



May 27, 2021

Answering the Call to US-Mexico Border, sisters share the intensity, gifts of what they witness

~ by Dan Stockman, Global Sisters Report

The Global Sisters Report requested reports from various congregations of women religious who have been volunteering at the U.S. – Mexico border in response to the humanitarian crisis there. Among the many moving reports was one from *Mercy Sisters Peggy Verstege and Carmelita Hagan who wrote a reflection entitled “Shoes for the Journey”*:

The young mothers and children come.
Young fathers come with children, too.
They come miles, believing that life will be
better in this country.
They come tired but trusting us to help
them go forward.
They come hungry and hot.
They come each day.
Most need clothes.
Many need shoes for the journey.
Each day is busy, busy,...Long and
hot...Sometimes chaotic...but real.



A migrant family from Nicaragua seeking asylum in the US
waits to be transported to a Border Patrol processing facility.
CNS/Reuters/Adrees Latif

¿Tiene camiseta? ¿Pantalones?

*¿Zapatos? [Do you have a T-shirt? Jeans?
Shoes?]*

*¿Bolsa? ¿Banar? ¿Por favor? Yo tengo hambre. ¿Comida? ¿Agua? Por favor [Bag? Bath? Please?
I am hungry. Food? Water? Please.]*

They wait in line to be processed.

They wait for food, clothing, and a place to sleep.

They wait with patience in the Texas heat.

They live in hope, a precious thread for life.

What more must we be and do for the journey?

Will the seekers be welcomed?

We can only hope and act in love, prepare food, find water and get the clothes and shoes for their journey.

Sr. Meg Easley of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration writes:

As I got off the plane in Tucson to begin my time volunteering at the border, I didn't know what to expect, but as the week went on, I couldn't help but wonder, more and more – that the inequity of our human existence depends on our geographical start and the courage of so many who try to find safety, peace and opportunity in our country.

Sr. Patricia Mulderick and Sr. Terry Saetta, Sisters of Mercy, ministered in the Rio Grande Valley:

Mostly, we worked in the area where shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and other personal hygiene items were given out, small items that are essentials in helping folks feel comfortable once again, with a sense of dignity. We also helped serve the meals and distributed clothes so that every person could find something that would fit, helping them get ready for the next leg of their journey,

For several days, anti-immigrant protestors stood outside, filming with their cellphones, yelling and “reporting to their base,” running up and shouting at immigrants as they were being transported to airports and bus stations. People who have already suffered so much were being victimized yet again.



The grave of a baby, born while its mother was crossing the Arizona desert to migrate into the United States, is decorated with toys, mementos and prayers. An estimated 6,000 people have died trying to make the crossing in the last decade. Courtesy of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

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

Ursuline Sisters Maria Teresa de Llano and Karen Schwane volunteered at La Frontera Migrant Shelter in Laredo, TX:

They come from as far as Venezuela, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. They are given false promises by the coyotes who tell them they will not go hungry or thirsty; that they will walk only a few miles. They sell the little they have and begin a long and treacherous journey of thousands of miles with faith in their God and hope in their hearts. And they do it all for their children in hopes of a better life for them, a place they can settle in peace, work very hard and get an education so they do not have to go through what they, the parents, have experienced.

For some, the journey began weeks, months, even years before. But it does not matter to them how long and hard it will be. The only thing that matters is that their children will no longer have to fear the gangs, drug traffickers and the daily struggle to eke out a living. None of these matter to them: their children are worth it.

“They know their chances of making it to the other side are slim...and they may be deported shortly after they arrive.

None of these matter to them: their children are worth it.”

Srs. de Llano and Schwane

JFI Leadership Program @ CIS-NYC



CIS-NYC JFI Leadership Program graduates proudly display their certificates of completion. Congratulations!

On May 8th and 15th the Justice for Immigrants (JFI) Program at Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC held a popular education leadership training for our community members. Ten members graduated from the program, where they learned and engaged in dialogue about a range of topics, including: the history of immigration in the U.S.; systemic oppression; the historical context of white supremacy and xenophobia; how immigration intersects with other social movements; tactics for community organizing; how to tell your story; methods of self-care; and more.

The ten graduates included both long time participants and new members who have been participating in our JFI membership meetings and organizing committees. Two of the graduates were recently selected to serve as the first member fellows for the JFI Program and will be supporting JFI's outreach, community education, and organizing efforts.

We look forward to seeing how each of the graduates use their skills to advocate for their community as members of JFI and beyond!



JFI Leadership Program participants share their personal histories and draw connections with one another using yarn.

If you're interested in learning more about our community education and organizing work, follow CIS-NYC on social media where we post frequent updates, resources, and opportunities to engage. Facebook: www.facebook.com/cisnyc, Twitter: @cisnyc, Instagram: @cis.nyc ~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, CIS-NYC

Announcing...

A new Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission



In light of our Corporate Stance on Immigration, a new Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission was recently formed to help us respond to this urgent need.

The Commission's goal is to educate others and ourselves about the needs of immigrants, re-examine political laws and regulations in light of justice issues and work to change those that do not meet human needs. They will work in solidarity with immigrants and with others who share our values and beliefs to promote justice and compassion for all immigrants.

The team is comprised of Srs. Lucille Souza (co-chairperson), Yolanda Flores, Antonia Plata, Pietrina Raccuglia, Roselle Santivasi, Zelene Suchilt (Community Organizer CIS, NYC) and Karol Brewer (co-chairperson) of the Province Formation Office.

You will be hearing much more about the work the team will be involved in and you may be asked for your support with some of their efforts. ~ submitted by Karol Brewer, Province Immigration Commission

Cabrini High School Hosts Elenian Club



Cabrini High School in New Orleans recently hosted the annual Elenian Mass, May Crowning and reception. The Elenian Club is an organization of Italian women.

Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC (seated 2nd 1.) joined the group for the special day.

MSC Candidate Evarlyne Ndeti is the 2021 Mother Ursula Award Recipient

The Cabrini University Alumni Board Members are thrilled to announce that Evarlyne Ndeti is the 2021 Mother Ursula Award Winner. Below is a note of thanks from Evarlyne.



Congratulations to
Evarlyne!

Dear Cabrini Community,

I cannot express how grateful I am to have spent my four years on campus with you all. It has been a blessing and I want to thank each one of you for making me feel at home. I appreciate the love, care and support you have showered upon me over the years, and I pray that God will reward you for that. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the MSCs throughout the world and to my family back in Kenya, because without their blessings I could not be here with you.

To my fellow classmates of 2021, I would love to thank you for being such caring and wonderful companions since our freshman year. Thank you for impacting my life and for the great friendship that I share with many of you. To all the sophomores, juniors, and seniors to be, it has been great getting to know you, especially those I met through Orientation and Campus Ministry. Thank you for being a part of me, and know that you will always have a very special place in my heart.

To all my professors, thank you for being so understanding and helping me to learn more about myself as a student, the courses you have taught me, and life in general. Your care and compassion toward my success will always remain a source of joy in both my missionary life and in my career path. Thank you for sharing your gifts, talents, and knowledge through the education of the heart.

This Mother Ursula Award and other awards I have received from Cabrini over the past years will always remain very dear to me. They will be a reminder of how wonderful Cabrini University members are and the hard work they put in to ensure that everyone is motivated and doing their best.

I cannot forget to give a shout out to these wonderful students: - Samar Dahleh, David DelPo, Rocio Gonzalez-Rojas, Kayla Hunt, Kaitlyn Lannon, Amanda Lynn, Mark Phillips, Ashley Tutzauer, and Aislinn Walsh, who were also nominated for the Mother Ursula Award. Shout out to all the leaders on campus, you have done an amazing job at Cabrini through your leadership roles, and I want to applaud you for that. Please know that you are loved and highly appreciated for all that you do.

Thank you seniors, staff, and faculty, for nominating me for this award of Mother Ursula, and the entire Cabrini University community for giving me

the opportunity to serve you and learn from the experience. My heart is full of gratitude and love for all of you.

Blessings,
Evarlyne Ndeti



Extending their best wishes to Evarlyne are from left: Missionary Sisters Christine Marie Baltas; Antonina Avitabile; Yolanda Flores and Grace Waters, MSC.

From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Team...

Intercultural Spirituality

~ by Sr. Sophia Park, SNJM in HORIZON from NRVC

Intercultural spirituality involves both learning and unlearning. It challenges how we use language and even steps away from an emphasis on doing. Over the next few editions of The Update we will be exploring this important topic.

Part One

In today's globalized world, people often move from one place to another. In America's landscape, we are very familiar with encountering people of different languages, ethnicities, races and cultures. In the poem, "Torn Map," Palestinian-American poet Naomi Shihab Nye writes about tearing up and taping together a map, rearranging the landscape. The poem ends with:

Wouldn't that be nice, if it were true? I'd tear a map and be right next to you.

She imagines becoming close to her friend just by tearing up a map. Maybe the reality is just the opposite: even if we are not ready, someone who does not exist on our soul map may be right next to us. What a surprise it can be to encounter someone from an unfamiliar culture. The global and U.S. landscapes have dramatically changed because of immigration, exile, and transnational business; it is as if the map has been torn. Amid these new realities our religious communities are being invited to become intercultural.



As a starting point of intercultural living, both locally and globally, it is essential to ask what kind of emotions we experience in this encounter. Are we excited, or scared, or both? No matter our response, we live in an intercultural world that invites us to embrace otherness. It is remarkable to recognize that the strangeness or oddity we note in others might be part of our unknown self, unwittingly residing in ourselves.

For a religious community situated in the 21st century global world, the ability to welcome new members from other cultures indicates whether that community is standing with – and moving toward – the world, thereby becoming intercultural. Of course, intercultural living as a religious community does not just occur; rather, it must be intentional, meaning that we anticipate mutual transformation from both learning and un-learning. It is also rooted in spirituality for us.

We define spirituality as an elaboration of the lived experience, transcending the individual and, as a community, moving toward a deeper level. It is crucial for intercultural spirituality to understand the dynamics of intercultural engagement, to reference the lived experience. No doubt, as religious, we intend to engage with those who come from other nations and cultures. However, without understanding the dynamics of intercultural engagement, our experiences will be superficial, merely a “passion for ignorance” to borrow a term from Nicholas of Cusa. Thus, in this article I hope to

explore an intercultural spirituality that challenges our notions of language and emphasizes being versus doing. *To be continued next week.*

Prayer Requests

Brother Clifford Goff

Brother Clifford has requested the prayers of the Cabrini community as he recovers from his recent surgery. Pray that his recovery will be swift and complete.

Harold Johnson

Cindy Ross, of Cabrini University, requests prayers for her brother-in-law, Harold Johnson. Mr. Johnson was just diagnosed with stage 4 stomach cancer. He is waiting to hear from his oncologist on his treatment plan. Let us join with Cindy and her family in praying for a successful outcome for Mr. Johnson and return to full health.

In Loving Memory

Peggy Becker

It is with sadness that we share the passing of Peggy Becker, the former assistant to Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, the former Dean of Students at Cabrini University. Peggy returned home to God this past weekend after an extended illness. Please pray for her children Eileen, John and Barbara as they mourn the loss of their mother. May she rest in God's eternal light.

Novena to the Sacred Heart



This year, the Feast of the Sacred Heart will be celebrated on Friday, June 11th. On this sacred occasion, the Missionary Sisters renew their solemn vows and the Cabrini Lay Missionaries renew their commitments. It is a day of great joy and festivity in the Institute.

To prepare our hearts for the Feast Day, please join in the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

To access the Novena on our website please click [here](#)

Please note that due to the scheduling in the Province Communications Office, the Feast Day edition of The Update will be published on Thursday, June 3.