



November 30, 2023

Catholics at COP28 Vow to Carry Pope's Call for Action on Climate Change

~ Brian Rowe, *Earthbeat*, National Catholic Reporter

A United Nations climate summit facing the daunting task to put countries back on track to prevent catastrophic global warming will now have to do so without the presence of the pope.

COP28 opened today, Thursday (Nov. 30), in the United Arab Emirates, two days after the Vatican announced Pope Francis had [canceled his plans to attend](#) on advice of doctors as he recuperates from the flu.

Francis was set [to become the first-ever pope to appear at a U.N. climate summit](#) in its nearly 30-year history. The trip was widely seen as an effort by one of the world's predominant moral figures and an outspoken voice on ecological issues [to help spark a course correction](#), as countries have fallen behind in efforts to limit human-caused climate change that endangers people and ecosystems.

Catholics heading to COP28, understanding of health precautions with the 86-year-old pope, vowed his message would still be heard throughout the plenary halls and corridors in Dubai at the climate summit.

Though he'll be physically absent, Francis' leadership and moral authority will still be present in Dubai through this recent apostolic exhortation [Laudate Deum](#), said Alistair Dutton, secretary general of Caritas Internationalis, the confederation of Catholic humanitarian and development organizations.

In the document, which was expected to form the basis of the pope's remarks, Francis outlined his expectations for COP28 while bluntly critiquing what he sees as a broken multilateralism process and limited progress countries have made in the eight years since the Paris Agreement was adopted.

"We must move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes," the pope said.

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

A Very Eventful “Cabrini Week” in Colorado

A week of celebrations at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden began with the Feast Day of St. Frances X. Cabrini on Monday, November 13.

Gala Fundraiser



Photo above: Missionary Sisters and Shrine staff take time for a photo during the 22nd Shrine Gala festivities. From left: Former Shrine Executive Director Jeff Lewis, Sr. Isalia Carvalho, Sr. Joan McGlinchey, Sr. Antonia Plata, Sr. Lucy Panettiere, Sr. Sharon Casey, Shrine Executive Director JoAnn Seaman and Tom Francis.

Photo below: All those numbers in the air during the live auction at the Gala are proof positive of the generosity of Shrine benefactors.



expand and renovate the Shrine’s gift shop and chapel, and retreat facilities so that visitors can have the best experience possible for decades to come. The account continues on next page.

Please be sure to view these heartwarming gala videos. Don’t miss them! Please click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxjuHdap9vE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4dK7qbJ66w&t=25s>

The following Friday, the Shrine’s 22nd annual gala fundraiser took place at the Pinnacle Club at the Grand Hyatt in Downtown Denver. The gala was not only a celebration of Mother Cabrini herself, but of the people who continue to support and make the Shrine what it is today. Over the last three years, friends and donors have come together to raise over \$5.5 million for the Heart of Jesus Capital Campaign to

Chapel Re-Dedication

With joy and gratitude, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the staff of Mother Cabrini Shrine were delighted to celebrate the rededication of the chapel on Saturday, November 18 after ten months of renovations. Fr. John Lager, O.F.M., Cap., re-consecrated the chapel as a place of prayer where the sacraments and its mysteries are celebrated daily.



Preparing the altar for the rededication are Sr. Isalia Carvalho (l.) and Sr. Lucy Panettieri (r.) while Fr. John Lager, OFM, Cap (c.) looks on.



Many priests concelebrated the rededication Mass.

It was a powerful ceremony that included the anointing of the altar and walls as well as the incensation and lighting of the altar and the church. Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, Provincial and seven additional Missionary Sisters, Shrine staff, volunteers and donors participated in the dressing of the newly dedicated altar and the offertory procession. We are so grateful to everyone helped make this beautiful and sacred space possible.

To see the livestream video of the chapel re-dedication Mass, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNfc93Z4z4k&t=29s>

Spanish Mass of Thanksgiving

On Sunday, November 19, Denver Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Rodriguez celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in the newly rededicated chapel at the regular Sunday 2 p.m. Spanish Mass. The bishop encouraged those in attendance to pray for their special



intentions to Mother Cabrini especially at her Shrine. He also invited all of the children in attendance to the altar and then led them in a procession to the statue of Mother Cabrini to pray for all immigrants, especially children and families who are suffering. The Spanish community faithfully fills every seat in the new chapel each week, and this Mass of Thanksgiving was the perfect culmination to our Cabrini week in Colorado.

~ submitted by JoAnn Seaman, Executive Director

From left: Missionary Sisters Joan McGlinchey, Antonia Plata, Alice Zanon, Isalia Carvalho, Lucy Panettieri, Pietrina Raccuglia, Sharon Casey and Diane Olmstead pause for a photo in front of the new mosaic in the rededicated Shrine chapel which depicts the Sacred Heart welcoming Mother Cabrini and the immigrant children with the foothills of the Rockies serving as a stunning background.

To see photos from all three celebrations, please click here:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/141021425@N02/albums>

NY Shrine Community Collects Toys

During November the Shrine and its neighbors collected toys for children in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for Christmas. A massive earthquake and the assassination of the Haitian president in recent years have led to gang violence and unrest. Because aid groups have been unable to distribute help in the usual ways, to American-based Haitian priests (one of who helped us distribute clothing to bused-in migrants last year) have arranged for priests in the Dominican Republic to personally deliver toys across the border.



Those who donated included not only regular Shrine-goers but members of a community choir that rehearsed here, moms who participate in a twice-annual toy swap that the Shrine hosts, and a few people who attended concerts here and saw the flier posted.

~ submitted by Julia Attaway, Shrine Executive Director



Due to the generosity of Shrine-goers, many toys will be on their way to children in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



Chili for a Cabrini Cause

On Saturday, November 18th members of the Inwood community hosted the 8th Annual Chili Bowl, which is an annual fundraiser that benefits a local organization. We were very grateful that this year the event was held to benefit the Food Pantry at Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC. Our Executive Director, Javier, and Pantry Coordinator, Paul, attended the event and enjoyed getting to know our local community and eating delicious chili. State Senator Robert Jackson, who has been a big supporter of CIS-NYC, was also in attendance. Over \$4,000 was raised for our pantry at the event.



A lot of love and varied ingredients go into making a satisfying and savory chili.



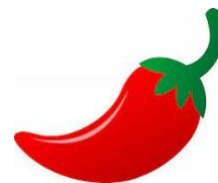
Photos above and below: Paul Kwon (l.) Pantry Coordinator and volunteers Delaney Williams (r. above) and Raul (r. below) were happy to distribute turkeys to 40 lucky clients of the CIS Food Pantry.

We would like to thank the main coordinators, Tom Bosco, Felipe Wityk-Sanchez, and Jeff Natt, as well as local businesses that donated items to the bake sale portion of the event (The Inwood Farm, CHOCNyc, Kiro Kirin, Hawthorne Valley Farm, Dunkin' Donuts, Dollar Tower, Inwood Gourmet, Buunni Coffee & Jeff Natt).



Over the weekend, our Pantry also distributed turkeys to some lucky families. We were able to give out 40 turkeys, which were donated to us by City Harvest. Our clients were very excited to be able to receive this special item and share a Thanksgiving meal together with their families.

~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, CIS-NYC



Updates from Cabrini Guatemala

Hello, my name is Ana Pérez and I greet you from Dispensario San José Zona 6 Cabrini Guatemala.



Children's Day

We would like to share this activity with you that was carried out with the weight and height project. Children's Day was celebrated with the participants of this program and their parents. In this activity there were games, surprises, food, and above all a lot of fun! This project is carried out for children who maintain an unstable weight due



to certain health problems, food or poor nutrition.

Licda Alejandra

Godínez, nutritionist, student at the Mariano Gálvez University, and the instructors who are in charge of supporting this project participated.



Photo above and left: Children's Day helps track children's weight and height amidst a setting of fun and games!

Modified Spark Project

The closing of our Modified Spark Project "CHISPA MODIFICADO", which ends its 2023 school year to start a new one. In this project, children from 4 to 12 years old are accepted, where it is about teaching by playing. During this event, games were held and diplomas were given to the children who throughout the



The children proudly share their diplomas and certificates of accomplishment.

year were constant in their attendance and persevered until the end.

Vacation School

This is the most recent event we have had - the beginning of the Vacation School for boys, girls and adolescents from 4 to 17 years old.

It started on November 6 and thanks to the support of Lic. Guevara psychology and Licda. Bautista, social worker, the [program] has reached several settlements where it is difficult to reach. ~ submitted by Ana Perez, Dispensario Zona 6 Cabrini



The children are attentive to this interesting activity.



These youngsters attended the Vacation School which commenced on November 6th.

We are grateful to Ana Perez and to Sr. Maria Concepcion Vallecillo, MSC for sending these stories and we look forward to sharing many more activities from Guatemala in the future with our Update readers.

One Minute Meditation

Pray Always

Prayer is not primarily saying words or thinking thoughts. It is, rather, a life stance. It's a way of living in the Presence, living in awareness of the Presence and even of enjoying the Presence. For Jesus, prayer seems to be a matter of waiting in love. Returning to love. Trusting that love is the deepest stream of reality. That's why prayer isn't primarily words; it's primarily an attitude, a stance, a way of living. That's why Paul could say, "Pray always."

"Pray unceasingly." If we think of prayer as requiring words, it is surely impossible. We can pray unceasingly, however, if we find the stream and know how to wade in its waters. The stream will flow through us, and all we have to do is keep choosing to stay there.

~ Richard Rohr, *Everything Belongs*

International Children's Day!

November 20th was International Children's Day. St. Cabrini Nursing Home wanted to celebrate the day, so they invited the toddlers from Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS) in Dobbs Ferry, NY, to join them in some entertainment. We enjoyed great music by Lou Patrick, a singer and entertainer. It didn't take long for the toddlers to get into the music. There was so much dancing and clapping of hands. The Moms also enjoyed the dancing.

As part of the Toddler Literacy Program at CIS, the children made turkey handprints which were placed on a paper along with a Thanksgiving poem. The toddlers went to every resident at the party and gave them a copy of their handprint and poem as they wished them a Happy Thanksgiving. The residents left with tremendous smiles on their faces and the children left exhausted but thrilled to have such a fun afternoon. ~ submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS



Hands were clapping and toes were tapping as the youngsters invited the St. Cabrini Nursing Home residents to join them in celebrating International Children's Day. Everyone got into the beat!



Update Publication Notice

Due to scheduling in the Province Communications Office, during December, **The Update will only be published on Thursday, December 14th.**

That will be our Christmas edition.

During the weeks that we do not publish, you will receive an email with Weekly Update TEST in the subject line. There is no need to respond.

Once again, this year, during the season of Advent we are pleased to share that each week, one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries will offer a reflection. The First Sunday of Advent's reflection is by Susan Jacques Pierson. PhD.

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



Advent is a time of anticipation and a time of promise. Long before the birth of baby Jesus, God made many promises to His people through the prophets. I have long loved this Bible passage:

I will lead the blind
and guide them along paths they do not know.
I will turn darkness into light before them
and make straight their winding roads.
These are the things I will do for them,
and I will not forsake them.

Isaiah 16:42

I believe that we need these words, now more than ever, as we witness tremendous turmoil in the world.

It has been a difficult year. At the moment that I am writing this reflection, war continues to rage in Ukraine, people from all over the world continue to flee their homelands, in search of a better life for themselves and their children. Here in the United States, there are those who are hungry and without homes, those who live in communities continually plagued by violence. There seems to be bad news in every corner of the world. I am unable to watch television coverage of the war in Gaza. Thinking of the suffering of thousands of people, including small babies and little children breaks my heart. I have no doubt that Jesus also weeps when he sees these things.

Nonetheless as we light the candles in the Advent wreath and look to the Star of Bethlehem, we are reminded that darkness can never overcome the light. Despite the troubles so prominent in the world, we must remain people of hope, steadfast in the knowledge that Jesus is coming. God will not forsake us. He will keep his promise to us. But each one of us needs to do our part to advance the Kingdom of God here on Earth.

Even as God promises to guide us along dark paths we do not know, to make straight those winding roads and to turn darkness into light before us, we must promise to do what we can, today and every day, to be there for our brothers and sisters in need, for those who have lost hope and cry out in despair.

We have the power to make a difference, through our actions and our words, especially during this Advent season.

I recently had the opportunity to view the film *Cabrini*, that will be released in theaters in March. At the end of this truly inspirational movie, the audience is reminded that Mother Cabrini did not allow herself to be defeated by hard times and dark days. Instead, she continually asked what kind of world do we want and what are we willing to do to make that world a reality.

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Baby Jesus, we can also take action to help others. We can provide meals for the hungry, provide warm clothes for those who are in need, and share the love of Christ with those we meet each day. This is the true meaning of Christmas.

~ Susan Jacques Pierson, CLM

Due to the publication schedule for The Update in December, we are also providing the reflection by CLM Director Lorraine Campanelli for the second week in Advent.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023



Second Sunday of Advent

Reflection:

I am feeling so fragile with all that is going on in this world. How difficult it is to prepare the way for the Christ-child when there is war, hatred, shootings, etc. happening throughout the

world. It is so hard to silence my mind and my heart so I can focus on the season of Advent. As I reflected on Advent, it came to me to ‘keep it simple,’ just like the first Christmas.

So, I invite you to just reflect and pray on two lines from the readings from the Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

In Isaiah 40:1, we read, ‘*Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.*

How do I give comfort to others? To myself?

In the Gospel reading from Mark (1:2-3), we hear, ‘As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord.”*

How am I preparing the way for the Lord? What is my heart crying out for?

~ Lorraine Campanelli, CLM

Cabrini Immigrant Services – NYC

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!

Purchase a gift: bit.ly/cischristmas2023
Or donate: www.cis-nyc.org/donate



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2023
6PM - 9PM

*Limited to
100 Tickets*

Merchants NY
190 7th Ave,
New York, NY 10011
(Between W21st ST and W22nd ST)

ENJOY FOOD, DRINKS, DESSERT, OPEN SEATING, AND MORE!



Prayer Requests

For all areas of conflict in the world

As we approach Advent, let us pray that the peace and stillness of this season will touch all the corners of the world where turmoil resides.

Let us pray for the peacemakers.



In Loving Memory

Anne Bosich

Your prayers are requested for Anne Bosich, the sister of Cabrini Companion John Bosich. Anne died suddenly the evening before Thanksgiving. John writes, “My family and I are comforted by the powerful prayers of the Cabrini Family. May the blessing of peace be upon us all.”

Paul Giffroy

Prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Paul Giffroy who passed away on Sunday, November 26th after an extended illness. Please pray for the comfort of his family at this difficult time.

Anthony R. Russo

Rosemary Gehrlein, Cabrini University staff member, shares that sadly, her brother, Anthony R. Russo, Cabrini College Class of 1975, passed away on Thanksgiving morning, November 23, after losing his battle with cancer. The University community joins with Rosemary and her family in mourning his loss. Rosemary shares his obituary [here](#). Please keep this Cabrinian family in your prayers at this sad time.

William ‘Bill’ Yellin

Please unite in prayer for the repose of the soul of William ‘Bill’ Yellin who formerly worked in the Finance Office of the Stella Maris Province of the Missionary Sisters. We received word from Mr. Yellin’s son, Marshall, that Bill passed away on November 6th. His son said that Mr. Yellin always spoke so favorably of his time working with the Missionary Sisters. Please keep the Yellin Family in your prayers.