



January 12, 2023

Migrant Pleas, Border Realities confront President Biden in El Paso

~ by Maria-Pia Chin, National Catholic Reporter

*"Lord, I ask that you take me out of here soon ...
I want to be with my mom and sister. Amen."*

The prayer of a migrant girl in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, neatly written on the back of a card with the image of the Sacred Heart, was one of the mementos President Joe Biden acquired from his time at the U.S.-Mexico border. Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, handed the president this prayer card toward the end of his visit to El Paso.



A child holds a sign at the border during the visit of President Biden to El Paso, TX. ~ OSV News

The president met with the bishop of this border city, who is the new chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, as well as other local officials and community leaders earlier that day.

In this first trip to the border since he took office, Biden, who is Catholic, sought to "assess border enforcement operations" and talk to those helping to manage "the historic number of migrants fleeing political oppression and gang violence in Venezuela, Haiti, Nicaragua and Cuba," according to the White House.

Biden's visit -- which lasted a few hours -- came amid criticism over how he is handling the humanitarian crisis at the southern border.

Upon his arrival the afternoon of Jan. 8, Biden greeted local officials, Bishop Seitz and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who like Biden is also Catholic. Abbott presented Biden with a letter condemning the president's approach to immigration.

His last stop was the El Paso County Migrant Services Center, where workers greet people released from Border Patrol and help them find transportation and other needed services.



Sr. Norma Pimentel was among those with whom President Biden met during his visit to El Paso, TX.

He greeted local elected officials, activists and community leaders there, including Ruben Garcia of Annunciation House, and Sr. Norma Pimentel of the Missionaries of Jesus, who heads Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas.

Sr. Pimentel said the President's presence at the border was significant. Sr. Pimentel stressed the need to come together as a community -- including the city government, Border Patrol

and faith-based communities -- to safeguard people's dignity while creating policies to face the issue of migration.

One of the things that we as church, especially people of faith, want to make sure not to ever lose sight of is the fact that they're people, they're human beings, they're families, they're children, and we cannot lose sight of that," she said at the news briefing. "I hope this is the beginning of further actions."

"What we're trying to do is broadly incentivize a safe and orderly way, and cut out the smuggling organizations," Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said during the flight to El Paso, according to a pool report."



U.S. President Joe Biden speaks with Border Patrol officers as he walks along the border fence during his visit to the U.S.-Mexico border to assess border enforcement operations in El Paso, TX.

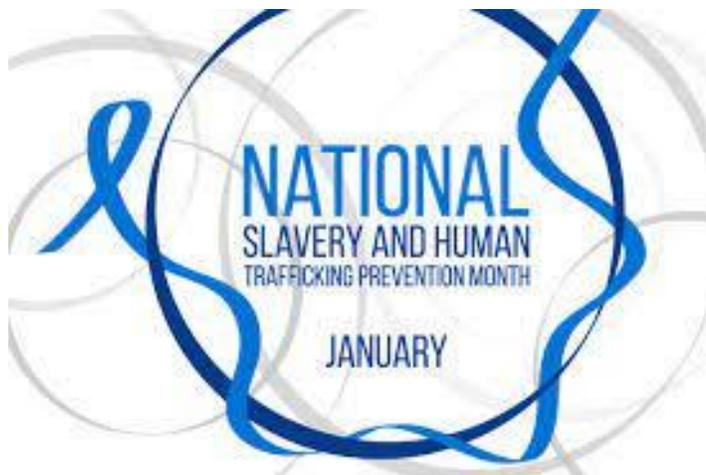
~OSV News photo/ Kevin Lamarque, Reuters

"They've sold everything they own just to be able to make the trip and made this perilous 3,000-mile journey," Seitz said. "They finally arrive in Ciudad Juárez, for instance, and then what? Where do they go?" To read the full account please click [here](#)

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and January 11 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Human trafficking is an international crisis that is a form of modern-day slavery. A common misconception about human trafficking is that it does not happen in the United States. This is **false**, as the United States is ranked as one of the worst countries globally for human trafficking. It is estimated that 199,000 incidents occur within the United States every year.

Victims frequently do not seek help due to language barriers, fear of their traffickers, or fear of law enforcement. Many times the trafficked person knows or is related to their trafficker. Because human trafficking is considered a hidden crime, several key indicators can help people recognize potential endangerment and notify law enforcement if you have your suspicions. Indicators to help identify trafficked persons include:



- Appearing malnourished
- Appearing injured or having signs of physical abuse
- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction, and law enforcement
- Responding in manners that seem rehearsed or scripted
- Lacking personal identification documents
- Lacking personal possessions

Victims are trafficked for a variety of purposes, such as commercial sex, agricultural work or other forms of labor. The face of human trafficking can be rich, poor, men, women, adults, children, foreign nationals or U.S. citizens. They are usually vulnerable in some way, but all share the same huge loss of freedom.

If you or someone you know has experienced human trafficking, help is available.

- Did you know that foreign national adults in the United States who experience human trafficking may be eligible for the same benefits and services as a refugee? Learn more: youtube.com/watch?v=5ECG3pr3HcE
- Foreign national minors in the United States who experience human trafficking before or after arriving in the United States may be eligible for the same benefits.

REMEMBER - We constantly collect items for our Cabrini Closet, mailing address - Cabrini University Cottage, 610 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor, PA 19087 or physical address - 1260 Upper Gulph Road, Radnor, PA. Email: cabriniformation@aol.com. Items most requested are toiletries, clothing, coats, under garments, feminine hygiene products, gift cards to places such as Target, CVS, Amazon, Aldi food stores - which we then distribute to organizations that house and/or work directly with trafficked victims. ~ submitted by Karol Brewer, Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition

**If you see something or suspect something or need help –
Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline 1-888-3737-888.
Place this number in your cell phone!!**

For further information on National Human Trafficking Awareness Month please click [here](#)
To access the MSC Corporate Stance on Anti-Human Trafficking click [here](#)

“New Year, New Dress” Day



Cabrini High School students unite in supporting National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

In solidarity with National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, for the week of January 9-13 Cabrini High begins each day with prayers for an end to this sinful tragedy highlighting facts about trafficking and ways we can advocate and fight against it. Yesterday, on [#humantraffickingawarenessday](#), Cabrini students participated in a "New Year, New Dress" day, where students leverage fashion and creativity to promote the dignity of all women and raise funds for the anti-trafficking efforts of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the Cabrini Mission Foundation.

~ submitted by Madeline LeBlanc, Cabrini High School

An Employee of Distinction

Vincent Zucchetto, Social Worker at Cabrini of Westchester, was presented with the 2022 Employee of Distinction Award from LeadingAge New York, part of a national association of 5,500 not-for-profit organizations. Mr. Zucchetto graciously accepted the award on December 17, 2022 at a celebration held in his honor. This prestigious award is given to an employee who excels in their profession and who has served with distinction and made significant contributions to the betterment of services for the aged and infirmed.



Vincent Zucchetto (c.) displays his Leading Age award and is joined by from left: Mary Beth Morrissey, Ph.D., Cabrini of Westchester Trustee; Patricia Krasnausky, Cabrini of Westchester President and CEO; Mr. Zucchetto's wife Jillian Zucchetto; Bonita Burke, Vice-President of Operations and Administrator; and Sandi Schreier, Director of Social Services.

Sandi Schreier, Director of Social Services, spoke about Mr. Zucchetto's dedication, professionalism, and willingness to learn new skills that will help Cabrini's residents. In her letter of recommendation to LeadingAge New York, Ms. Schreier wrote: "Vincent stands out amongst the staff in many ways. He is very supportive, and has really helped to create a kind and loving environment for the residents that he serves. He is always willing to do whatever it takes to make things easier for the staff.

It has been a real privilege to have Vincent on our team. He brings an undeniable calm and comfort to the care of the residents and to the staff, always speaking with respect and genuine affection. We commend him and recognize him as a shining star."

Patricia Krasnausky, President and CEO of Cabrini of Westchester added in her remarks at the reception: "I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor."

Congratulations, Vincent, on your well-deserved recognition!

~ submitted by Susan Herceg, Cabrini of Westchester

Cabrini High Faculty and Staff ‘Putting on Wings’



The faculty, staff and administration of Cabrini High School in New Orleans began their spring semester with a day of retreat led by Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC (c.).

Cabrini High School's faculty and staff had a retreat on Tuesday, January 3rd at a retreat center in Loranger, LA. We had the privilege of welcoming Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC as our presenter. Sr. Bernadette led us through various reflections based on the book *Free Yourself and Put On Wings, A Journey of Cabrinian Spirituality* by Sr. Maria Barbagallo, MSC. amidst Sr. Bernadette's

presentations, we had time for personal reflection and exploring the grounds, small group discussions with Sr. Bernadette, prayerful music in the chapel, and prayer devotions like the Rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, or Lectio Divina.

The retreat was a perfect way to begin the spring semester refreshed, energized, and prepared to educate the minds and hearts of our wonderful students!

~ submitted by Madeline LeBlanc, Cabrini High School



Welcome, Sisters!

The MSC Cottage in Radnor, PA welcomed MSC visitors from New York this week. From left: Karol Brewer and Sr. Bridget Zanin, were happy to spend time with Sr. Lucy Paniettieri, MSC, and Sr. Suany Oliveira, MSC who is visiting from Ethiopia.

From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Promotion Team...

LCWR Leaders Talk about Unprecedented Transformation of Religious Life

~ by Dan Stockman, Global Sisters Report

The biggest issues in religious life in the United States today all revolve around the transformation it is undergoing, say leaders of the organization representing two-thirds of the country's Catholic sisters.

That was the focus of an hourlong interview Global Sisters Report staff had via Zoom with officers of the [Leadership Conference of Women Religious](#) in December during a GSR staff "summit" at the National Catholic Reporter offices.

When asked about the three biggest issues in religious life, Sr. Carol Zinn, a Sister of St. Joseph of Philadelphia and Executive Director of LCWR, said there is the transformation of religious life currently taking place, the question of how LCWR can help its members focus on what religious life really means, and how to steward and celebrate apostolic life .



As the LCWR met in summer 2022 St. Joseph Sister Celeste Mokrzycki painted her impressions of the assembly each day aligned with the theme "Mystical Wisdom: Following Spirit's Beckoning." *GSR photo/Soli Salgado*

"We find ourselves at an unprecedented moment," Zinn said. "Clearly, something else is emerging."

The number of sisters in the United States peaked in 1965 at 181,421, according to the [Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate](#). Researchers at CARA expect the number of sisters will stabilize at more than 10,000, but whatever the number, the days of convents housing hundreds of sisters functioning as a church workforce are not coming back.

Zinn said sisters need to focus on religious life itself, not just their ministry, which is only a fruit of their vocation.”

Sr. Rebecca Ann Gemma, President of LCWR, said many sisters view prayer life as something to fall back on when their physical ministry is done, when it is much more than that.

Prayer “actually makes change. It is transformative,” Gemma said. LCWR needs to “not only remind our leaders of the importance of prayer but remind them of how that is key and central who we are.”



Sr. Jane Herb, IHM of Monroe, Michigan said the view of religious life needs to change from “a ministry of doing to a ministry of being.”

Zinn said this can be seen in the zeal of younger sisters, who often point out that in today’s society they could do the type of ministry they are in without becoming a vowed religious, but they joined religious life because they wanted that communal spiritual life as well.

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

Prayer Requests

Wayne Denis

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC asks for prayers for her brother-in-law, Wayne Denis, who is having some serious health issues at this time.

Sr. Mindy Welding, MSC

Kindly keep Sr. Mindy, the Chair of the National Religious Vocations Board, in your prayers. She is currently recuperating from surgery and would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

In Loving Memory

Don Freedline and Rob Price

Please unite in prayer for Don Freedline and Rob Price, the brothers-in-law of Anne Schwelm, the Director of the Holy Spirit Library at Cabrini University. These gentlemen were the husbands of Anne’s sisters and they passed away within two weeks of one another. Please pray for Anne, her sisters, and their families at this very sad time.