



February 29, 2024

Catholics Must Have Religious Liberty to 'meet migrants' Basic Human Needs

~ by Kate Scanlon, National Catholic Reporter

The ability of Catholic and other faith-based groups to “meet migrants’ basic human needs” at the U.S.-Mexico border is a religious liberty issue and must be defended, U.S. bishops said in recent statements.

In a February 26 statement issued in response to a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in an attempt to shut down Annunciation House, a Catholic nonprofit in El Paso serving migrants, Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, Chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty, expressed solidarity with faith-driven ministries to migrants.



Ruben Garcia, Director of Annunciation House.

“It is hard to imagine what our country would look like without the good works that people of faith carry out in the public square,” Rhoades said. “For this, we can thank our strong tradition of religious liberty, which allows us to live out our faith in full.”

Rhoades said that as “the tragic situation along our border with Mexico increasingly poses challenges for American communities and vulnerable persons alike, we must especially preserve the freedom of Catholics and other people of faith to assist their communities and meet migrants’ basic human needs.”

Paxton’s office alleged Annunciation House’s efforts amount to “facilitating illegal entry to the United States” and “human smuggling.”

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops said that the state’s bishops “...[express] solidarity with ministry volunteers and people of faith who seek only to serve vulnerable migrants...our border ministries are intended to be a stabilizing presence that protects both citizens and migrants.” To read the complete article, please click [here](#)

Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC Honored with Cor Jesu Award



Alumni, friends, faculty and staff members, past and present, gathered in the Grace Hall atrium of Cabrini University for the Mother Ursula Infante Memorial Lecture on Thursday, February 22nd. The annual event is sponsored by the University's Wolfington Center for Civic Engagement. Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC, who served as the Cabrini College President from 1982 – 1992, was the keynote speaker and the recipient of the University's Cor Jesu Award.

Sr. Eileen, Cabrini College Class of 1966 and HON '17, addressed the group speaking of the living Cabrini legacy. Noting that Cabrini University will indeed be closing this June, she reminded those gathered that the legacy of Mother Cabrini is not confined to a particular place or time, it resides within the hearts of each of those who have been gifted with the Cabrinian charism and the education of the heart. It is ours to bring forth into the world.



With Mother Ursula Infante's portrait sharing the stage, Dr. Angela Campbell (l.) and Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC engaged in a wide-ranging conversation about the Cabrinian charism, the legacy of Mother Cabrini and the future. Sr. Eileen engaged in a Q and A with the audience.

Dr. Raymond Ward, Director of the Wolfington Center for Civic Engagement, welcomed everyone to campus and Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, Campus Ministry Associate, offered the opening reflection. Ms. Helen Drinan, interim University President, introduced Sr. Eileen.

Dr. Angela Campbell, Vice-President of Mission, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, offered a reflection on Sr. Eileen's insights on Mother Cabrini and Sacred Heart spirituality, and engaged in an informative dialogue with Sr. Eileen for the benefit of all those in attendance.

Account continues on the next page.

A reception preceded the event and the evening concluded with a hearty toast to Cabrini College Founding President Sister Ursula Infante, MSC. It was an evening marked by Cabrinian camaraderie, nostalgia, conversation, and friendship.



With a student-created mural of immigrants prominent in the Cabrini University Grace Hall Atrium, members of the Cabrinian community gathered for the Mother Ursula Infante Memorial Lecture.

CABRINI Film Anticipation at NYC Shrine



Pictured with Mother Cabrini at the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine in New York City is Cristina Dell'Anna the actress who portrays Mother in the CABRINI film.

On Tuesday, February 27, Angel Studios held their "media junket" for the upcoming movie CABRINI at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in NYC. They filmed interviews with Alejandro Monteverdi (the movie's director), Rod Barr (scriptwriter), Leo Severino (producer), David Morse (Archbishop Corrigan) and Cristina Dell'Anna (Mother Cabrini). The film will debut in theatres on Friday, March 8, International Women's Day. Please see further info on the following page. To watch a trailer of the film, click [here](#)

Welcoming Angel Studios to the NY Shrine

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

A team of eight was unloading a truckload of equipment as I arrived at the Shrine on Tuesday morning at 6:45 a.m. In rolled the cameras, lights, backdrops, and about a dozen people.

It took two hours for the crew to transform our retreat room into the home base for operations and the music and conference rooms into filming sets. Then the TV people (locals who were hired for the day by Angel Studios) wandered into the chapel, curious, to learn about Mother Cabrini.

The Angel Studios PR team arrived at around 9:30. They, too, were excited. Normally media junkets are held in a suite of hotel rooms. To hold this one here was moving for them. Being at the Shrine made the movie more alive for them: this was truly about a real person. There was her carriage! Her clothing! Her glasses!



Lights and cameras transformed the Shrine retreat room into a film set for the "media junket" day in anticipation of the CABRINI film debut on Friday, March 8th.

The "talent" arrived later, around 10 am. Some took time for a tour before they got to work, doing interviews until 4pm.

At the end of the day, Alejandro Monteverde, the movie director, came to sit in the chapel for a while in silence. We let him have his time alone. One of the things we shared with those who asked for a tour was that what the movie conveys vividly is Mother Cabrini's character; what happens at the Shrine is the discovery of the inner peace that made all that possible.

Please pray for the actors and producers and the movie director of the CABRINI film. In the midst of the excitement, the storm of publicity, the allure of attention, the stress of the schedule, they -- and we -- all need to remain grounded in the heart of Jesus. ~ Julia Attaway, Executive Director, St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine, NYC

Cabrini University Students Travel to Guatemala



Cabrini students, alumni, faculty and staff pause for a moment from their travels in Guatemala to take a photo.

Once again, this year, Cabrini University students, alumni, faculty and staff have traveled to Guatemala for an immersion experience. Dr. Ray Ward, Director of the Wolfington Center and Dr. Jerry Zurek, faculty member, are heading up the trip. Each day, students offer a reflection:



Dr. Jerry Zurek, left, Jeny Varughese, (foreground r.) Cabrini alumna and staff member, and students enjoy the local cuisine in Guatemala. ,

Today [we met] Felipe, the tour guide of the peace court, and he also serves as a school principal. Felipe is a Mayan. He provided us with a walking history [describing] what the Mayan people went through with the Guatemala Military in order to have the peace that they have today. Meeting Felipe was impactful for our group because he is a perfect example of not letting your past change your present, while also using the things that hurt you as a lesson instead of allowing them to knock you down.

Reflection question: What role do you believe Mother Cabrini served in helping the common good? And how do you see her values in action in Guatemala?

Mother Cabrini was an immigrant who believed in giving other people a chance. She helped us to see people from another perspective, a perspective that is from the heart.

~ Charlesetta Kowou, Kevin Chasiluisa, Jerry Nguyen

Today we worked on different worksites to assist with the local community development in building homes for the Guatemalan people. The experience was very fulfilling to us especially after hearing the story from a woman whose house we worked on. She said the house was for her 90-year-old father and her little daughter who is one year old. We learned how to make cement, level the foundation to the wood house, dig a hole for an outdoor bathroom and more.



Cabrini students assist in building a house for local residents.



Later in the afternoon, we visited the woman's center where we learned about many different herbs in their gardens and the different uses for the herbs. Many of the herbs we encountered were familiar to us: oregano, lemongrass, rosemary, basil, mint leaves and many more that we were not familiar with such as: insulin, murrubio, arnica, bismut/lxmut. Jorocte is one of the plants used to assist people battling cancer which tells the magnitude of the importance of the garden.

Reflection question: How can solidarity move from being transactional to being transformative?

- *We are currently the transformative piece in the equation by being present in Guatemala.*
- *We are spreading the message by word of mouth by dismantling stigmas.*
- *Voting for the right elected officials who support in the fight against social inequality and social injustices.*

~ Dominique Bell, Arlinda Mitchell- Davis Mike Zahradnick

Catholic Sisters Working To Eradicate Human Trafficking

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. EST

Location:

Online Livestream

[RSVP](#)

In early March, Catholic Sisters Week shines a light on the faith, spirituality, mission, and community building of women religious internationally. To recognize Catholic sisters, this dialogue will lift up their critical work to address and eliminate human trafficking, which threatens the lives, dignity, and hopes of so many vulnerable people, especially women. Human trafficking is on the rise in many parts of the world, victimizing over 25 million children and adults, with an estimated 80% in forced labor and 20% in sex trafficking. According to the Alliance to End Human Trafficking (formerly the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking), human trafficking thrives because of a web of social injustice and human apathy. The Catholic Church publicly condemns human trafficking while working toward its elimination. Catholic sisters care for victims and survivors, seek to rebuild the lives of those affected by it, and work for the elimination of human trafficking.

The Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life and the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University are bringing together four outstanding leaders in this vital work to explore the issue. Kimberly Mazcyk (SFS'90), associate director of the Initiative, will moderate the conversation. Kimberly has served in key positions at Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA, and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur East-West Province.

This event is co-sponsored by the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University.

From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Team...

The following are excerpts from an article written by Sr. Michele Vincent Fisher, CSFN, that appears in the Winter 2024 issue of HORIZON, the Journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference. Sr. Michele writes about striking a healthy, hopeful balance as a vocation minister; however, her words can be helpful for all of us no matter what our vocation in life. The article will appear in installments over the next few weeks.

Strike a Healthy, Hopeful Balance

Help and Humor

Help and humor are essential in striking a balance in hope as a vocation minister [or any ministry or occupation]. When I start to feel locked in on my needs, wants, ways, and desires, I realize it's time to get out of myself and to look around for opportunities to help others. For me, helping others in small often unnoticed ways helps me to re-focus and widen my lens. Helping others helps us to gain necessary perspective and can re-energize our efforts for things that are more challenging and time-consuming.



Helping can take many forms, but one in particular that I've found especially meaningful is visiting with my sisters – or anyone - in the infirmary, listening to what's on their minds and hearts and being refreshed by their wisdom and authenticity. When I am with them, there is usually a lot of laughter, even in the midst of their aches, pains and burdens. Humor is a most beneficial medicine, and we would all do well to

take a daily dose of it. A good belly laugh actually burns calories and releases endorphins making for good feelings and positive vibes. It's even more valuable when shared with a friend. Surrounding yourself, whenever possible, with light-hearted people who can laugh at their own foibles and imperfections and spread joy by their very presence can turn around even the worst of days.

Order

I often joke about being a *pile* versus *file* kind of person and it works well for me, but there are times when even with the greatest amount of resilience, I can't take another

minute of my piles. Whether it's rearranging the spice rack or balancing the house checking account, putting things back in order is a non-negotiable. Keep order in your living and working spaces, not with museum-like rigidity but to foster an atmosphere that is peaceful and inviting when you or others are in that space.

When you feel frustrated and don't have energy for the task at hand, go and "make order" somewhere, weed the garden, clean out a closet, or rearrange a workspace. Making physical order helps forge a way for us to make spiritual and emotional order as well, leaving us feeling more connected and balanced.

Ordering the hours of our day also helps us to stay in rhythm. The song "In Every Age" by Janet Sullivan Whitaker includes the line, "Teach us to make use of the time we have; teach us to be patient even as we wait." These words are like medicine for me when I start to feel like there aren't enough hours in a day to accomplish all the tasks. We all have the same 24 hours. Try to keep certain daily or regular routines, especially prayer and worship, sitting at a table to eat, planning time for fun, going to bed and getting up at a consistent time, and pre-determining the amount of screen time you can handle in a day. All of this contributes to a healthy balance.



Next week: Outlook and Peace

February 29, 2024 – Today is Leap Day

Nearly every four years, the Gregorian calendar — which is used in the majority of countries around the world — gets an extra day: February 29. Today is that day!

For some people, leap day means frog jokes and extravagant birthday parties. For many, it may conjure memories of the 2010 rom-com *Leap Year*, which harkens back to the Irish tradition by which women can propose to men on that one day. And others likely see it merely as a funny quirk in the calendar, or just another Thursday.



Worldwide, most leap day lore revolves around romance and marriage, as the [History Channel](#) explains. According to one legend, complaints from St. Bridget prompted St. Patrick to designate Feb. 29 as the one day when women can propose to men. The custom spread to Scotland and England, where the British said that any man who rejects a woman's proposal owes her several pairs of fine gloves. In Greece and some other places, it's considered bad luck to get married on leap day.

To learn more and to listen to a Leap Day podcast, please click [here](#)



A beloved Cabrini tradition during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent is the sharing of the reflections of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs). Once again, as we journey through this Lent, we are grateful to receive the contemplations of our CLMs.

Our reflection for the Third Sunday in Lent is offered by Kaitlyn Franzone, CLM

Third Sunday in Lent

Have you ever been mad? Like really mad?

This week is the third week of Lent. In the Gospel readings from Luke 2:13-22, we see an angry Jesus that we have never seen in any other part of the Gospel. Jesus is upset that the Jews have made the temple God's house as God's house is a sacred place. At this time, merchants sold oxen, goats, and doves for the Passover. The Jews questioned Jesus's action, and in reply, he said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up." The Jews thought he meant the temple when he meant his body. Let us reflect on this reading and better understand what Jesus showed us. Jesus wants us to be reverent and respect our Father's house, the church, not just as a building but as a community. We are all sons and daughters who shall inherit the kingdom and eternal life. Let us strive to honor and respect one another in and outside our church family.



Let us prepare for the Lord to transform us into his sons and daughters as we draw closer to Easter and celebrate his resurrection. God bless. ~ Kaitlyn Franzone CLM

Prayer Requests

Let us keep each other in prayer as we journey through Lent.

