



March 31, 2022

Pope Francis: The Synod Must Hear Excluded Voices

~ by Brian Fraga, National Catholic Reporter (NCR)

The preparatory documents for the 2021-23 Synod of Bishops on synodality make it clear: Bishops the world over are called to make “every effort” to consult and listen to those who feel “excluded or marginalized” from society and the church.

“If we believe in the *imago Dei*, that the image of God is in everyone, then if we do not hear from those voices, we are not hearing from the entire body of Christ. And that’s our loss,” said Mary O’Meara, the executive director of the Deaf and Disabilities Ministry for the Archdiocese of Washington.



Diocesan officials, chaplains, social workers, lay ministers, parish leaders and others are listening to people with intellectual and physical disabilities. They are reaching out to those in prisons, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and mobile home communities. Pastors have organized parish listening

sessions for LGBTQ parishioners and seasonal farmworkers near the U.S. southern border.

Pope Francis and other church leaders have framed synodality as a decisive step in the church’s renewal that the Second Vatican Council proposed more than a half century ago. As the Pope has explained it, a synodal church journeys together with all the baptized, including those whose voices are usually not heard.

“Pope Francis’ main question is critical,” said Sr. Donna Ciangio, the chancellor for the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, told NCR. “What does the Holy Spirit expect of the church in the 21st century? We can sit around and look inward, but if we’re not hearing from everyone, we won’t know how we can get the Gospel out today.”

Archdiocese of Chicago

“You can’t be any more marginalized than an inmate in jail,” said Msgr. John Pollard, the synod coordinator for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Pollard told NCR that the Archdiocese is relying on its Kolbe House Jail Ministry to hear from the estimated 700 Catholic pre-trial detainees at the Cook County Jail, one of the largest single-site pre-detention county facilities in the United States.

“It’s important to hear from them because they are human beings,” said Emily Cortina, the coordinator of outreach and formation at Kolbe House. “We’re following the model Jesus gave us to listen to the voices of those who have stumbled and fallen and are still reaching out for grace and mercy, because that’s really where we find God.”

Diocese of El Paso, Texas

In the colonias, or unincorporated communities, surrounding El Paso, Texas, volunteers are knocking on doors, asking residents how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted them, and how the church can help them regroup and get back on their feet.

“If you are doing a consultation with the people who are already in the pews, who are already coming to church, that’s great, and helpful,” said Surya Kalra, a lead organizer. “The difficult part is figuring out how to reach out to people we don’t see [in church], who used to be here, or would be here if we were different. That requires much more persistence and creativity. They are reaching out to those voices on the margins in house meetings, which are small informal group meetings in private homes.”



A farmworker attends Mass in El Paso, Texas.
CNS/Tyler Orsburn

Archdiocese of Washington

At Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown, a couple dozen LGBTQ parishioners and their families earlier this year attended a special listening session. Jesuit Fr. Kevin Gillespie, the pastor, said there were tears and some anger directed at the Catholic Church.

“They expressed pain that their relationships aren’t recognized by the church,” Gillespie said. “They expressed their desires for sacramental marriage. In that group session, they expressed how important faith is for them, and how important a welcoming community is for them.”

Archdiocese of Seattle

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington (CCSWW) is planning bilingual in-person listening sessions at food banks, homeless shelters and rural mobile home communities in and around Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia, Washington.

We know the people who are served in those programs, and we feel they’d be comfortable with us,” said Erin Maguire, a regional network builder with CCSWW.

Diocese of San Diego

Marioly Galvan, chancellor for the Diocese of San Diego, told NRC that Catholic Charities of San Diego is helping the diocese to connect with migrant seasonal farmworkers. “We want to remain mindful of those communities. We’re all brothers and sisters, so to hear from their reality and lived experience, I think will be very enlightening for everyone to hear,” said Galvin.

“This moment is an opportunity for renewal and reawakening,” she said. “It is a moment that will lead us to become a more conscious church, to perfect and improve our ways in which we minister to others, and the ways that we listen to one another and journey with others.

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

U.S. Bishops Join Pope Francis in Prayer for Ukraine

~ by Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Bishops in the U.S. took part in Pope Francis’ invitation to join him in a moment of prayer, consecrating Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25, entrusting the people of both countries to the care and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“In this time when our world is weighed down under the shadow of war, I invited you to enter into this solemn moment of prayer with the Holy Father,” Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “Together with him, let us ask our Blessed Mother to turn her eyes of mercy toward all her children. Let us ask her to intercede with her son, to deliver her children from evil and grant us peace.”

The March 25 prayer of consecration took place on the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, when tradition says, the Angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her she would be the mother of Christ.



Cardinal Daniel DiNardo (l.) and Auxiliary Bishop Italo Dell'Oro pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Ukraine, Russia and all of humanity.

CNS/James Ramos, Texas Catholic Herald

She’s the one Pope Francis has offered as an example to deal with the tribulation of war, with uncertainty and darkness, said Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, D.C.

“We come together today in one of the darker moments in human history. We can literally see the war being conducted via our smartphones,” he said, watching the path of rockets resulting in the death of defenseless children and the elderly and worrying about the threat of nuclear war.”

But the war in Eastern Europe showed no signs of dissipating as of March 25. Despite fending off occupation, many Ukrainian cities have been nearly destroyed.

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops said they were calling, not just on Catholics, but “on all people of goodwill to pray that world leaders will find an end to the conflict and to provide solace and support to millions of people who are now refugees.”

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

On this date, March 31, 1889...

One hundred and thirty-three years ago, Mother Cabrini arrived in New York City to begin her ministerial work. “Their traveling expenses were paid by the Vatican Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, Cabrini and her companions had come to New York ‘to help Italian immigrants.’”

It was specifically to attend to these neglected Italians that Cabrini had chosen to come to America. [At that time], a young woman, who soon joined the Missionary Sisters and assisted in their work for Italian immigrants, noted:

“I was seventeen years-old when I first met... [Mother Cabrini] the third day after her arrival in New York City. The first Sunday she was there I accompanied her and her Missionary Sisters to Saint Joachim’s Church... Mother Cabrini, with lively encouragement, sent me and other young people to visit the families of the parish and often she went herself. She hoped to attract boys and girls, the young people, entire families to religious instruction.”

Hearts aflame with love, Mother Cabrini and her sister companions began their parish ministry to the poorest of the poor in humble surroundings. The first sisters in New York and Missionary Sisters who later ministered in the U.S. experienced hard lives, but they prevailed. The first “Memorie” of New York, in 1899, recounts, “No one speaks of rest. Those who perhaps before were less used to doing such now clean, wash, scour...and undertake difficult and repugnant tasks without any signs of distress.” While their lives were difficult and they encountered prejudice, they were not unhappy. The sisters knew the joy of recognition and trust which came to them in the immigrant communities of New York and elsewhere. They were proud as the immigrants took heart, and elated when they frequented the church.

~ excerpts from Mother Cabrini, “Italian Immigrant of the Century” by Sr. Mary Louise Sullivan, MSC, PhD

Walking in their Sisters’ Footsteps - Guadalupe Province Assembly Concludes



The Missionary Sisters have concluded their Provincial Chapter which took place on March 20 – 24th in Newark, NJ. The Provincial Chapter serves as an important prelude and preparation for the Missionary Sisters’ General Chapter which will take place in Rome beginning on June 26th and concluding on July 22.



Mother Cabrini (seated c. holding book) and her Missionary Sisters in a photo dated June 1889.
Photo credit: Centro Cabriniiano, Rome

Chaos in Shelters for Ukrainian Refugees Increases the Risk of Human Trafficking

~ Elisabeth Avillain for Global Sisters Report (GSR)

Sr. Imelda Poole has been fighting human trafficking for years and now is increasingly worried about the situation in Ukraine.

“There has been an explosion of child trafficking in the world in recent years because of increasing poverty,” she told GSR. “And now, the risks are enormous in Ukraine because war situations make it easier for international and local gangs to find prey.”

Poole is a member of the Loreto Sisters and President of Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE), a non-governmental organization that combats human trafficking in 31 European countries.

Millions of Ukrainians have left their homes, fleeing bombings and destruction. After a month of fighting, about 3 million of them have crossed the borders, mostly into Poland. About as many have been displaced within their country, going west where the fighting has been less intense. Thousands are waiting in underground shelters, hoping for a ride to safety as soon as possible.

“The situation is dire in shelters. Food is scarce. Hygiene is very bad. Such chaos is welcomed by gangs of traffickers, who prey on the most vulnerable: isolated children or young people,” said Poole.



Ukrainian refugees in Poland wait to board a bus to take them to a temporary shelter.

CNS/Reuters/Hannah McKay

It did not take long for gangs, local as well as international, to mingle in the crowd and offer false promises of help. Traffickers know refugees are desperate to go to a safer place. They are quick to offer a ride over the border to people who are desperate to leave. This is where the danger lies.

Soon after the war broke out, humanitarian aid agencies started to distribute leaflets to refugees gathered in shelters to warn them of human trafficking. The paper tells refugees what to do before agreeing to a ride to the border with Poland or Romania, the two main countries where Ukrainians seek refuge, along with Hungary and Slovakia.

“Never hand out your passport to someone who promises you a ride. Take a picture of the license plate of the van you get on and tell someone that you are going in it and where you are going” are some of the tips printed on the leaflets. If offered accommodations, make sure to tell someone you know, where you are. Aid workers also watch out for people acting in a suspicious manner and report them to the police.

“Drug trafficking doesn’t bring as much money as it used to. Arms trafficking is also not so lucrative anymore, so traffickers are now focusing on human trafficking,” said Sr. Poole.

“Children are bought online,” she added, “they become sex slaves or are forced to work for free.”

“The world is demanding cheap labor, cheap sex. Traffickers know that wars give them opportunities. Their only aim is greed; they have absolutely no ethics. And criminals often get away with it,” she said.

Caritas Internationalis and other humanitarian groups present in Ukraine have joined forces to help refugees. The situation in Ukraine is chaotic, and UNICEF, the United Nations Children Fund, is also warning about people eager to help, saying that rules have to be followed to protect children.

“There is real chaos in humanitarian refugee centers with volunteers who are not under the auspices of any qualified agency. They just wear a badge and a yellow vest and they are seen as volunteers. This is irresponsible,” said Alice Barbe, a spokeswoman for Corridor Citizen, to ensure safe passage to France. To read the complete account please click [here](#). To access the MSC Corporate Stance and information on Trafficking please click [here](#) and [here](#)

Cabrini High School Language Scholars Excel



Proudly displaying their trophies and awards, these Cabrini High School students received top honors at the Foreign Language Festival. Congratulations to all participants!

Cabrini High School's Spanish and French students participated at Southeastern Louisiana University's 39th Annual Foreign Language Festival on Friday, March 25th. These extraordinary students received top honors in all categories at the festival. A special congratulations to sophomore Logan Lewis '24 for her performance in the Extemporaneous Speaking Category. She was named the top Spanish IV student at the festival and received a \$500 scholarship.

Cabrini's Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Foreign Language Chairperson, Vivian Coutin, stated, "We are extremely proud of these students' hard work and effective effort. They represented our school with determination and honor."

Thank you to their dedicated instructors, Ms. Perriloux, Ms. Biondo, Mr. Ota, and Mrs. Coutin.

~ submitted by Madeline LeBlanc, Director of Communications, CHS

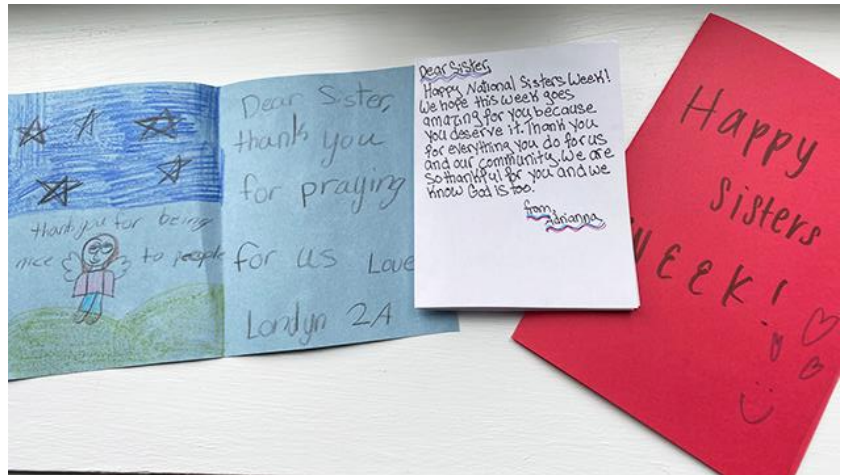
Catholic Sisters Week



During Catholic Sisters Week, many area

Catholic school students sent cards and greetings to the communities of religious sisters.

Pictured are some messages received by the Missionary Sisters at Cabrini University.
~ with thanks to Sr. Grace Waters, MSC



Cabrini Mission Foundation Please Help Those in Ukraine



Jump on the bandwagon and give what you can.

Join our supporters and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Funds donated will directly impact our fellow Sisters of Saint Basil the Great in Ukraine along with the displaced children, women and men of the war. Your gift will provide safety and desperately needed supplies to navigate these unprecedented times.

As of this week, we have received **\$10,300.00**

Please Consider Donating! To Donate Click [here](#)



Each week, as we journey through Lent, one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLM) is offering a reflection. For the Fifth Sunday in Lent, the reflection is given by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Last Sunday was Laetare Sunday, a day to celebrate and rejoice. Why are we asked to celebrate and rejoice during a time when we are asked to walk the road to Calvary with Jesus? There are many answers but I would like to focus on two, forgiveness and hope.

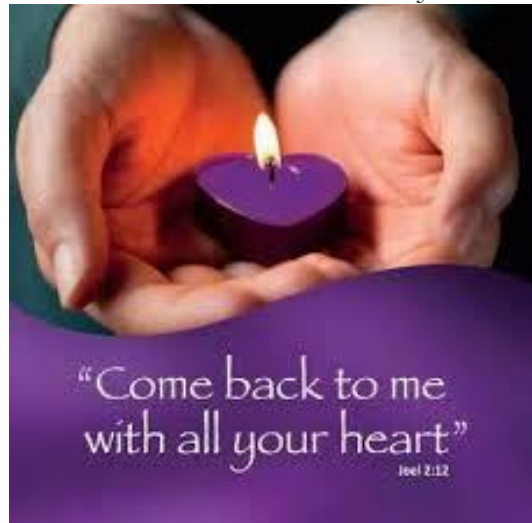
The Gospel last Sunday was about the Prodigal Son. In that parable, we see disrespect of a parent, the squandering of money, anger on the part of the brother, forgiveness and unconditional love. The father in the parable seems to forget or perhaps not care about all the things that his son did to him. The brother is angry because his father welcomes his brother back despite all that he has done. In fact, the father throws a big celebration. Is it really fair?

To me, this story is a beautiful yet hard story to live. We see anger and happiness, feeling left out and being welcomed back, greed and the realization of what really matters.

This Sunday, the Gospel is about the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). Jesus gives everyone an opportunity to speak up and show that they are without sin. No one throws the stone. Jesus does not condemn anyone but He sets them straight and reminds them that no one is perfect, except our Lord.

Jesus told the woman that her sins were forgiven and that she should go and sin no more. Is this why we rejoice and celebrate during Lent? Do we celebrate the fact that we always have hope? No matter what we do, we are forgiven. Our Lord's arms are open wide to embrace us, love us and give us hope. Jesus wants us to return to His Sacred Heart so we can have a celebration because we were lost and are now found.

The Gospel verse for Sunday is taken from Joel 2:12-13, "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart; for I am gracious and merciful." It is an invitation from the Lord asking us to return to His hear. That is certainly reason to celebrate! ~ offered by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director



LENT: PRAY. FAST. GIVE ALMS .

Prayer Requests

Roger Connolly

Kindly pray for Roger Connolly, who is recovering from a heart attack. Roger is the brother-in-law of Sister Catherine Garry, MSC . Please pray also for his son Danny, who is his advocate.

Friend of Rosalind Yu

Rosalind Yu, a friend of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, requests prayers for a friend who will be undergoing eye surgery. Please pray that the procedure will be successful and a speedy recovery will ensue.

With Grateful Hearts

Miss Juliette Rose Johnson



It is with joy that Tim and JoAnn Seaman, the Director of Development at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO, announce the arrival of their granddaughter, Juliette Rose, who was born on Monday, March 28th at 8:27 am. Juliette weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19 inches long. The proud parents are Molly and David Johnson. Congratulations and best wishes to the elated grandparents, JoAnn and Tim, and to Molly and David. Welcome to the world, Juliette Rose!



In Loving Memory

Carol Connolly

Please unite in prayer for Carol Connolly, who passed away on March 27th. Carol is the mother of Judy Connolly, Executive Assistant in Administration at St. Cabrini Nursing Home. May Carol rest in the eternal peace of Our Lord.

Deric Faulkner

Your prayers are asked for Deric Faulkner, who passed away on March 27th. Deric is the brother of Simone Smith, Vice President of Human Resources and Volunteers at St. Cabrini Nursing Home. Please pray for this family as they mourn their loss.

Romulo Torrano

Kindly keep Romulo Torrano, who recently passed away, in your prayers.. He is the father of Rosolito Torrano, who works at St. Cabrini Nursing Home and his sister, Tess, who formerly worked at the nursing home. Please keep this family in your prayers.