



January 6, 2022

Vatican Newspaper Remembers January 6 Siege as Attack on U.S. Democracy

~ by *Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 “represented a direct blow to the heart of American democracy,” the Vatican newspaper said.

Marking the first anniversary of the storming of the Capitol, the newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*, explained to readers, “The attack on the Capitol was the degenerated development of the ‘Save America March’ organized by supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump to contest the election that had decreed his defeat.”

The newspaper noted that it took three hours to secure the building after the siege began and that, when it was over, four protestors were dead, 13 were wounded and a police officer died a few days later in [the] hospital from his injuries.

While several thousand people had attended the pro-Trump rally, the Vatican newspaper said those who laid siege to the Capitol were just a portion of the crowd, many of whom wore “far-right and white supremacist emblems.”

The insurrection, which aimed to stop Congress from certifying the valid election of President Joe Biden, “represented a direct blow to the heart of American democracy, risking raising questions about its functioning and fame,” the newspaper said. “Moreover, the event showed the aggressive potential of internal extremist organizations such as ‘QAnon,’ the ‘Proud Boys’ and the ‘Boogaloo Bois,’ which until then had never been considered terrorist groups.”



An explosion of teargas caused by a police munition is seen while supporters of President Donald Trump congregate in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021. CNS photo/Leah Millis, Reuters

Biden Administration Unveils Changes in ‘Remain in Mexico’ Policy

~ *Rhino Guidos, Catholic News Service*



People hug as they participate in a reunification event named “Hugs not Walls” on the border between Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and El Paso, Texas.
CNS photo/Jose Luis Gonzales, Reuters

Biden administration officials announced January 3 additional legal help for migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. who are being forced to stay in Mexico under a Trump-era policy that has been difficult to revoke.

Even as the administration sees in its own way to make improvements to the Migrant Protection Protocols, or “Remain in Mexico” policy, government officials have asked the Supreme Court to step in and end it. The policy, also known as

MPP, keeps asylum-seekers waiting across the southern border until their cases can be heard by U.S. immigration courts.

Immigrant supporters have long complained about the danger and conditions migrants face while they wait in dangerous border towns.

But U.S. government officials say they now have a system in place to transport migrants safely to shelters and to provide them access to legal representation, two of the main complaints about the policy.

In 2018, with cooperation from Mexico, the Trump administration implemented the policy, seeking to deter asylum-seekers from entering the United States.

President Joe Biden paused MPP as soon as he took office, and then formally ended it. But, his administration was forced to implement it again after the court said official had not ended it properly. The Supreme Court agreed. On December 13, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal shut down the latest appeal by the Biden Administration to end it.

Sine the Biden administration reinstated the policy at a point of entry in El Paso, Texas, in early December, more than 200 migrants and asylum-seekers were forced to stay on the other side of the border, according to the Department of Homeland Security figures.

The policy since then has expanded to various points of entry along the border and the administration has been trying to portray it as more humane than before, saying it also has engaged Mexican officials into providing safer conditions for migrants.

The head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' migration committee, Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, said in December that the better way to move forward was to end MPP.

“Unfortunately, attempts by the Biden administration to make this program ‘more humane’ – however well intentioned – will not cure its inherent faults, nor will they alleviate its inevitable toll on human lives.”

Humility and Trust: Finding the keys to the Synodal Journey

~ *Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY – As many Catholics try to understand what Pope Francis might mean by a “synodal church,” he highlighted some of the characteristics – especially humility and trust – in homilies and speeches over Christmas and early in the new year.

Preaching on the feast of the Epiphany, January 6, for example, he told Catholics that they need to learn from the Magi not to be afraid to take a new path when the Holy Spirit inspires them to do so.



“This is also one of the tasks of the synod: to journey together and to listen to one another, so that the Spirit can suggest to us new ways and paths to bring the Gospel to the hearts of those who are distant, indifferent or without hope, yet continue to seek what the Magi found: ‘a great joy.’”

Xaviere Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, told the Catholic News Service on January 5, “I see seeds of synodality already growing.”

Synodality means recognizing that being a Christian is being part of a community with shared gifts and responsibilities, called to listen to the way the Holy Spirit is inspiring each of the baptized and collaborating to find more effective means of sharing the Gospel, she said. “It is to highlight that what we have in common through baptism is more important than all our differences of status, age, vocation or roles.

That recognition, though, is impossible without the virtue of humility, as Pope Francis emphasized in his speech to leaders of the Roman Curia on December 23.

Pope Francis kicked off the process for the Synod of Bishops in October. Those listening sessions are the heart of the synod, which is no longer an “event” celebrated when a group of bishops meet for three weeks in Rome, but it is a process that begins with local groups of Catholics praying, sharing and discerning together.

While it may be uncomfortable, listening to each other cannot be fruitful without an acknowledgment of one’s own limitations and biases – humility, said Sr. Becquart. The challenge is to be church with men and women together. To read the complete account please click [here](#)

Prayer Requests

Lourdes Costa

Prayers are requested for Lourdes Costa, the sister of Sr. Joaquina Costa, MSC, who is very ill in Brazil. Please remember Lourdes in your prayers.

Prayer for Democracy

On this, January 6th, the first anniversary of the siege on the U.S. Capitol, we give thanks that the tenets of our nation's governance prevailed on that day. We realize, however, that democracy is fragile. We pray that all elected government officials and all those in positions of power and authority will govern with adherence and respect for the truth and for the common good of all. Let us remain mindful of the sacrifices that made our democratic nation possible and let us never take for granted the freedoms and rights we possess.

In Loving Memory

Joan Buzzallino

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Cabrini (College) University Trustee Emerita and alumna, Joan Buzzallino, Class of 1966, who passed away unexpectedly on December 30th. Joan was a deeply valued member of the Board of Trustees who shared her time, talent and treasure so generously with the University for many years. She was active as an alumna often orchestrating reunions with her classmates. Cabrini University awarded Joan its Christopher Award for Extraordinary Leadership at their 2019 Visionaries Gala. The Christopher is awarded to a member of the Cabrini College/University community who models exemplary vision and leadership in their field; represents the Core Values of Cabrini University; and is committed to removing barriers to educational access, supporting assurance of social justice for all and/or developing ethically-minded leaders for our future. Joan will be deeply missed by her classmates and all those in the University community who extend their sympathy to Joan's family.

Harold Huey

The Cabrini University community shares with sadness the passing of Lechia Taylor's father, Harold Huey, on Saturday, January 1, 2022. Mr. Huey is the father-in-law of University President, Dr. Donald Taylor. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Dr. and Mrs. Taylor. Please remember the Taylor and Huey Families in your prayers at this difficult time. A Mass will be celebrated on campus at a future date.

Dr. Conrad Kruse

Prayers are requested for Dr. Conrad Kruse, the husband of the late Mrs. Anne Kruse, Professor Emerita, in the Biology Department at Cabrini College, who entered eternal life on December 27, 2021.

Dr. and Mrs. Kruse remained benefactors and friends of Cabrini College long after Anne's retirement in 1999. They helped to establish the Anna C. Kruse Scholarship in 2008 for a rising senior who displays academic excellence in the biological sciences.

We send our deepest condolences to his grandchildren and extended family. A Mass will be offered in memory of Conrad on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 8:30am, in the Bruckmann Memorial Chapel of Saint Joseph.

Andrew Litavec

It is with profound sadness that the Cabrini University community shares the news the Andy Litavec, M.Ed, Professor Emeritus, passed away on December 26, 2021. Before his retirement in 2003 after 37 years at Cabrini, Andy served as a beloved professor and mentor to hundreds of future educators and a trusted colleague to so many in the Education Department and the University. He is remembered as someone who truly dedicated his life to preparing the best teachers to teach our children. Andy received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching and an Honorary Alumnus Award. We extend our deepest condolences to Andy's wife Pat, and his extended family. A Mass on campus will be offered in memory of Andy on Wednesday, January 19th in the Bruckmann Chapel of St. Joseph.

Philadelphia Apartment Fire Victims

We pray for the 12 people – 8 of whom were children – who perished in a tragic fire that swept through an apartment building yesterday morning in Philadelphia. May they rest in God's peace. We pray for their family members trying to cope with the scope of their loss; may they be given strength and comfort at this most difficult time.

Suzanne Smith

Cabrini (College) University mourns the passing of alumna Suzanne Smith '68, of Point Pleasant, NJ, sister of Betsy Smith '65, who passed away on November 3. Suzanne was a much beloved elementary school teacher for nearly four decades. The University community sends heartfelt condolences to her family, classmates, and loved ones.

