



December 10, 2022

Advocates Applaud Extension of TPS for Haitian Migrants in US

~ by Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on December 5 announced a redesignation of Temporary Protected Status for Haiti and an extension of TPS for Haitian migrants already residing in the United States for an additional 18 months from February 4 – August 3, 2024.

He said this “much-needed humanitarian relief” for Haitians was compelled by current conditions in Haiti such as “socioeconomic challenges, political instability, and gang violence and crime – aggravated by environmental disaster.”



A Haitian migrant little girl looks through a bus window before being transported with her relatives to the Reynosa-Hidalgo International Border Bridge after being admitted to the US with legal assistance. (CNS photo/Daniel Becerril, Reuters)

Mayorkas’ decision came “after consultation with interagency partners and careful consideration of the extraordinary and temporary conditions in Haiti,” said a news release from the Department of Homeland Security.

It said the Caribbean nation has endured a prolonged political crisis, as well as “grave insecurity and gang crime that worsened a dire economic situation; a lack of access

to food, water, fuel and healthcare during a resurgence of cholera; and the recent catastrophic earthquakes.”

Executive Director Gustavo Torres of CASA, an immigrant advocacy organization in Hyattsville, Maryland, said the Biden’s administration’s decision “restores security to our Haitian brothers and sisters that their lives here in the United States will not be uprooted nor that they will be separated from their families.”

“As we celebrate this win, we will continue to shed light on the millions of migrants still waiting on TPS designation for their countries,” Torres said. “The fight for immigrant justice continues as the fate of DACA holders and DACA-eligible youth hangs in the balance.”

He added, “We will not rest until the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and other protections are provided for the millions of immigrants that have built their lives in this country.”

The Washington Post was the first to report on December 5 that two members of the U.S. Senate are working on a bi-partisan framework for immigration reform that would allow a pathway to citizenship for the DACA recipients known as Dreamers.

According to the Post, the framework proposed by Senators Kyrsten Sinema, D-AZ, and Thom Tillis, R-NC provides for an overhaul of the asylum system “to prevent abuse of the law.” To read the entire account, please click [here](#)

Role of DEI at Cabrini University Continues to Grow

~ by Pryce Jamison, Cabrini University Loquitur

RADNOR, PA - Dr. Angela Campbell is clear about the work of her office. “Mission and DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) are inseparable – you can’t have a mission and not have an equitable, inclusive and racially just environment,” she said. “If you don’t have that environment, you’ve lost the vision of what Mother Cabrini was all about.”

As changes continue to occur within positions and departments, she understands she must ensure that all initiatives are integrated with the school’s core values and represent diverse voices.

“There should be DEI and mission goals in every area of the institution and that’s part of my work,” Campbell said. “DEI lives and breathes in every center and every sector.”

The Current Look

Cabrini's DEI Advisory Council has five working groups to help sustain long term success regarding institutional diversity: the Culturally Academic Curriculum and Education Working Group; the Transparency and Reporting Working Group; the Policy and Auditing Working Group; the Cultivate a Welcoming Campus Climate Working Group; and the Fundraising and Partnerships Working Group.

What's really powerful about the council is that it went from a task force to being a council," said Campbell. The importance of going from a "task force to a council is that it will continue to influence perpetuity in DEI – that it's not just a one-and-done or reactionary response."



The Council is composed of students, faculty, staff, alumni and board, totaling 20 representatives.

We are engaged in conversations about faculty and staff of color. Recruitment and retention – that is our key priority in the DEI Advisory Council.

Sending out the National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climate surveys last year to students was also a driving force that allowed students to give their perspectives. The data is now in for the DEIB to examine.

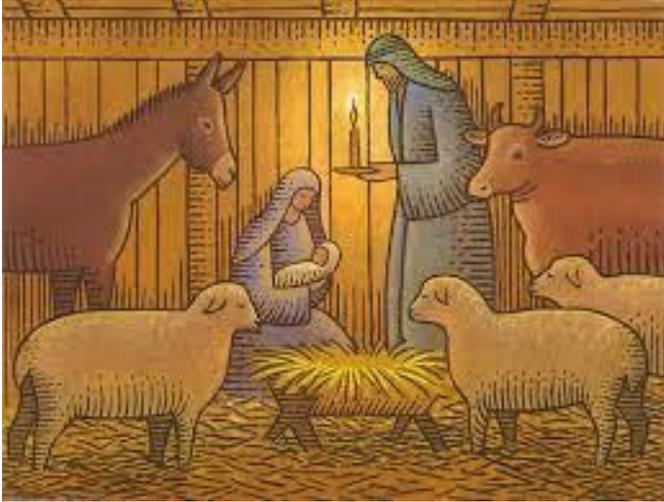
Today, December 8th, there will be a 'Walking the Talk in DEI' event on campus. The results of this survey will be discussed with students along with the comparative data with other institutions. The survey aimed to focus on what can be improved within six NACCC topic areas: appraisals of institutional commitment, impact of external environments, racial learning and literacy, encounters with racial stress, mattering and affirmation and cross-race engagement.

According to Campbell, the DEI Advisory Council is also working on a strategic plan for the 2022-23 school year, as well as a racial bias incident reporting system that will be vetted through another working group in the council.

Keep the Creche in Christmas, Pope Francis Urges

~ by Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) Stopping to gaze at and perhaps pray before a Nativity scene is one of the best ways to remember the real meaning of Christmas, Pope Francis said.



“In its genuine poverty,” the pope said, “the creche helps us to rediscover the true richness of Christmas and to purify ourselves of so many aspects that pollute the Christmas landscape.”

“Simple and familiar, the Nativity scene recalls a Christmas that is different from the consumerist and commercial Christmas. It is something else. It reminds us how

good it is for us to cherish moments of silence and prayer in our days, often overwhelmed by frenzy.”

Pope Francis encourages everyone to find some quiet time to spend before a creche at Christmas.

“Silence encourages contemplation of the child Jesus,” the Pope said, and “helps us to become intimate with God, with the fragile simplicity of a tiny newborn baby, with the meekness of his being laid down, with the tender affection of the swaddling clothes that envelop him.”

If we really want to celebrate Christmas,” he said, “let us rediscover through the crib the surprise and amazement of littleness, the littleness of God, who makes himself small, who is not born in the splendor of appearances, but in the poverty of a stable.”

The lights on the Christmas tree, he said, are a reminder that Jesus came “to lighten our darkness, our existence often enclosed in the shadow of sin, fear and pain.”

The Christmas tree, Pope Francis said, is a reminder of the need to remain rooted in Christ.



Celebrating a Cabrini University Christmas



On Sunday, December 4th, (from left) Missionary Sisters Christine Marie Baltas, Bridget Zanin, Lucille Souza and Grace Waters joined in the Christmas festivities on the University's campus including a concert, Mass, a live Nativity and a festive dinner.



Collecting Winter Clothing for Bused-in Migrants



St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York has been collecting toiletries and other items for migrants bused-in from the southern U.S. border since August. Now with colder weather setting in, the Shrine reached out to neighbors for donations of gently-used coats, sweaters, boots, hats, scarves and gloves. What generosity!

All these items are heading downtown to a parish situated between two huge migrant shelters, where it will be distributed to people in need.

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

To view a brief video of the many donations please click [here](#)

From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Promotion Team...

Finding Strength to Uphold the Dream of Religious Life

~ by Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, HORIZON, Fall 2022

I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with my weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong. ~ 2 Cor. 12:9-10

What does this paradox of faith say to vocation ministers, men and women who promote consecrated religious life and priesthood in a time of uncertainty and change in the distressful face of overwhelming odds?

An experience of mine hints at an answer. One of my favorite things to do when I was executive director of the National Religious Vocations Conference (2002 – 2016) was to present at our annual orientation for new vocations directors. I had the privilege of meeting an amazing group of women and men who have inspired me both in their faith and in their commitment to religious life. I will never forget a discussion I had with one sister, a member of a small community of only 10 women, the youngest of whom was in her late 60s. This sister was approaching 80, and their



community had agreed that they would no longer accept candidates. The sisters knew that they had served well, but they made a conscious choice not to give in to their grief that their community was coming to completion. Instead, they chose life and decided to live and serve to their fullest as long as they were able.

Of course, I asked the logical question: “Sister, if you have chosen not to accept any candidates in the future, then why are you here at an orientation for new vocation directors?” I will never forget her response. She looked at me with her lovely blue eyes and said, “Because we have chosen not to accept, does not exempt us from the responsibility of promoting what is most precious to us, which is the gift of our vocation. Even though my community will someday no longer be here, my community will live on in other communities through the men and women I hope to send to them. This isn’t about my congregation. It’s about the church. It’s about religious life.”

Powerless? Yes, possibly in some ways, but I heard the strength and conviction of a phoenix in her voice. This sister epitomized the paradox of St. Paul, who writes, “for when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor. 12:10) but it was a union of opposites that can only come from the hand of God.



I am reminded of a quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer who died resisting the Third Reich, who spoke about his own experience of God’s calling. He said, “It is only through the call which I have heard in Christ, the call of the Grace which lays claim to me, that...I can live justified before God. From the standpoint of Christ this life is now my calling; from my own standpoint, it is my responsibility.”

Next week: A Sacred Responsibility



*Help us bring a smile
to a child's face!*



Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC is currently accepting monetary donations, gift cards & new toys for our annual Christmas gift distribution!



Donate: bit.ly/donatecis
Purchase a gift:
bit.ly/CISChristmas2022

You can also donate a toy here: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/cischristmas2022>

Cabrini Mission Foundation Spirit of Christmas



Celebrate the Christmas spirit, the birth of Jesus Christ, and sing a few yuletide carols with our Sisters this holiday season!

Please join the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Cabrini Mission Foundation Board of Trustees for the *Spirit of Christmas* party on Thursday, December 15th at Fine & Rare in New York City. Enjoy food, drinks, Christmas music, and more with our dedicated Sisters and lay collaborators.

Please see below for more details, and a PDF version of the full invitation can be downloaded [here](#). Visit our website to purchase your ticket/sponsorships or click [here](#) to be redirected to the page. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ellen Cunningham: ecunningham@cabrinifdn.org or 212-228-8608.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Each week, during the season of Advent, one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries will offer a reflection. This week's reflection is by Melanie Paccillo, CLM.



There are times when patience is not within my reach. I believe in a God who has all things in hand, even the driver going 10 miles under the speed limit when I'm late for work, but I still fall into the trap of being antsy when things aren't going the way I think they should go. Looking at the other drivers, I'm guessing I'm not alone here.

We are blessed with a full season to remind us of the virtue of patience. As we enter the Third Week of Advent, the second reading from James couldn't be clearer about this point. We must be patient and steadfast. God knows we aren't always great at this, so He has given us examples to follow. The farmer waits for fruit to grow. The prophets long endured in the face of troubles.

Soon we will celebrate the birth of our Lord, the baby who will fulfill so many promises. Our precious savior is well worth waiting for. ~ *Melanie Paccillo, CLM*

Beneath Mary's Mantle

Our eyes turn spiritually towards the hill of Tepeyac, to the place where the Mother of God, under the title of "the ever-virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe" has been fervently honored for centuries as a sign of reconciliation and of God's infinite goodness towards the world. As this time when so many families are separated or forced to emigrate, when so many are suffering due to poverty, corruption, domestic violence, drug trafficking, the crisis of values and increased crime, we come to Mary in search of consolation, strength and hope. She is the Mother of the true God who invites us to stay with faith and charity beneath her mantle, so as to establish a more just and fraternal society. ~ *Pope Benedict XVI, 3.25.12*

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

Even before the sun breaks through the horizon on December 12, the burst of firecrackers rings throughout Mexico to announce the greatest national fiesta of the year—the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



At la Villa de Guadalupe, the National Sanctuary near Tepeyac Hill, pilgrims begin to arrive days earlier to camp out on the plaza surrounding the *Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*. Many travel for days to get there, entering la Villa on their knees as a sign of their devotion and gratitude for *la Virgen Morenita's* protection. Much like a family member holding a beloved's picture close to the heart, pilgrims carry images of their Mother Guadalupe on their backs, banners, and bodies.

Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe always culminates with the reenactment of the familiar story. In 1531, just a few decades after Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World, the Mother of God appeared three times to a humble Chichimeca Aztec baptized as Juan Diego. Our Lady asked him to be her special messenger and provided proof of their encounters for a skeptical bishop in the form of two signs: a cloak full of fresh roses in December and a miraculous image of herself on Juan Diego's *tilma*, or shawl. Yet the Guadalupe apparition is not only one of the earliest Marian apparitions. It is also the only time in history that Our Lady has shared her portrait.

The Heart of the Guadalupe Message

“The Blessed Mother has an interesting way of empowering the poor like Juan Diego,” explains Mark Zwick, founder and director of Casa Juan Diego Catholic Worker House in Houston. “You can't speak that kind of empowerment. She chooses an indigenous person—and that's revolutionary!”

Throughout history, Our Lady “chooses to appear almost exclusively to those who wouldn’t have a respectable place in society.”

Patroness of the Americas

It is hardly a coincidence that in 1945, the year that World War II ended, Pope Pius XII looked at the suffering, fragmented world and declared Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas.

He knew that both continents North and South, in many ways, share a common heritage—and future. In the words Our Lady spoke to Juan Diego: “I am your Compassionate Mother, yours, for you yourself, for everybody here in the land, for each and all together, for all others too, for all folk of every kind . . . here I shall listen to their groanings, to their saddenings; here shall I make well and heal up their each and every kind of disappointment, of exhausting pangs, of bitter pain.”

Let us pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of our Guadalupe Province, in a special way on her feast day and each day that she may guide and protect our ministries, all those who serve within, and all those whom we serve.

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



Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for Us.

Prayer Requests

Cabrini (College) University alum

Prayers are requested for a Cabrini alum who has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Please pray all will be well.

Tim Seaman

Your prayers are asked for Tim Seaman, the husband of JoAnn Seaman, Director of Development at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Colorado. Tim is hospitalized, seriously ill, and going through a series of tests. Please keep Tim and JoAnn and their family in your prayers.

Cindy Woody

Please pray for Cindy Woody who will be having surgery in the near future. Cindy is the sister of an MSC neighbor, Stacy Woody, who was a dear friend of the late Sr. Archangel Turco, MSC.

In Loving Memory

Helen Pugh

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Helen Pugh, who passed away recently. She is the sister of Katherine Butler, a resident at Cabrini of Westchester. Let us keep this family in our prayers.

Andres O Navedo Rodriguez

Please pray for Andres O Navedo Rodriguez, who passed away recently in Puerto Rico. He is the father of Maria Rodriguez, a friend of the Missionary Sisters.

Today is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

O Most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession. O most Holy Mother, receive my prayers as I present them to God. O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for us with your Son. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us.

