



April 28, 2022

Refugee Flow to Poland has Slowed, Sisters Still Reach Out to Help

~ by Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service for Global Sisters Report

PRZEMYSL, POLAND – The ebb and flow of refugees depends on the fighting and, especially, on the Russian bombing raids in Western Ukraine, where many of the estimated 6.5 million people displaced within Ukraine have sought shelter.

At 10 p.m. on April 21st, the number of people walking across the border from Ukraine to Poland at Medyka was less than a trickle.

The train station at Przemysl, the closest one to the border, was still busy, though not with the crush of the early days of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Many people were returning to western Ukraine, either for the Easter holidays – celebrated on April 24 on the Julian calendar – or to check on their homes or because life as a refugee was just too much to handle.

But, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the volunteers who help them still head to the train station each night and invite the war-weary travelers to their house to rest.

Sr. Lucja Kwasniak, who was working in Odesa when the war broke out and was sent back to Przemysl, spent an hour late on April 21 at the foot crossing, talking to every person coming into Poland or going back to Ukraine.

The crossing is lined with dozens of tents offering free food – including hot soup and pizza fresh from fiery ovens – hot tea and other beverages, free phone calls, medical care, logistical support and more. But the volunteers staffing the tents were having a very slow night.



A sign on the office of Caritas at the train station in the Polish border town of Przemysl instructs Ukrainian refugees, especially women, on how to avoid becoming victims of trafficking or falling into the clutches of unscrupulous people. (CNS/Cindy Wooden)



Sr. Lucja Kwasniak, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, talks to Ukrainian refugees at the trains station in Przemysl, Poland. She helps people fleeing the war. (CNS/Cindy Wooden)

Sr. Kwasniak in Przemysl went to the train station. Scanning the lobby, she picked out a group of four women with three children and struck up a conversation. They were headed to Vienna but they didn't know when they would get their first train. Although grateful for the offer of rooms at the provincial house, the women wanted to stay an wait for their train.

Sr. Dorota Bialowas said their early guests arrived in Poland knowing where they were going, which usually was to relatives or friends in Poland. They just needed to rest, eat and wash before moving on. Those arriving in April, though, "don't know where to go," she said. But, still, they usually stay only a night or two in Przemysl because they do not want to be that close to the border and the war.

Sr. Bialowas said she will always remember a mother from the besieged city of Mariupol who spent nine days traveling with her children to escape. They did not have a hot meal that whole time, nor did they find a place to wash.

She arrived [at their provincial house] exhausted, embarrassed, and tense," Sr. Bialowas said.

After the Sisters fed her and her children, let them take showers and rest, "she relaxed and cried for joy and hugged everyone," she said. "When I think of Easter joy, I see her face." To read the complete account please click [here](#)

Save the Date!

Please join The Ignatian Volunteer Corps of
New York, Long Island and Northern New Jersey in
presenting the


2022
Madonna della Strada Award
at

**An Evening
of Celebration**

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Wines and Delicious Hors d'oeuvres


Jesuit Conference Center Garden
53 East 83 Street (between Park & Madison Avenues)
New York, NY 10028

\$100 Tickets Invitation to follow
Reception benefits the work of
IVC NY/LI/Northern New Jersey



Honoring the Recipients:
Cabrini Immigrant Services of New York
Javier Ramirez-Baron
Executive Director
Ignatian Volunteer
Julia Mucci
*In recognition of outstanding service
to the community*

More Information:
Maureen Fullam
NY/Metro Director
mfullam@ivcusa.org
917-859-0928



A Blessed Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine in New York



The Shrine was blessed last Sunday with beautiful flowers, good music, and the presence of the Missionary Sisters. Following the 11am Mass Missionary Sisters Renee Kittelson, Dianne McKenna, and John Giani showed the video Divine Mercy 101 and were on hand to answer questions. Also present were Sr. Aynalem Paulos, MSC, Sr. Ayantu Abera, MSC and the novices Evarlyn Ndunge and Evon Somirla, who regularly help out at the Shrine on Sundays.

*~ submitted by Julia Attaway, Executive Director,
St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine*

A magnificent display of roses surrounds the Sacred Heart.



Partners to Provide Essential Assistance

In its recent news bulletin, the Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission shared that the Cabrini Mission Foundation in partnership with Angry Tias & Abuelas of the Rio Grande Valley, Pastor Abraham Barberi of One Mission Ministries, as well as Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, sponsored the opening of a new shelter for asylum seekers in Matamoros, Mexico.



Angry Tias & Abuelas

This is the third shelter at the border the Cabrini Mission Foundation (CMF) has partnered with. They have helped provide a safe environment, warm meals, clean water, a roof over their heads to protect them from the weather and a clean bed to sleep. To date, the CMF has provided funds for the building of a well, bunk beds, Covid-19 protective items such as face masks, hand sanitizer, and Clorox wipes. We have also provided requested clothing items such as socks and underwear, in addition to disposable paper products; plates, napkins, cups and towels as well as a commercial refrigerator and freezer.

The Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission members are: Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC, Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC, Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC, Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC, Zelene Suchilt, and Karol Brewer who encourage you to contact them at cabriniformation@aol.com

THANK YOU Volunteers

Thursday, April 21st was a special day at Cabrini of Westchester as we honored our dedicated volunteers with a blessing ceremony and luncheon. Pastoral Care Director, Fr. Ron Galt bestowed a beautiful blessing upon all during the ceremony and afterward, a barbecue luncheon was provided thanks to Director of Food Service, Daryl Foriest and his staff.



Volunteers Ann Carroll, Paula Narog-Nucaro and Joan Ferraro enjoy their special lunch.

Cabrini's volunteers are people who donate their time, skills and talents to support our programs and services. They lend a hand wherever help is needed, from transporting the residents to and from daily Mass, working in the Gift Shop, helping with clerical administrative tasks and so much more!

While addressing the group at the blessing ceremony, Bonnie Burke, Vice President of Operations and Administrator stated, "This year's theme for National Volunteer Recognition Week is 'Empathy and Action' which describes you all perfectly. This means as a volunteer you are caring and you understand and share the feelings of your fellow human beings in their times of



Photo above: Cabrini of Westchester President and CEO Pat Krasnauskay (I) joins volunteers Joan Pagano and Toni Langlois.



Photo left: Sr. Alfonsina Gomes, MSC thanks Gerri Scotto and Anna Fable for their volunteer service.

need. Bringing such wonderful attributes to the residents shows an excellence of character that we want to be sure to appreciate and recognize always, but especially today. From all of us at Cabrini, thank you for your empathy and action, for your heartfelt efforts and hard work to make a difference every day that you are here." ~ submitted by Susan Hecceg, Director of Development and Public Relations



*The Cabrini Lay Missionaries-Guadalupe Province
invite you to join us for an
Afternoon of Reflection*

**Saturday, June 4, 2022
1:00-3:00 PM EST**

Join us in-person at the Cabrini Shrine, NYC or via Zoom
(Spanish/English available via Zoom)

Theme: Hope



Speaker: Lucille Larrivee Naughton

Please register for the program by emailing:
Cabrinilaymissionariesgp@gmail.com

Please indicate if you will be joining us in-person or via Zoom

If attending in-person, lunch will be served at 12:00 Noon.

**WALK A MILE
WALK TO LEARN ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS
AND HOW WE CAN HELP**

WHY WE WALK

It's time we open our eyes and see the victims of the sex trade, domestic servitude, and forced labor who've been in the shadows for far too long.

The purpose of the event is to shine a spotlight on the 27 million men, women, and children who are still trapped in slavery today.

It's happening right here in our community. Come out and learn more about the signs and how to help end trafficking in your zip code.

JOIN US

MONDAY MAY 2, 2022

The walk starts at 3:00 pm in front of Grace Hall.

Donations of hotel sized toiletries such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. and gift cards for the Cabrini closet are appreciated!

REGISTER HERE!



**THIS WALK IS SPONSORED BY THE ECG 200 ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLASS AND THE CABRINI CLOSET.
CONTACT KAROL BREWER AT 610-902-1038 OR
CABRINIFORMATION@MOTHERCABRINI.ORG**

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Prayer Requests

Charles Opara

Our prayers are requested for Charles Opara, a friend of the Missionary Sisters, who has not been feeling well recently. Pray for him and his family that Charles may find gainful employment and be restored to full health.

With Grateful Hearts

John Anthony Campanelli, III

It is with delight that we share the arrival of John Anthony Campanelli, III on March 28th. John Anthony is the great nephew of Lorraine Campanelli, the Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Helping to welcome their little brother are his twin big sisters Theresa (l.) and Ariana (r.) Congratulations to John Anthony's parents, John and Michelle and to proud Great Aunt Lorraine.



From left: Theresa, John Anthony III and Ariana Campanelli.

Ken

Rosemary Gehrlein, a staff member at Cabrini University, wishes to express her gratitude “for everyone’s prayers for my friend Ken, who is undergoing treatment for a very aggressive form of cancer. Follow-up tests have shown that the largest nodule has been reduced by about 50% and the doctors are very pleased with his progress. Please keep Ken and his family in your prayers as he continues cancer treatments.”

In Loving Memory

Tony DiBona

Rosemary Gehrlein, a staff member at Cabrini University, shares the sad news that “My uncle, Tony DiBona, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, April 26, just one week after his 92nd birthday. I would like to thank everyone for their prayers for his comfort, and ask that you keep my aunt and cousins in your prayers, as they move through the grieving process.” Let us remember Rosemary’s uncle and family members in our prayers.