cabrini friends. Please pray for her brother Edward and all the Sisters in her community as they grieve her sudden loss.



Sr. Joan Marie

Susan Sullivan

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Susan Sullivan, a 1970 graduate of Cabrini (College) University. Sue passed away on March 20. May she rest in peace. Our heartfelt condolences to family, friends and classmates.