



Campaign to Educate Migrants on Dangers of Crossing the Border

~ by Peter Tran for Global Sisters Report

Tucson, AZ. – At 18 years of age, Maria (not her real name) was four months pregnant with a 1-year-old child.

She had only one concern: What would happen to her and her child if they got caught by the Border Patrol while attempting to enter the United States?

“We tried to tell her the potential dangers that come with the crossing of the border,” said Felician Sr. Maria Louise Edwards, Vice-President of Aguilas del Desierto (Eagles of the Desert). “We told her it will be a difficult journey, especially traveling with her pregnancy and a young child. We asked her to *piensalo mucho*” – think about it a lot.

But Maria was determined, choosing to dismiss the warning and instead continue asking about the possibility of being arrested by the Border Patrol. She was afraid that the Border Patrol would separate her and her child.

On July 14, U.S. [Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) took steps to ensure its agents are not unintentionally separating parents from their children at the southern border when making arrests inside the country. President Joe Biden’s new directive replaces former President Donald Trump’s 2017 policy, in which the resulting separation of families aimed to deter border-crossers.



Felician Sr. Maria Louise Edwards passes a rosary to each migrant during a presentation to promote awareness about the dangers of crossing the border.

Photo courtesy of Aguilas del Desierto

The main mission of Aguilas del Desierto is to search for and rescue migrants who are lost, injured or deceased in the desert. They also work to save lives through a prevention and public awareness campaign, including education migrants who are thinking of crossing the border about the real and life-threatening dangers they will encounter. In 2021, Aguilas team members recovered 22 remains and assisted in 183 rescues.

Edwards said if migrants were to cross the border into California, they must climb mountain after mountain. In Texas, they risk drowning in the Rio Grande. In Arizona, crossing the desert could take eight to ten days.

Edwards spoke with Maria at a migrant center in Apizaco, about a three hour drive east of Mexico City. Looking at Maria in her T-shirt, blue jeans and tennis shoes, Edwards said, “No way would she make it with the shoes she has on.”

Joining Sr. Edwards, Ely Ortiz, President of the Auiglas del Deiserto, said most migrants were not aware of the dangers at the border. “They could not possibly cross with the clothing and footwear they were wearing. Almost 80% have poor clothing.



Ely Ortiz gives a presentation at Tierra Blanca in Veracruz, Mexico.
Photo courtesy of Aguilas del Desierto

Many wore sandals and had no idea where they were going to try to cross the border, much less what type of terrain, nor the distance, they were going to walk.”

Sr. Edwards said, “At each shelter, I would watch the migrants’ faces as they listened about the dangers ahead. They would be wary at first, then very interested - as this information was something they wanted to know - and finally,

their faces dropped. Some would hold back tears. They had been through so much to reach this point in their journey, and to hear what was ahead was very discouraging for them. Repeatedly, I watched this happen to each group we met.”

Many migrants had been traveling for over a year, having been detained at one location or another. Some young boys were missing limbs from attempting to hop on

trains and then falling off. Many had blisters on their feet. “Ninety percent of the people were poorly dressed, misinformed, and so full of hope,” Edwards noted.

Many migrants told Ortiz that they had left their countries to seek political asylum in the U.S. as their lives are in danger due to violence.



Ely Ortiz and his wife Marisela explain the dangers of crossing the border into the U.S. Photo courtesy of Aguilas del Desierto

“As we traveled the migrant trail, I saw murals painted on the shelter walls, depicting the migrant journey as a heroic, valiant great adventure,” Edwards said. “I struggled to process these murals, having spent the last five years recovering bodies along the border.” She asked her Aguilas team members – whether the migrant’s journey is still worth the risk, despite the inherent dangers. Everyone I spoke with said, “Yes, it’s worth the risk.”

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

Cabrini Mission Foundation Provides Flood Relief

In a continued effort to respond with urgency to the individuals affected by natural disasters, Cabrini Mission Foundation, in collaboration with the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Guadalupe Providence, has partnered with Water With Blessings, a faith-based nonprofit dedicated to providing clean drinking water, to assist those affected by the Appalachian floods in Perry County, Kentucky. The 100 filters donated will provide desperate mountain families and the elderly with access to safe, clean drinking water where the entire water system has been destroyed and offer financial relief from paying for bottled water, which may not be accessible.



~ submitted by Caitlin Della Rocca, Cabrini Mission Foundation

Play Ball!

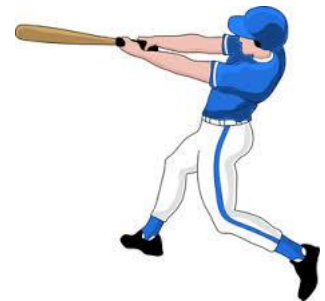


It was a day to remember as Sisters, supporters and friends braved a record-breaking heat wave for a day full of laughter at the Cabrini Mission Foundation's first-ever charity baseball event. Held just over the Hudson River at the Staten Island FerryHawks Stadium, the event raised money in order to further the Foundation's mission and come together to share a light-hearted day full of excitement.



Nothing says summer like baseball!! Missionary Sisters, Cabrini Mission Foundation staffers and friends had a great day at the ball park with the Staten Island FerryHawks.

Attendees enjoyed the game in comfort from a private box suite and all the stadium staples including hot dogs, popcorn, and more importantly, ice cold beer to beat the heat. Sisters and baseball enthusiasts cheered at each inning – even a fly ball was caught and cherished as a keepsake. All in all, the event was a 'Home Run'! ~ *Cabrini Mission Foundation*



Special Guests Visit Sacred Heart Convent

Last month, the Missionary Sisters at the Sacred Heart Convent in New York City enjoyed visitors from our clinic in Swaziland. Sr. John Giani, MSC and Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, each worked with members of the group when they were missioned to Africa.

The guests work at Cabrini Ministries which includes clinics and outreach. It was formerly known at St. Philips Mission.

~ submitted by Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC



Missionary Sisters Grace Waters, John Giani and Maria Loretta Caeti warmly welcomed the special visitors to Sacred Heart Convent.



Cabrini University Serving More Students Than Ever

The Cabrini Cupboard, the University's on-campus food pantry, will offer an expanded variety of fresh food and accessories this year in an effort to serve students across the food insecurity spectrum.

The reimagined Cupboard has been open all summer, offering students fresh vegetables, meats, and dairy products, as well as toiletries and other items. Angela N. Campbell, PhD, Vice President, Mission, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging and Student Engagement, said the aim was to create the feel of a market inside the Cupboard – a vision that has been realized through partnerships with the University's Wolfington Center and Campus Ministry forged with local farms and community organizations.

Ray Ward, PhD, Director, Cabrini's Wolfington Center, through which students engage in service work with the Cupboard, said that the Pierce Foundation enables some of Cabrini's "brightest and most civically minded students" to "pursue innovative approaches to ending hunger and food insecurity in our own communities."



Cabrini University students who are involved with the Cabrini Cupboard and combatting food insecurity.

Hunger and food insecurity are best addressed in partnership with those who understand it first-hand, and we have seen that some of our most powerful advocates in this fight have been students working out of their own struggles with obtaining good meals," said Ward.

The Wolfington Center has partnered with Martha's Choice Marketplace, a food pantry in nearby Norristown, PA, bringing in fresher, healthier foods than standard grab-and-go snacks and microwave meals. Increased refrigeration capacity has also brought a wider variety of food, such as meats and dairy.

The Cabrini Cupboard receives two shipments of food monthly from Martha's Choice and has seen great support from the Pincus Family Foundation. More food and accessories are donated each year from the Cabrini Cavalier community at large, including faculty, staff and alumni.

To see a brief video and to read the complete account, click [here](#)
~ Cabrini University website



Pope Francis:

Discernment Means Recognizing God in the Unexpected

~ by Junno Arocho Esteves

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Discerning the will of God means being able to listen to one's own heart and recognize the Lord's presence in the unexpected events of life, Pope Francis said.

Like St Ignatius of Loyola, whose conversion began after he was recovering from a wound in battle, Christians can discern by recognizing “the signs through which the Lord makes himself know in unexpected, even unpleasant, situations,” the Pope said on September 7 during his weekly general audience.

“A life-changing encounter can arise from them,” he said. “The most beautiful thread is given to us by the unexpected. The great questions arise when we have already traveled a stretch of the road in life, and it is to that journey we must return to understand what we are looking for.

“Listen carefully,” Pope Francis said. “God works through unplannable events that happen by chance – by chance this happened to me, by chance I met this person, or by chance I saw this film.”

“It was not planned, but God works through unplannable events, and also through mishaps,” the Pope said. To read the complete account please click [here](#)



From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Promotion Team...

Invitation to Reflect on Inclusion and Transformation

~ a book review from the National Religious Vocations Conference

New Faces, New Possibilities



*Cultural Diversity and Structural Change
in Institutes of Women Religious*

Edited by Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ, and Thu T. Do, LHC

For those seeking to understand contemporary religious life for women, a new book sheds light on a complex picture: *New Faces, New Possibilities: Cultural Diversity and Structural Change in Institutes of Women Religious* (2022 Liturgical Press).

Through a series of essays by various scholars and experts, this book analyzes the current landscape of institutes of women religious in the U.S., including changes in governing structures, new practices of formation and some of the emerging new multicultural dimensions. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) has conducted a variety of research on members who entered after 2000, and the data show a new wave of religious life that can be characterized as multicultural. Also remarkably, one of the

editors of this book, Father Thomas Gaunt, S.J., notes that about 200 women join religious life every year, contrary to the popular narrative that the sisters have aged out and are disappearing from church ministry.

Even more importantly, CARA data shows that a full third of religious community members in initial formation are non-European immigrants and second or third generation immigrants from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. There are various reasons for joining religious communities, but common attractions are community practices of prayer and vowed living. Despite the small numbers compared to the past, women continue to choose religious life. From this purview, this book provides a new possibility for a transformation of religious life.

This book provides the voices of sisters who came to the U.S. as new members. Sisters who are not familiar with American culture do not always feel fully understood or included because many communities do not comprehend the dynamics of intercultural living, such as assumptions, values, eating habits and lifestyles.

In addition to examining newer members, this book also mentions the current need to change governance structures. Many institutes already collaborate in the completion of their missions, bestowing social justice resources, while still struggling to maintain institutional ministries such as schools and hospitals. This book informs readers that some institutes have moved their centers to other countries, thereby beginning a journey to leave behind an American-centered religious life and shift toward a more global vision.

New Faces, New Possibilities



*Cultural Diversity and Structural Change
in Institutes of Women Religious*

Edited by Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ, and Thu T. Do, LHC

SAVE THE DATE



CABRINI MISSION
FOUNDATION

Gala

Education of the Heart

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Metropolitan Club New York
One East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022

2022 Honoreess
Catherine Bullock, Yvonne Hrapmann,
Helena & Francis Ottaviano (posthumously),
Eustace Wolfington and Joel Zazyczny



Please Join Us for our **Mother Cabrini Shrine Annual Gala!**

The 21st Annual Gala is not only a celebration of St. Frances Cabrini herself, but of the people who continue to make the Shrine the unique and special place that it is today. Please join us on [September 16](#) for a joyous evening filled with fun and celebration!

The evening will include a silent and live auction, paddle raise, delicious dinner and an excitement-filled program! In addition to an exclusive sneak peek at the upcoming chapel renovations, we will have some amazing guest appearances you don't want to miss. Gala attendees will be getting a front-row seat preview of a soon-to-be-released movie about Mother Cabrini with the producer himself, Mr. Eustace Wolfington.

All proceeds from the gala will go towards the chapel renovations, which are set to begin very soon.

We hope you can join us for a spectacular evening!

Prayer Requests

Ron Carter

Please pray for the comfort and serenity of Ron Carter, the cousin of Lindsay Eury, the wife of Brian Eury, Chief of Staff and Senior VP of Strategic Initiatives at Cabrini University. Ron will soon enter palliative care for brain cancer. May God send compassionate blessings upon him and provide strength to his family at this time.

In Loving Memory

Bernadette Carter

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Bernadette Carter, the aunt of Lindsay Eury, the wife of Brian Eury, Chief of Staff and Senior VP of Strategic Initiatives at Cabrini University. Ms. Carter passed away on September 1st. May she rest in God's eternal light. Kindly keep the Carter and Eury families in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

