



January 26, 2023

And We Went on a Mission!!

~ a reflection by Sr. Emperatriz Canales Espinoza, MSC

***"All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth.
Therefore, go and make all nations my disciples." Matt 28.18***

The thing we want to share with the entire Cabriniana Family is that in Managua from January 6 to 16 of this new year 2023, two sisters with the young people (students, alumni and others) went to share with a rural community near the border with Honduras called: La Danta! It is a very small town of about 400 families.



They have their chapel which is where we stay camped. It does not surprise us because it is a worldwide phenomenon, the fact that almost all the young people of the place have migrated, mostly to the United States. The region looks emptier, with many children, the elderly, and the elderly who dedicate themselves to planting and the few cattle that only a few have.

We were impressed by the joy with which they received us, it is a region (village) that we had visited some 7 or 8 years ago. We thought that they did not remember us, but to our surprise, simple people do not forget those who felt that they were going through their place doing good.

The 10 days flew by and we have walked through hills and ravines, almost running out of shoes, with exhausted but happy throats; happy to see that the seeds sown there bears fruit just as Jesus asks.



We returned with new lessons learned, with new challenges and with renewed hopes, based on faith and sharing with these humble and super generous peasants. The poorest always give us a lesson in generosity and full trust in God's Providence. With these renewed forces in the midst of the simplest of our people, we begin this new year of service in Nicaragua.



Blessings!
*Always united in the Heart of Jesus,
your sister Emperatriz, MSC.*

Pope Francis: Women Help Religions Share Wisdom and Promote Peace

~ by Cindy Wooden for Vatican News



Pope Francis greets a participant of the “Women Building a Culture of Encounter Interreligiously” conference this week at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Vatican media)

The world’s religious traditions and their followers are called to offer wisdom to the world and to “infuse it with a spirit of warmth, haling and fraternity,” which requires the participation of women as well as men, Pope Francis said.

The conference, “Women Building a Culture of Encounter Interreligiously,” was taking place

January 24 – 27 and was sponsored by the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue and the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations.

Participants shared their experiences as members of the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, Confucian, Zoroastrian, Taoist, Jain, Hindu, Shinto and African traditional religious communities. They also looked at depictions of women in their sacred texts and highlighted the women saints and sages of their traditions. With the exception of officials of the dicastery who offered greetings at the start of the meeting, all of the speakers at the conference were women.

Francis praised the conference’s emphasis on “re-discovering the feminine aspects of your respective religious traditions and to showing how they contribute to a culture of encounter,” which requires a willingness to listen to others and care about them.

“The fact that your conference is devoted to listening to the experiences and perspectives of women is all the more valuable since ‘our quest for peace must increasingly involve women. Because women bestow care and life upon the world: they are themselves a path toward peace.’” To read the entire account please click [here](#)

Sharing Stories that Inspire

On Sunday, January 15 MSC novices Evon Somirla, Evarlyn Ndeti, and Bezunesh Elias spoke at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine about their faith and how they discerned the path to follow in the footsteps of Mother Cabrini.

Eager attendees provided a delicious potluck lunch that featured Filipino, Ethiopian, Dominican, and American dishes. The most common comment: "This was *so* inspiring!"

*~ submitted by Julia Attaway, Executive Director,
St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine, New York City*



Photo above: MSC novices from left: Bezunesh Elias, Evarlyn Ndeti and Evon Somirla shared their stories of faith and vocational call at St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine in New York City.



Photo left: The guests listened with rapt attention to all that the novices had to share.

CHS travels to D.C. for March for Life



Cabrini High School students pause for a photo at the U.S. Capitol. They joined other students from the Archdiocese of New Orleans in attending the March for Life in D.C.

Eight Cabrini High School (CHS) students embarked on the 24-hour bus trip to Washington D.C to attend the annual March for Life last week. In addition to the march, the students toured the Capitol Building and various museums such as the Smithsonian. They also toured the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and ended the trip with Mass at the beautiful St. John Paul II National Shrine. Adoration was held every night with the help of the multitude of priests and seminarians that came from the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans, along with all Archdioceses in Louisiana, came together for the Geaux Forth Rally, which was held on Thursday, January 19th. At the Rally, the students learned about all pro-life issues we encounter today, and how to respectfully speak to people who have opposing views. The Geaux Forth Rally not only gave some insight on what it means to be pro-life, but also boosted excitement for the march the following day!

Here are some personal reflections from the trip:

Ms. Elizabeth LeBlanc (Pro-Life Club Moderator), "During this trip, the students really understood what they're fighting for during the march, and how to be unapologetically pro-life, which means standing up for all life, from womb to tomb!"

Makenna Borne (12th grade): "I thought the trip was amazing because I got to meet new people and grow in my faith at the same time. I really enjoyed the ministry nights because it gave me time to reflect on my relationship with God and continue to



Holding their banners for the March for Life are the Cabrini High School students.

grow it further. I also really enjoyed the march because seeing everyone supporting the same cause felt so powerful and moving. I had an amazing experience, and I would recommend my peers to go on it next year!”



Olivia Ruiz (12th grade): “Being surrounded by over 400 people from different parishes in Louisiana who support the same cause as you and fighting for it is so amazing! My favorite part was touring all of the different Smithsonians and museums. I learned a lot on this trip, and it will stay with me forever.”

Lizbeth Garcia (8th grade): “It was such a fun trip! It was really inspirational to see everyone marching for the same cause. My favorite part was the bus rides because we did karaoke, really fun games and I got to know people from different schools and make new friends!”

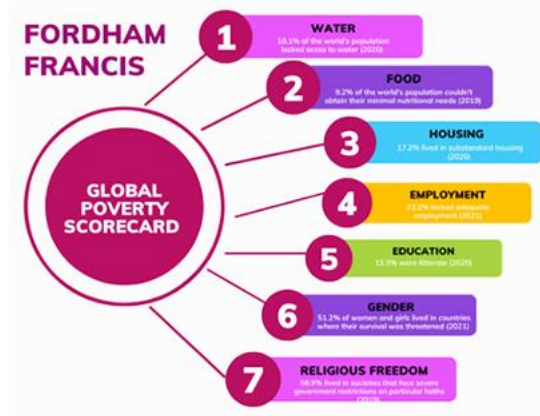
~ submitted by Madeline LeBlanc, Cabrini High School, New Orleans

World Day of the Poor Brings College Students Together

~by *Loyal Srour and Faith Pitsikoulis, 2022 graduates of Cabrini University*
For the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

The increase of rising temperatures, extreme droughts, and severe weather conditions are putting a strain on living conditions around the world, especially in less developed countries. College students in the United States are working together to protect the planet and bring awareness to these global issues.

On Friday, Nov. 11, [Catholic Relief Services](#), [Caritas Internationalis](#), and [Fordham University's Graduate Program in International Political Economy and Development](#) hosted 10 Catholic Relief Services (CRS) university chapters to discuss trends in global poverty and the global climate crisis. CRS student ambassadors, along with their leaders, believe they can make changes for a better future. The event took place at the Church Center of the United Nations.



Dr. Henry Schwalbenberg, chair of the IPED program at Fordham, along with graduate students, presented the 2022 version of the [Pope Francis' Global Poverty Index](#). The poverty indicators of the Poverty Index are divided into two groups: material well-being and spiritual well-being. The material well-being indicators focus on the primary needs of water, food, housing and employment. The spiritual well-being indicators measure the needs of gender equity, religious freedom and education. Year after year, the [index](#) has proven that families around the world are suffering from a lack of basic needs as we see increased numbers of undernourishment, no access to clean water, poor housing and low wages.

One Planet, One Family

[Bill O'Keefe](#), executive vice president for mission and mobilization at CRS, in the keynote address discussed how meeting the challenges of the current climate crisis can build a pathway towards better opportunities for the poor, allowing them to live the lives they always deserved. [One Planet, One Family](#) is the current campaign of CRS in its mission to combat climate change. "Every day should be a day for the poor because a core principle of the Catholic Teaching is to have a preferential option for the poor," O'Keefe said. "We shouldn't have 364 days for the rich, and one day for the poor."

After hearing from Dr. Schwalbenberg and Mr. O'Keefe of CRS, students representing their universities plan to return to their CRS Ambassador chapters and share new ways to start conversations on poverty and climate change advocacy on their campuses.

"I think learning what we did today on global poverty, I definitely want to expand more, possibly host speakers to bring light to these issues. Also, maybe fundraise, or do something that way, to support our brothers and sisters around the world," Holly Gola, senior global development and sustainability major at **St. John's University**, said.

Skye Schultz, junior social work and psychology major from **St. Thomas University**, said the opportunity to advocate for issues on a global scale is the reason why she is a member of CRS Ambassadors.

"This is the only club that actually looked at a bigger level, and I think recognized the importance of political advocacy in creating change," Schultz said. Take that second step of advocating after the fact and contacting your representatives, making your voice heard. I think that's the way you can make the biggest impact."

To learn more please click [here](#) ~ with thanks to Dr. Jerry Zurek for forwarding this account.

Loyal Srour is a 2022 graduate of Cabrini University and former president of the CRS Cabrini Chapter.

Faith Pitsikoulis is a 2022 graduate of Cabrini University and former social media officer.

Prayer Requests

Linda Shikitino, a faculty member at Cabrini University, asks for prayers for the following intentions:

Rev. James Casey

Rev. James Casey, pastor at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Philadelphia who has been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for his well-being.

Landon

Landon, a precious little 3 year old, who was diagnosed with a cancer that has metastasized. Please keep this child in your prayers.

In Loving Memory

Sam Jacobson, MD, PhD

Prayers are requested for Dr. Sam Jacobson, the beloved husband of former Cabrini University staff member, Jean Jacobson. Dr. Jacobson, a noted retinal specialist, died earlier this week. Please remember him and Jean and their family in your prayers.

One Minute Reflection

Keep your Lamp Burning

What we need is to love without getting tired. How does a lamp burn? Through the continuous input of small drops of oil. What are these small drops of oil?

They are the small things of daily life: faithfulness, small words of kindness, a thought for others, our way of being silent, of looking, of speaking and of acting.

He is not out there; he is among you.

Keep your lamp burning and you will recognize him. His words should be not only a light to us, but there should also be a flame consuming the selfishness that prevents the growth of holiness. Loving must be as normal to us as living and breathing, day after day until our death.

~ Mother Teresa, No Greater Love