



February 17, 2021

Church's Initiatives on Synodality, Laudato Si' and Eucharist Intertwine

~ Brian Roewe, *EarthBeat*, National Catholic Reporter

In a span of several weeks last fall, three large initiatives landed on the doorsteps of U.S. Catholic dioceses, parishes, congregations and organizations.



In October, Pope Francis opened the synod on synodality, a two-year engagement of the global church focused on listening and encounter. A month later, the Vatican officially launched its *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, which invites all parts of the Church to take up seven year programs to adopt sustainable and ecologically friendly

practices. And just days after that, the U.S. bishops announced their own plans for what they've called a National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year project that will culminate in the summer of 2024.

The three programs make for busy schedules in the coming years for many corners of the U.S. church. But do they have anything to do with each other? That was a question the Catholic Climate Covenant attempted to explore in a webinar on February 10. And it's one its half-dozen panelists answered in the affirmative.

"These three initiatives are not separate but they're deeply integral to one another. They fertilize and enhance and nourish each other," said Jesuit Fr. David McCallum, a member of the Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops and founding executive director of the Program of Discerning Leadership, a project of the Society of Jesus.

The synod on synodality aims at a churchwide conversion toward a more synodal, or listening, church, through what Pope Francis has called "the art of encounter." Through June, dioceses are conducting listening sessions with people across the world.

Some see the Laudato Si' Action Platform as the perfect venue to put that vision into practice. Jose Aguto, Covenant Executive Director, [says] that the synodal process “naturally flows into the Laudato Si' Action Platform” with the synod representing an opportunity for Catholics to voice, and their local church to hear, desires for greater engagement on environmental concerns and then with the platform as a way to respond. The platform has been billed as the Catholic Church’s response to accelerating climate change and environmental destruction around the world.

“Many of our constituents have for years expressed concern and frustration that their pastors and



bishops are not stepping into care for creation. This is an opportunity for constituents to say in a collective and honest way about the desiring that their churches embrace care for creation,” Aguto said.

As for the U.S. bishops’ Eucharistic Revival which begins in June, Aguto said the image of “one bread, one body” could help unify Catholics across ideologies and priorities and to see their work, including on creation care, as the work of all.

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

Migrants at U.S. Border are often *Traumatized*

~ J.D. Long-Garcia, *AMERICA Magazine*

Sometimes accompanying migrants means serving them even after death.



Jesuit Refugee Service’s (JRS) Caminar Contigo, launched in 2021, helps refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons at the U.S. Mexico border. Before beginning Caminar Contigo, JRS team members had consulted with service providers working on the border, looking for gaps in care that needed filling. “What really stuck out to us,” said Kate Mullins, Caminar Contigo’s psychological support specialist, “was the mental health and psycho-social needs” of migrants.

The limbo experienced by asylum seekers waiting to be admitted to the United States and the traumatic experiences that forced them to leave their home country in the first place take a profound psychological toll.

“Legal teams felt like they did not have the [psychological] skills or capacity to be asking the kinds of probing questions required in asylum claims,” Ms. Mullins said. As part of that process, asylum seekers often have to recount horrific details of their experiences to justify their claims, she explained. Caminar Contigo hopes to address mental health needs that might emerge during that application process or because of other experiences migrant people may have had at or traveling to the border.

“Many of the people who come to the shelters have been through or have experienced significant loss,” said Joan Rosenhauer, the Executive Director of Jesuit Refugee Service USA. “They may have lost loved ones on the way. They may have lost loved ones back in their home country while they were gone, and they never were able to go through the grieving process.”

“The people who are in Mexico have endured a lot of really difficult experiences but are also incredibly resilient to have made it that far,” Ms. Mullins said. “Sometimes helping that person look back at how far they’ve come and reminding them of those strengths helps when they are feeling disempowered.” To read the entire article, please click [here](#)



Pope Francis Chooses 2022 Theme for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

~ by Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service



VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis is dedicating the 2022 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to the importance of inviting older people to contribute to building a better world.

The Pope has chosen “They shall bear fruit even in old age” from the Book of Psalms (92:15) as the theme for the second world day, which will be celebrated on July 24, 2022.

The theme “intends to emphasize how grandparents and the elderly are a value and a gift both for society and for ecclesial communities,” said a February 15 communique from the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, which was promoting the world day.

The same day, the Pope tweeted that the elderly “should be cared for like a treasure of humanity; they are our wisdom, our memory. It is crucial that grandchildren remain close to their grandparents, who are like roots from which they draw the sap of human and spiritual values.”

This year’s theme “is also an invitation to reconsider and value grandparents and the elderly who are too often kept on the margins of families, civil and ecclesial communities. Their experience of life

and faith can contribute, in fact, to building societies that are aware of their roots and capable of dreaming a future based on greater solidarity.”

This invitation to listen to the wisdom of the years is also particularly significant in the context of the synodal journey that the church has undertaken.”

Pope Francis established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne to emphasize the pastoral care of the elderly as a priority.



‘El futuro’ is now:

Is Catholic Higher Ed Ready for the Growing Hispanic Community?

~ by Milton Javier Bravo for the National Catholic Reporter

By the midpoint of this century, two-thirds of the U.S. Catholic population will self-identify as Hispanic. Currently, the majority of Catholics ages 16 to 29 are Hispanic. And, outside of the Catholic population, one in every four high school graduates is Hispanic, reaching closer to 30% of high school graduates by 2036. A new report from Pew Research on race and ethnicity saw a 50% increase in the Hispanic population in 517 counties (out of 1,695) from 2010 to 2020, with the



majority of counties located in states that have not been traditionally Hispanic population centers.

As of 2019, 80% of Latinos are U.S. citizens, including third, fourth, and fifth generations present in all 50 states. Catholic higher education cannot afford not to respond to this growing reality across the country.

This new landscape of student populations is fostering a new higher education identity. The number of Hispanic Serving Institutions or HSI, continues to rise across the United States, including within Catholic colleges and universities. To be classified as HSI, a college or university must enroll at least 25% Hispanic students, and half must be eligible for a federal Pell grant, which is for students with exceptional financial need.

An institution is identified as an *emerging* HSI if they enroll 15% to 24% Hispanic students. As of Fall 2020, out of 226 Catholic colleges and universities, 32 are HSI, and 36 are emerging HIS. (From the Fall 2021 “Official Enrollment Census” at Cabrini University for undergraduates, 64 of 1343 registered or 12.2% identify as Hispanic. In the undergrad population as well, there are 39 students (2.9%) that identify as multi-racial but the ethnicity is not specified as inclusive of Hispanic heritage.)

These demographic shifts will continue to shape the student population enrolled in Catholic colleges and universities for decades to come, but the question remains will we respond and be intentional about welcoming, integrating and celebrating our growing Hispanic student population?

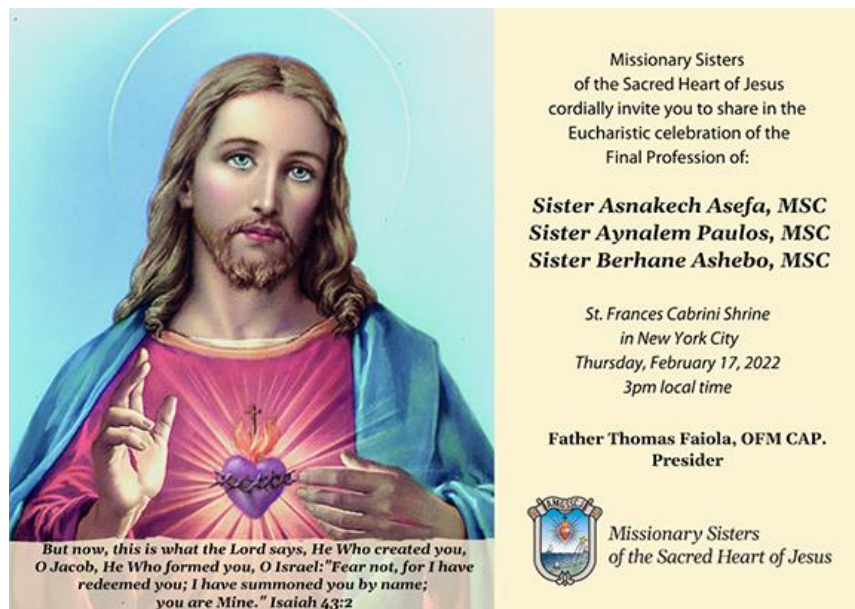
Responding to the ongoing transformation of current and emerging Hispanic/Latino populations by Catholic colleges and universities must be rooted in our Catholic identity and mission.

Many Catholic colleges and universities in this country were originally founded to serve the poor, the immigrant, the marginalized communities. This is part of the identity and the historical institutional charism of our schools. The question now remains, will we continue to passively allow the demographic shifts to shape higher education or will we meet this moment intentionally?

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



The Eucharistic Celebration of Final Profession of Vows Today, February 17th




Missionary Sisters
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
cordially invite you to share in the
Eucharistic celebration of the
Final Profession of:

Sister Asnakech Asefa, MSC
Sister Aynalem Paulos, MSC
Sister Berhane Ashebo, MSC

St. Frances Cabrini Shrine
in New York City
Thursday, February 17, 2022
3pm local time

Father Thomas Faiola, OFM CAP.
President

 Missionary Sisters
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*But now, this is what the Lord says, He Who created you,
O Jacob, He Who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have
redeemed you; I have summoned you by name;
you are Mine." Isaiah 43:2*

For those who would like to attend the ceremony virtually, here is the link to the Shrine's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq3QQO_00I7IEcbTCwHptkg

The livestream will begin approximately 5 minutes before the entrance procession, so that you can be assured you have clicked on the correct location.

Prayer Requests

Cabrini (College) University alumna

Prayers are requested for a Cabrini alumna, who is a survivor of stage 4 lung cancer. She is now being tested for possible breast cancer and she asks the prayers of the Cabrini family.

Ken Carnahan

Prayers are requested for Ken Carnahan, who suffered cardiac arrest, and now has cognitive and speech impairments. Please pray that he will recover with ongoing therapy. Ken is a friend of the sister of Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC.

Infant Della

Last week, we requested prayers for one week old infant Della. Della is facing several serious medical challenges. Please pray for this littlest of God's angels and for her parents.

John Jordan

Please keep John Jordan, a friend and benefactor of Cabrini University, in your prayers. Mr. Jordan will be undergoing surgery today. Pray that all will go smoothly with his procedure and that his recovery will be swift. He would be most grateful for our prayers.

Sr. Regina Palamara, MSC

Prayers are requested for Sr. Regina who will be having eye surgery next Thursday, February 24th. We pray that all goes well and that she will recovery quickly.

Prayers for a friend

Prayers are requested for a man who is suffering with an infection as a result of contact with mold. Please pray that this medical issue can be resolved and he will be returned to full health.



Prayers for Missionary Sisters making their Perpetual Vows

Today, Missionary Sisters, Sr. Asnakech, Sr. Aynalem, and Sr. Berhane will profess their Perpetual Vows. Let us accompany them with our prayers as they anticipate this most sacred step in serving the people of God.

Mary Tambasco

Your prayers are invited for Mary Tambasco, who recently fell and sustained an injury. Let us hold Mary in prayer for her on-going healing. Mary is the mother of Mike Tambasco in the Province Office.

In Loving Memory

Dimma Beyene

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Dimma Beyene, who passed away this week in Ethiopia. He is the father of Sr. Hana Beyene, MSC. Let us pray for his family and for our Sr. Hana at this time of loss.

Albert Roberta

Prayers are requested for Albert Roberta, the beloved godfather and uncle to Cabrini University alums Robin and Debbie Larkins, who died on February 10th. Please pray for the family as they gather for Albert's funeral on Friday, February 18th. The family has lost several members of that generation in a short period of time.