



July 1, 2021

U.S. Church Missing Opportunity to Add 'People on the Move' to their Flock

~ by Mark Pattison, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – With upward of 70 million Catholics in the United States, one might think the U.S. church would have its hands full tending to their pastoral needs. And, that may be so.

There are millions of others in this country for whom a fixed address is less of an expectation than an aspiration. They include refugees, migrants, people whose work demands that they travel, and victims of human trafficking. That doesn't even count the 79 million international visitors to the United States in a typical year.

The U.S. Catholic Church, though, may be missing out on an opportunity to increase its ranks if dioceses and parishes don't reach out to these groups. The Census Bureau's General Social Survey estimates that of all foreign-born residents of the United States, 40% are Catholic, nearly double Catholicism's reach in the entire U.S. populations.

The U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) in Washington to learn about the scope of such outreach efforts. The result is a report titled, "The Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers: Worship Site Inventory and Demographic Study" which was issued in June.

One trend that was noted is that there is a real gap between what the diocese self-reports and what the research indicates.



Migrant farmworkers in Hatch, NM, attend Mass in a chili pepper field during a pastoral visit by U.S. bishops to the border.

Photo: CNS/Tyler Orsburn)

Migrant and refugee groups often go unnoticed by local parishes and dioceses. At least that is what the data may suggest," said Bishop Joseph Tyson of Yakima, Washington, chair of the subcommittee. "There may not be a felt imperative to go out greet and meet. Many parishes may simply be waiting (for them) to show up and many may not be attitudinally prepared to reach out to new arrivals who are Catholic."

He added, “What might be notable is where people are moving. Note the metropolitan areas where folks are moving. The diocesan surveys when compared with the census data may suggest a need for more intentional outreach for families moving from one part of the country to another.

“Often these folks may be more affluent families moving around due to their corporation, their profession or work,” Tyson said.

The CARA survey asked about resources and best practices.

The Diocese of Austin, Texas, replied with a best practice – the “Our Kids at Heart” initiative, a tuition support program with the objective to inspire hope and transform lives, and make stronger families and communities through Catholic education for Hispanic youth.

Asked to share one pastoral resource that could be emulated elsewhere, the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, replied that “through the Humanitarian Respite Center,” the diocese “is answering the call to care and restore human dignity to individuals upon their release from ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) detention centers seeking refuge or asylum.”

Asked to share an educational resource: the Diocese of Lafayette, Indiana, replied: “In nine parishes, Hispanic immigrant families have been integrated to their parishes through a program named Parent Leadership Formation. This program is offered in the setting of small communities of support that allows them to share their lives, their immigrants’ difficulties and parental challenges, and to enlighten them with the Gospel.”

Bishop Tyson, asked, “Are we missionary? Are we reaching only the people who pass through the doors of the church, or are we finding the folks that are already there?”

When Pope Francis speaks of a missionary option, he said, “that missionary option is to go out of ourself. If people don’t come into the church, we go out to them.

...It really requires a shift in attitude and understanding” with the parish becoming a “mission center,” Tyson said.

“We’re distracted with whatever’s in front on our plate, but there’s some deeper mission questions that are going on. It’s a tough one. This was started before COVID. Nobody knew COVID was going to erupt and we finished this study during COVID. A lot of us are thinking about how we bring people back to church.”

Tyson, who earlier this year spent time with a priest and diocesan seminarians in migrant worker dorms in Yakima, said that “there’s some good things going on” in ministry outreach but “there’s a long journey ahead.”

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



Smugglers in Mexico use rafts to transport migrant families and children across the Rio Grande into Penitas, TX. (CNS/Reuters/Adrees Latif)

Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

~ *Justice for Immigrants*

It is a crisp, spring morning, and 18-year-old Leo* sits at his home desk, signing in to his first online class of the day. At the beginning of the school year, this would not have been possible – the communal living residence where he and his father share a room did not have reliable internet service. Thankfully, the Catholic Charities team leading the Catholic Accompaniment Reflective Experience (CARE) funded by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops stepped in, connecting Leo to a hotspot which enabled him to attend school regularly.



Leo entered the United States as an unaccompanied minor, seeking asylum from an unstable political situation in Guatemala and distressing long term child labor exploitation. He arrived after an arduous and dangerous journey from his home country to be reunited with his father. It had been 14 very long years since Leo had seen and embraced him.

Like many children who flee peril in their own countries, Leo came to the U.S. seeking safety, refuge, and a better life. CARE has been instrumental in helping Leo get the support he needs to thrive. Through CARE, he receives mentorship from a student at the University of California, Davis, for help with schoolwork and social integration, and is making strides learning English. He was also able to see a dentist recently, something he had never done before.

Carlos Garcia, Catholic Charities Program Director of the CARE program, says, “Leo is one of the most determined, responsible, and focused people I’ve worked with in the CARE program.” While attending online school, Leo also managed to secure a job, helping his family financially. “He is very motivated by school, aspires to go to college, and wants to contribute to his and his father’s situation and his new country” explains Carlos.

“It’s wonderful to see Leo a little less guarded,” says Carlos, “and starting to trust that people want to support him with no ulterior motive.” When entering a country that exhibits mixed messages of acceptance, it can be understandably hard to discern whom you can rely on. For these children, having the support of dedicated Catholic Charities partners like Carlos and the CARE program makes all the difference. * *To maintain Leo’s privacy, this is a stock image, not an actual photo.*

One Minute Meditation **Strength in Weakness**

Paul's statement that “when I am weak, then I am strong” sounds like an oxymoron. How can there be strength in weakness? He believes that the power of Christ is at work in him through his weakness and professes that he is “content with this weakness for the sake of Christ.” Is this true in our lives? Is there strength in our weakness? Does our weakness manifest the power of God? We live to be strong, to be in charge, but perhaps it is in our weakness that God is most able to act. It can be a gift that helps us recognized that we're not self-sufficient. God is working in our lives, doing things that we can't do alone. Like Paul, we are invited to hear God's promise that

“My grace is sufficient for you.”

~ *Angeline Hubert, Words of Grace*

Cabrini University Campus Ministry Holds Planning Retreat

Knowing the events, retreats, and service projects we wanted to tackle, the Director of Campus Ministry, Guilherme Lopes (G), decided it would be best to set aside time to pray, and plan for the upcoming school year. The peer ministers – Katlynn Razler, Joana Cainglet, Jessica Dubé and Bri Walsh – along with G and University Chaplain, Fr. Dave Driesch, O. Praem were welcomed to the Daylesford Abbey the first weekend of June for our retreat. Our goal was to schedule the next 12 months of campus ministry activities, retreats and events in just three days.



Cabrini University peer ministers met with Campus Ministry Director Guilherme Lopes (3rd l.) and University Chaplain Fr. Dave Driesch, O.Praem, (3rd r.) at the Daylesford Abbey of the Norbertine Community to plan the events and service retreats for the upcoming academic year.

When we arrived we were greeted with big smiles. We were given a warm introduction to the Abbey where we learned about the life of St. Norbert. It was a time to reflect and think, “What did I do today with Jesus? What did I do today without him?”

With a long day awaiting, we began our Saturday with morning prayer and Mass with the Norbertine community, Fr. Dave’s congregation, and then dove right into planning for the 2021-2022 school year. After a long day and even longer document with all our notes, we finished [our planning.]



During our days of prayer and planning, not only did we have a chance to connect with God and each other, we also had the opportunity to prepare for what’s ahead. I don’t want to spoil anything, so, I can only say how excited we are for the upcoming academic year. We have so much planned like events, meetings, retreats, and service projects and we are so ready for everyone to be on campus. Here’s a little hint: we have something going on every single week and everyone is invited!

~ written by Peer Minister Joana Cainglet for the Cabrini U website

Enjoying Music and Dance on the Shrine Lawn

It was a busy week on the St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine lawn! In addition to our weekly jazz concert we hosted two special events:



The Pied Piper Children's Theatre performs A Very Grimm Festival.
Photo credit: Leo Sorel

The Pied Piper Children's Theatre performed A Very Grimm Festival of fairy tales for a large audience of parents and friends. The thespians included 26 children ages 5-11.

We also had a special visit from musicians of New York City Ballet Orchestra, who performed several

classical pieces for strings, before being joined by six dancers from New York City Ballet for the public premiere of a ballet about getting through the pandemic titled Nite of Spring.

~ submitted by Julia Attaway, Shrine Executive Director



Photo above: Dancers from the NYC Ballet performed on the "green carpet" of the Shrine. Photo credit: Leo Sorel

Photo left: Musicians from the NYC Ballet Orchestra shared their talent for all to enjoy. Photo credit: Leo Sorel



We will be observing Mother Cabrini's 171st Birthday on July 15, 2021.

Prior to July 15th, all missions and ministries are encouraged to share the dates of your observances so we may post them on the website and also to submit coverage of your birthday celebrations to the Weekly Update for publication in our July 22nd edition.

Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org

We are eager to share your good news!



The CLM Corner

This is an occasional feature where we highlight the Cabrini Lay Missionaries and their ministries.

Susan Jacques Pierson

Being welcomed to the Cabrini Lay Missionaries is an enormous blessing. Since coming to Cabrini University and learning of the charism of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and their mission around the world, I have been led to be part of their work. I have been blessed to learn more about Mother Cabrini and the work of the Sisters each year.

I am an Associate Professor of Education at Cabrini University, where I have been teaching continuously since Spring 1992. I teach mostly graduate students who are earning certifications in Reading or as ESL Program Specialists, although I do teach undergraduate students too, especially Engagement for the Common Good (ECG) classes. During my time at Cabrini, I have traveled to both Eswatini and Argentina where I was privileged to help with work in Cabrini schools. I was moved by the work I saw being done by the Sisters and lay teachers, especially in The Bridge School at Cabrini Ministries, Swaziland and the school built by the Sisters in Villa Amelia, a marginalized community outside of Buenos Aires. In 2019, I took 12 Cabrini students to Lusaka, Zambia, where we worked with partners in education and social services. This was accomplished through a Fulbright grant and through another Fulbright grant, we plan to return in Summer 2022.



Susan Jacques Pierson

I received my AB in Psychology from Bryn Mawr College, MS in Elementary Education from the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Literacy from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to working at Cabrini full time, I taught elementary school for 35 years. I still love working with young students, helping with homework, and serving as a friend and mentor. In the past year I connected with Mighty Writers, a group that provides food, activities and literacy partnerships for children in underserved communities. I have been studying Spanish for almost 5 years now, so I am able to speak with children and their parents in that language as well as English.

I am a reading specialist and ESL Program Specialist. My research is focused on developing best practices to meet the needs of linguistically and culturally diverse students, the power of international partnerships, and the use of technology as a tool for improving teaching and learning. I am deeply committed to the ideals expressed in the Mission Statement of Cabrini University and the work of the Missionary Sisters around the world.

In my free time, I tutor recent immigrants and refugees who are learning English and also serve on the Board of Directors of Volunteer English, an organization dedicated to meeting the needs of immigrants in our communities. I also teach Sunday School, although for the past year, I have done that on line. I am married to a wonderful husband, Bill, and we live on a small farm outside of West Grove, Pennsylvania with an assortment of farm animals. We have ducks, chickens, dogs, sheep, geese, goats and one turkey. My husband has a large garden and when his harvest is large, he is able to share vegetables and eggs with our local food banks and Catholic Social Services. I love to read, knit, sew, hike, and create projects including videos and instructional activities using technology.

Prayer Requests

Champlain Towers Condominium victims

Let us join our prayers with those of so many others who are praying for those who have died and those who remain unaccounted for in the collapse of the Champlain Towers South Condominium. Let us pray for the family members who hold onto hope and await news of their loved ones. God give them courage and strength during this tragic time.

Kevin Lower

Linda Morano Lower, former MSC, requests prayers for her husband, Kevin Lower, who suffered a broken hip after a bad fall at home on June 29. Due to his age and advanced Parkinson's Disease, a partial hip replacement took place yesterday. Please keep Kevin in your prayers for a full and complete recovery and that all will proceed well as he recuperates from his injury.

With Grateful Hearts

Father Elizandro Contreras, OSA, Father William Gabriel, OSA and Father Jeremy Hiers, OSA

It is with joy we share that on Saturday, June 26th, the Augustinians ordained three friars to the Order of Presbyter. Please join us in prayer for Fr. Elizandro Contreras, O.S.A.; Fr. William Gabriel, O.S.A.; and Fr. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A. The ceremony was held at St. Thomas of Villanova Church on the Villanova University campus and the presider was Bishop Daniel Turley, O.S.A.

We give great thanks that these men have dedicated their lives to the people of God and that God will continue his work in and through them.

The Augustinian friars are active and gracious collaborators with the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in vocation promotion. We wish Fr. Bill, Fr. Elizandro, and Fr. Jeremy every blessing as they commence their priesthood.

To view the ordination ceremony please click [here](#)



In Loving Memory

Sophia Bialecki

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Sophia Bialecki, the mother of Madeline Bialecki, a past director of the Cabrini Mission Corps. Mrs. Bialecki returned home to God on Saturday, June 26th. Please remember Madeline and her family members as they mourn the loss of their mother and grandmother.