



May 20, 2021

Laudato Si' and Fratelli Tutti Call us to Encounter the Other

~ by Sr. Mary Shaw, Global Sisters Report

This May we celebrate the sixth anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter: "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home," and were introduced about seven months ago to his new Encyclical Letter, "*Fratelli Tutti*: on Fraternity and Social Friendship." With these in the background as a mirror, one is left to ponder what light is reflected on the issues that seem to be dominating the air waves.

We are hearing a lot of news now about asylum seekers, especially children, who are involved in the crisis at the U.S. border; brutal attacks on Asian Americans; random acts of gun violence leading to many deaths. The encyclicals I mentioned give us some assistance amidst these crises and the ongoing pandemic.



A man in New York City begs on his knees in Times Square as people walk past him. (CNS/Reuters/Carlo Allegri)

As long as we can recall, there has been trouble at the border — not caused by those seeking asylum but perhaps by our antiquated, inhumane policies that deny our shared humanity. One thing is for sure, there is an absence of human dignity at the border.

Francis helps us to see that an "integral ecology calls for openness ... that takes us to the heart of what it is to be human" (LS 11). Pope Francis reminds us of his spiritual namesake, Francis of Assisi, who spoke the language of fraternity and beauty, and saw each and every creature as a sister or brother.

If we lose this fraternal language, "our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on our immediate needs" (LS 11). We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. We are called to hear the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor.

Ponder: Do I see people at the border as part of the "throwaways" because they have a different language or color than I do? Do I see these individuals as "them," coming here to take our jobs or bringing diseases, and fail to see them as brother and sister?

In *Fratelli Tutti*, Francis relates the timeless story with which we are all familiar: the good Samaritan. But now we are seriously asked to enter into the story. Take a few minutes and watch the scenes at the border, or other acts of violence that flash across your television screen, and ponder, "Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders" (FT 69).

May the cries of Creation and all creatures, and the wounds of suffering humanity, be conduits of grace for us and enable us to help the less fortunate. May those at the borders around the world help us to recognize our common humanity: *Fratelli Tutti*.

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

Cabrini Mission Foundation Assists Immigrant Families with Rent



As access to COVID-19 vaccines become more readily available, it brings hope the pandemic will soon ease its grip. Our prayers continue for all who grapple with the virus, and we are optimistic here in New York, once the

epicenter of COVID-19 cases in the United States, we can soon return to a sense of normalcy.

For our immigrant families, business interruptions and closures have meant a loss of jobs. The lack of working hours over the last year have led to mounting debt. When it comes to paying for food or rent, the choice is obvious. In response to this COVID-19 driven crisis, the Cabrini Mission Foundation offers a rent assistance program for those most impacted.

To qualify, renters must have documented proof of a current lease, a letter from their landlord as well as recommendation from one of our immigrant services caseworkers or immigration attorneys. The current family benefit is \$1,000 and Foundation checks go directly to the landlords to cover past due rent.

The Cabrini Mission Foundation has been able to assist 37 families to date with this program.
~ CMF website



Smiles, Reminiscence and Fun!



Recreation therapist Maria Samuels sweeps her hand across the Magic Table delighting residents Mary Ballentine (l.) and Paula Enzmann.

Walking onto the Dementia Unit at St. Cabrini Nursing Home is always a special and unique experience. On April 14, 2021, the atmosphere was festive as five residents were gathered around the “Magic Table.” The Magic Table, otherwise known as a “Tovertafel,” is a ceiling-based, high-quality projector that contains infrared sensors, a loudspeaker and a processor with which interactive lights are projected on to any table in the form of games, including catching butterflies, sweeping leaves and popping bubbles. The people playing, sit around the table and respond to the lights – which in turn respond to

their hand and arm movements. The Tovertafel was developed in the Netherlands and creates a fun, safe environment for all residents. The games are formulated with the intention to trigger a sense of reminiscence among players in order to encourage stimulation socially, cognitively and physically.

Resident Eva Rodriguez started singing and moved her fingers on the table as though she were playing the piano. As she did this, bubbles began popping in various colors while the rest of the residents at the table looked on with smiles.



Resident Eva Rodriguez sings and dances while at the Magic Table.

“Look, I’m playing music!” she said. Mary Ballentine and Paula Enzman were seated next to one another and laughed together as

Therapeutic Recreation Therapist, Maria Samuels swept her hands all along the table to create a forest scene. “They have so much fun!” said Ms. Samuels. “I love to see the interaction between the residents as they engage with the table and each other. Sometimes, I see a side of the resident that I’ve never seen before. The smiles are contagious!”

Funding for the Magic Table was made possible by a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. In addition to the table, the grant also allowed for 30 staff members to complete certification by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (CDP).

The training helped the staff gain knowledge and learn interventions for difficult behaviors, daily care and meaningful activities.

~ submitted by Susan Herceg, Cabrini of Westchester



Resident Mary Ballentine smiles when she sees the beautiful lights of the table.

Cabrini High School's Class of 2022 "Steps Up" to Become Seniors

On Friday, May 14, 2021, the Class of 2022 at Cabrini High School "stepped up" to become seniors at the annual Step Up-Day with a surprise second line* parade.

Each year Cabrini High School gathers to close the school year with the celebration of Step-Up Day, a long-treasured tradition at Cabrini where each class "steps up" to a different part of the gym and a different phase of life at Cabrini. They move up to the next grade level – pre-freshmen become freshmen, freshmen become sophomores, sophomores become juniors, and the juniors become seniors. With their class sisters, each student steps up to the new challenges of their next year.



The newly "stepped up" students take their rightful place as seniors at Cabrini High School. Photo: Tyler Kaufman



Grade level coordinators take turns declaring the following to each class: *"By the power invested in me, by the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mother Cabrini, the faculty and staff of Cabrini High School – provisional on passing all of your classes – I now pronounce you ____."* Then, each grade moves to their new designated section in the gym, with the juniors parading across the stage into the senior section when it is their turn.



When the Class of 2022 were declared seniors, they began their celebration across the stage when a surprise second line band, organized by the Student Council moderators, entered the gym to join the festivities. The class second lined around the gym, down the senior middle stairs for the first time, and out onto Moss Street where an even larger celebration was waiting for them.

The entire Cabrini High School student body and the Class of 2022's parents were waiting to continue the celebration, along with a Mardi Gras Indian. The class paraded across the Magnolia Bridge, or as the Cabrini community calls it the Cabrini Bridge.

Cabrini High School President Jack Truxillo stated, "Step-Up Day is a great tradition at Cabrini, but this year the event was even more meaningful and exciting. It was as unique as the year that preceded it and such a great way to end the school year with us getting back to a sense of normalcy." ~ submitted by Katelyn Ehrhardt, Cabrini High School

*As it is a celebration, second lines (bands) are a popular tradition in New Orleans signifying a new life together.

Clinical Simulation Center Provides High-Tech Nursing Environment at Cabrini University

Cabrini University's new Clinical Simulation Center (CSC) provides a state-of-the-art facility and hands on learning environment for the Nursing program, guided by faculty demonstration and partnered practice. And, unlike many other Nursing programs in the area, Cabrini Nursing majors spend time in the lab during their first year.

Housed in the Antoinette Iadarola Center for Science, Education, and Technology, the CSC contains a Clinical Skills Laboratory and two High-Fidelity Simulation Suites. Each suite has a conjoining debriefing and observation room where students and faculty engage in meaningful discussion optimizing learning while in a small, personal class size. Students have the ability to use real, functional medical equipment as they care for patients in simulation scenarios.



Nursing majors get clinical experience in their first year of study, setting Cabrini's program experience apart from many others.

"The Clinical Simulation Center allows students the opportunity to experience purposeful learning based in a variety of clinical settings," Jennifer Frey, Founding Director, PhD, RN, said. "Given our health equity-focused curriculum, the CSC has the capability and flexibility to transform into different health care environments, such as clinics, home healthcare settings, community centers, and more."

Rooted in Cabrini's mission-based Education of the Heart, the Nursing program was developed to cultivate leaders who feel empowered to use their voices to advocate for health equity by informing and influencing education, policy, and practice in nursing and healthcare. The CSC contains a diverse set of manikins representing different genders, races, and ages, helping to immerse students in the program's grounding in the health equity of diverse populations across different lifespans.

Nursing faculty and staff begin to meet with incoming Nursing majors in the summer "to engage with them on a human level, to get to know them, and to begin planning for their academic success," according to Kearney, who emphasized the importance of having the students spend time in the CSC from the beginning. "Molding the program around them as we go is very important to us."

The generosity of multiple donors contributed to the creation of the Clinical Simulation Center. [The Maguire Foundation's \\$1 million gift](#) to the Nursing program provided significant operating and capital support as well as funding to establish Cabrini's inaugural Maguire Nursing Scholars. [A \\$37,010 grant from the McLean Contributionship](#) also helped to fund the CSC's innovative learning environment, and the Anatomage Table, which is used by Nursing majors and all science students at Cabrini, was made possible with a [\\$100,000 grant from the George I. Alden Trust](#).

To learn more and to view a video please click [here](#)

'Tis the Month of Our Mother



The beloved tradition of a May Crowning took place with the enthusiastic participation from all at Mass.

A few weeks ago a regular attendee at the 11am Mass at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York City floated the possibility of doing a May crowning this year. The idea was met with enthusiasm. Our regular Sunday priest, Fr. Mike Eguino, suggested we use the statue of Our Lady of Grace, but... well, it's a long way up to her! We couldn't hoist a youngster up, and no one volunteered to climb a long ladder themselves. Instead, we borrowed a 32" statue from the Shrine gift shop. One of our gift shop workers who is good with crafts made a beautiful little crown of silk roses.

Our congregation at 11 am is mainly single people and couples, but we managed to corral 8 kids into participating. The children were very, very excited. That made the procession beautiful and chaotic, in that it-will-be-what-it-will-be way that's part of working with kids.

After the crowning Fr. Mike asked — impromptu — anyone whose native language wasn't English to come forward and say the first part of the Hail Mary in their language, and the congregation responded in English. It was great. We had Tagalog, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Russian, Twi, Amharic, German, and one other. Not a bad haul for an average Sunday morning! ~ submitted by *Julia Attaway, Executive Director, St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine*

Wrapped in a Blanket of Compassion and Service

Following the induction of new members, the 66 members of Cabrini High School's National Honor Society continued with their service project, "Fleur de Cause" blanket drive for the Metro Center for Community Advocacy's Women Shelter.

With the support of the Cabrini Alumnae Association, Parents' Association President Lisa Moree, and member donations, Cabrini's National Honor Society was able to meet their goal of making one blanket per member. In all, the National Honor Society logged over 300 service hours organizing and putting together the double-sided no-sew fleece blankets. ~ submitted by *Katelyn Ehrhardt, Cabrini High School*



National Honor Society members created blankets for a women's shelter as a service project.

**SERVING
NONCITIZEN
STUDENTS**

**CABRINI
UNIVERSITY**
CENTER ON IMMIGRATION

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

May 20 and 21, 2021 | 9:30am—12pm EST

The Center on Immigration at Cabrini University will host a virtual two-day faculty development focused on working with noncitizen students. The development days will center the student experience, provide practical insights to faculty, and discuss methods to make university campuses more welcoming to noncitizens.

DAY 1

May 20 – Working with Immigrant Students



Understanding and Serving Students Living Under the Shadows of Undocumented Status

Keynote: Carola Suárez-Orozco, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Counseling and School Psychology
University of Massachusetts, Boston
Co-founder of [Re-Imagining Migration](#)

DAY 2

May 21 – Working with International Students



Supporting International and Immigrant Students in Communicating Across the Curriculum

Keynote: Shawna Shapiro, PhD
Associate Professor of Writing and Linguistics
Middlebury College

ALL ARE WELCOME!

REGISTER [HERE](#)

Prayer Requests

Shannon Connor and Kevin Brusstar

Anita Brusstar, Assistant Registrar at Cabrini University, requests prayers for her son and daughter-in-law who are expecting their second child, and Anita's 12th grandbaby. The baby has CDH (Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia) and will need surgery when born. Anita asks our prayers that the baby will be strong enough for surgery and that everything will go well with this little one's procedure. Her family will be so grateful for the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community.

Arlene Scanlon

Please unite in prayer for Arlene Scanlon who recently fractured her hip and is now undergoing physical therapy. She has asked for our prayers and would be grateful to hear from her Cabrinian friends:

The Parament at Somers Rehabilitation and Nursing Home
189 Route 110
Box 445
Room 23
Somers, New York 10589
Phone: 1-914-743-5384

With Grateful Hearts

Ritz Ratzlaff

Please join in prayers of thanksgiving that Rita Ratzlaff, the bus driver, and the school students with whom she volunteers were not seriously injured in a recent school bus accident. The brakes failed on the bus and the bus driver was able to guide the bus into a tree rather than risk going down a hill and into the nearby river. No one sustained serious injuries, thank God.

Raegan Lee Reilly

Warm congratulations to Karol Brewer of the Province Formation Office and her husband Bob, on the birth of their first grandchild, a little girl, Raegan Lee Reilly. Raegan made her debut on Saturday, May 8, 2021. The proud parents are Abby and Brendan Reilly, Karol's daughter and son-in-law. We wish the Reilly and Brewer families much happiness as they celebrate the newest member of their families.



Miss Raegan Lee Reilly

Ava Grace Sembra

It is with joy that we welcome the April 23rd arrival of Ava Grace Sembra, the granddaughter of Fran and Tony Marinaro, dear friends of the Missionary Sisters. Ava Grace's proud parents are Lorraine and Alex Sembra. Ava Grace weighed 7 lbs 10 oz. Mom, Dad, big sister and baby Ava are all doing well. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

In Loving Memory

Nicolas Baldini

Nicolas Baldini, the 24 year-old nephew of Sr. Laura Baldini, MSC, for whom we have been praying, died earlier this week. Sr. Laura and her family are grateful for all your prayers for Nicolas and for them, and they asked that you continue to remember him in prayer as he journeys now into the embrace of God. Please remember his family in their sorrow.

This is Pentecost Sunday



After Jesus had ascended to heaven from Mt. Olivet, the apostles and disciples returned to the Holy City. They remained together in the Upper Room or Cenacle, the place where Jesus had appeared to them and which may well be called the first Christian church. About a hundred and twenty persons were assembled there. They chose Matthias as an apostle in place of the unhappy Judas; they prayed and waited for the Paraclete.

Ten days had passed, it was Sunday, the seventh Sunday after the resurrection. At about nine o'clock in the morning, as they were together praying fervently, the Holy Spirit descended upon them.

Pentecost celebrates the grace-filled thriving of the human community through the indwelling of the Spirit. It reminds us that Jesus' promise to bestow his Spirit upon us can be limited only by our own unwillingness to continue his mission. In the first book of Corinthians, Paul insists that we will know the Spirit to the extent that we appreciate the diversity of gifts present in our community. The Acts of the Apostles assures us that the Spirit continues to work through frail, diverse, sometimes fighting, often feisty, human beings. The Spirit of God leads us to broaden our plans and go beyond our own narrow imaginations.

As we contemplate our celebration of Pentecost, we might do well to remember the story of how Jesus' disciples discerned that they should choose one man to fill out Judas' place, only to realize that Spirit had chosen more than a hundred men and women, empowering them all to continue Jesus'

mission. This 50th day of Easter reminds us that when we are willing, the Spirit takes our best plans and multiplies them by 10 — over and again. ~ *St. Joseph Sister Mary M. McGlone, National Catholic Reporter*