



May 2, 2024

Latin America Religious Urged to Continue 'prophetic' 65-year History

~ by Rhina Guidos, Global Sisters Report

Leaders from the largest group of women and men religious in Latin America and the Caribbean said in an April 18 meeting in Honduras that consecrated life in the Americas must keep calling out injustices, in light of events taking place in the hemisphere.

From persecution of church members in Latin America, as well as fighting for the growing numbers of the poor and excluded, consecrated life is "called to recover its prophetic voice," Sr. Daniela Cannavina, general secretary of the [Confederation of Latin American and Caribbean Religious](#) (CLAR), said at the organization's annual board meeting.

Speaking to some 60 general secretaries, presidents of religious conferences and theologians from Latin America and the Caribbean gathered at Honduras' Catholic University campus in Las Tres Rosas, Cannavina told the women and men of CLAR's board to pray and reflect on the organization's richness of prophets.

"That is why we wanted to put before you, images of some of the hundreds of prophets who irrigated our continent with their words and blood," said the [Capuchin Sister of Mother Rubatto](#), referring to a display of photos



Company of Mary Sr. Liliana Franco, president of the Confederation of Latin American and Caribbean Religious talks at the Catholic University campus in Las Tres Rosas, Honduras, April 18. Franco encouraged women and men religious of CLAR's board to imitate the women who weave the colorful fabrics typical of Honduras: Be patient, communal, allow the work to transform what they come into contact with. (GSR photo/Rhina Guidos)

and renderings of women and men religious — as well as lay companions and diocesan priests — martyred in Central and South America in the 20th and 21st centuries.

The display, set in the middle of the room where the group gathered, included two Maryknolls and an Ursuline from the U.S. [killed in El Salvador](#) in 1980, several Jesuits, a U.S.-born member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur [killed in Brazil in 2005](#), and an Augustinian Recollect missionary sister as well as a Salesian, killed for their defense of the poor or the environment.



Members of CLAR put together an altar decoration at the Catholic University campus in Las Tres Rosas, Honduras. Some 60 general secretaries, presidents of religious conferences and theologians representing the board of the largest organization of women and men religious in Latin America and the Caribbean gathered for its annual meeting to talk about consecrated life in the region. (GSR photo/Rhina Guidos)

CLAR turned 65 this year and represents 150,000 women and men religious. Company of Mary Sr. [Liliana Franco](#), president of the organization, told the group that CLAR must be a continuation of their predecessors' prophetic work, given the difficulties populations in Latin America and the Caribbean are facing, including corruption, political instability, massive migration, economic inequality, spiraling violence, persecution and climate change.

Even in that environment, women and men religious, like their predecessors, remain by the side of those who suffer most because of those conditions, Franco said.

Many of the women and men religious in the assembly were facing daunting conditions of their own at home or in the countries where they serve.

Those from Cuba spoke about food and fuel shortages making it difficult to carry out their missions, as well as the difficulty of Catholics practicing the faith amid limited religious freedom. Others spoke of crumbling social and economic conditions leading to an exodus of Catholics throughout Latin America.

But many also spoke to Global Sisters Report of the love of those they serve, largely the poor, the elderly, the excluded or forgotten, those who stay or have been left behind. To read the entire article, please click [here](#)

CABRINI Film Debuts in Guatemala



With popcorn at the ready, the staff members and guests of the clinics of Cabrini Guatemala join with Sr. Maria Elena Plata, MSC (3rd l. back row) and Sr. Ana Gilma Argueta, MSC (4th r. back row) as they get set to see the CABRINI film.

After meeting with widespread acclaim in the United States, most recently, the CABRINI film made its debut in Guatemala. [This was] a special activity which we could share with the team of both our clinics, as well as the beneficiaries of our programs, our collaborators, associates, and people linked to our work.



All smiles, ready for the lights to dim and the movie to begin are these Cabrini Guatemala clinic staff members.

On this occasion, with approximately 250 participants, we also conducted a cinema forum or engaged in an analysis of the film during which we could talk about the current migrant situation and the role of women in the transformation of the world.

~ submitted by Andres Gonzales, Cabrini Guatemala – Villa Nueva

Sr. Maria Elena Plata, MSC (l.) and Sr. Maria Concepcion Vallecillo, MSC were on hand to extend a warm welcome to the movie guests and to provide information on Mother Cabrini





...Brings Lots of Activities at CIS-NYC

On April 20th, CIS-NYC's Social Services Program hosted a lunch for 21 of our families (31 adults and 21 children). The families enjoyed a delicious lunch and participated in group activities. Clients shared their immigration journeys, their proudest moments, and challenges in their lives. It was beautiful to see our community members connecting deeply, supporting one another, and



Photos above: CIS-NYC Social Services hosted a day for 21 families which included a festive lunch and activities for sharing stories.

enjoying each other's company. They were sharing their joy at the opportunity to connect for days afterwards in our group chats! Thank you to our wonderful Social Services staff for organizing this event: Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC, Yaniris Ortiz, Tiburcio Segoviano, Laylani Rosario and Ivonne Moreno-Rodriguez.

On April 23rd, CIS-NYC hosted a screening of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation's short film, "Our Larger Community: Embracing New York's New Immigrants," which features one of our community members (and former staff



From left: Javier Ramirez-Baron, Yaniris Ortiz, and Dalilah Negrete served on a panel discussing their respective roles at CIS-NYC.

member), Brenda. We were joined by staff, volunteers, partners, donors, and members of the local community who enjoyed some refreshments, viewed the film, and engaged in a panel discussion with some of our staff.

Thank you to Javier Ramirez-Baron, Dalilah Negrete, Yaniris Ortiz, and Amelia Scdoris for sharing about your work. And a big

thank you to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation staff for joining us to share about the film! You can view the film here: <https://film.cabrinihealth.org/>

CIS-NYC recently released our 2023 Annual Report, which outlines our work over the course of 2023 and features many beautiful client stories. You can view the report here: <https://cis-nyc.org/annual-report-2023>

~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, Dir. of Community Programs and Development, CIS-NYC



Evolving Nature of Synod Process, Theologians Say

~ by Christopher White for Vatican News

The Vatican - In 1960 — two years before the start of the Second Vatican Council — Pope John XXIII [established](#) 10 preparatory commissions to lay the foundation of what would become a landmark event opening up the church to the modern world.

Among the major outcomes of the 1962-1965 council was the establishment of the Synod of Bishops, meant to promote greater collegiality between bishops and the pope. And under the Francis papacy, the synod has [evolved](#) dramatically, including for the first time ever in 2023, the participation of lay people who have a right to vote on the assembly's final document.

"This new type of synod with lay people is clearly a novelty, an experiment," said Villanova University theologian Massimo Faggioli. Part of that experimentation has meant the synod process is evolving in real time, as some organizers have [noted](#).

Synod
2021
2024

Most recently, following last October's [first assembly](#) of the synod on synodality, Pope Francis decided to [establish](#) working groups to study some of the most controversial issues that have emerged in the synod so far — and declared that the groups will remain in effect beyond the synod's final assembly in October 2024.

"I'm not shocked that it's happening now," Faggioli told NCR, noting that prior to Vatican II working groups were established and adjusted once the council got underway.

According to Faggioli, the new working groups are "an important acknowledgement that a different kind of work is needed." But he, and other theologians, also caution that many open questions remain.

Among the issues that the [10 study groups](#) will address are how bishops are selected, seminary formation and the role of women in the church — some of the most discussed and divisive issues that [surfaced](#) at the synod on synodality in October 2023.

In announcing the groups, the head of the synod secretariat, Cardinal Mario Grech, [said](#) that the new structures would help to deepen theological reflection. They also would allow the respective Vatican dicasteries whose work is affected by certain topics to become more collaborative with one another, he said. Read more [here](#)

Reflecting Upon the Blessed Sacrament



Eucharistic Ministers from Upper Manhattan gathered at the St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine for an afternoon of music and reflection.

On Saturday, April 27 a large group of Eucharistic Ministers from the upper Manhattan parishes gathered at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine for an afternoon of music and reflections about the Blessed Sacrament. The Spanish-language event was coordinated by Fr. Felix Reyes of St. Jude's and Fr. Tom Faiola from Good Shepherd. Originally scheduled to take place in the retreat room, turnout was so high it was relocated to the chapel. The afternoon concluded with a Holy Hour and Benediction.

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

A Program Note about the St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine



St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine Executive Director, Julia Attaway, shares that a Catholic Faith Network feature on St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in Upper Manhattan is scheduled to air on **May 6th during their live show at 9am, and again at 7pm.**

Jackie Lucas, who is one of CFN's on-air hosts, came to do the interview.

It should be possible to watch online at <https://www.catholicfaithnetwork.org/>

“The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of their commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”

- DeAnn Hollis

Volunteers are Angels Among Us

Friday, April 26th was a special day at Cabrini of Westchester as we honored our dedicated volunteers with a blessing ceremony and luncheon. Pastoral Care Associate, Christina Tiesi bestowed a beautiful blessing upon all during the ceremony and afterward, a luncheon was served in Cabrini’s board room.



Sr. Isalia Carvalho, MSC (2nd l. middle row) joins the Cabrini of Westchester volunteers as they receive a special blessing in the chapel. The blessing was followed by a festive luncheon in their honor.

Cabrini's volunteers are people who donate their time, skills, and talents to support our programs and services. They lend a hand wherever help is needed, from transporting the residents to and from daily Mass, assisting in pastoral palliative care, working in the Gift Shop, helping with clerical administrative tasks and so much more!

While addressing the group at the blessing ceremony, Simone Smith, Vice President of Human Resources and Volunteers stated, “You come here freely to be part of the residents’ lives and make such an impact and difference in their world. This ceremony and luncheon are just a small token of our appreciation for all that you do.”

Bonnie Burke, Vice President of Operations and Administrator, also addressed the volunteers and said: “On behalf of the Administration, Board of Trustees, and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we would like to express our gratitude for and to our volunteers who put in hours of work, many which go unnoticed. Volunteers play an important role in the upkeep and running of St. Cabrini Nursing Home and I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all.”

~ submitted by Susan Herveg, Director of Development and Public Relations

Helping Hands Span the Generations



Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY, held an Intergenerational Giving Back Program at St. Cabrini Nursing Home. Thanks to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, we were able to donate

200 packets of toiletries to The Sharing Shelf in Port Chester, NY.

Several of our high school students went to St. Cabrini Nursing Home and worked alongside some of the residents. Two assembly lines were created and amidst lots of smiles and laughing, bags were filled with items such as socks, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc. Everyone enjoyed being together and sharing stories about



school, family, and different jobs that the residents had prior to coming to the nursing home.



As the saying goes, “many hands make light work” - at St. Cabrini Nursing Home residents and CIS students pitch in to assemble blessing bags for distribution.

Photos above and below: Intergenerational service projects benefit all those who participate. Cabrini Immigrant Services high school students collaborate with residents of St. Cabrini Nursing Home in preparing the toiletry packets.

In addition to the toiletry items, new and gently used books were also donated.

A special thank you to our residents, family members and staff for donating so many books. The Sharing Shelf staff was so grateful when they saw all the bags and boxes of donations.

~ submitted by: *Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS,*



From the Guadalupe Province Vocations Team...

The Spring 2024 edition of the HORIZON Journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference focuses on Latino cultural patterns. In this week's Update and in ensuing week's segments, we bring you an article that spotlights the Latino culture as it pertains to vocational call.

'Must Knows' of Latino Culture

Discerning a call to religious life is a delicate process because it involves a life-changing decision. Vocation ministers often accompany those in discernment, helping them better understand the religious community and themselves and to pray about their decision. On the one hand, the discerner listens to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in connection with the call. On the other hand, the minister guides and advises the person interpreting and understanding the will of God. This discernment conversation happens within the context of both the minister's and discerner's culture. Sometimes, candidates from diverse cultures discern together in the same household – which can enrich their process or make it more challenging.

Culture Shapes Expectations and More



Although many factors influence human behavior, culture plays a major role. Cultural anthropologists agree that a conclusive, definitive, and universal definition of culture remains elusive, so we offer here a working definition. By culture we refer to the learned habits, shared meanings, social realities, moral standards, and thought processes that an individual shares with people of the same heritage or background. A cultural identity is associated with particular expectations and behaviors.

If a discerner and vocation minister do not have a common cultural identity, as is often the case in the United States, conflicts may arise because of violations of certain cultural expectations. Therefore, it is important for both the vocation minister and the discerner to acquire skills for interacting with each other respectfully and with understanding. These competencies are intended more for self-awareness than for culturally diagnosing the other.

Here we hope to share ideas about how vocation ministers and community members can effectively accompany Hispanic Catholics who are discerning religious life. A note about language: while there are several terms for this group, we'll alternate Hispanic and Latino, since the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops uses the combine term Hispanic/Latino. **Next week: *Encountering Hispanics***

You're Invited!

On Saturday, May 25 the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will pause at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine before it winds its way down to Central Park and through Manhattan. The expected arrival time at the Shrine is 1:30pm with departure slated for 3:00pm.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

The 1,100 mile East Coast route begins in New Haven and will end in July in Indianapolis at the National Eucharistic Congress. Six lay people and a priest will walk the entire route. Individuals and parishes may join in for a day, an hour, or however long they wish.

Please join us as we welcome these faithful pilgrims who are bearing witness to Jesus' presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Note that our parking lot will be unavailable that day. If you plan to drive to the Shrine, we suggest using SpotHero.com to reserve a space at a nearby garage.

The Weekly Update

Is the email address where you receive The Update about to change? Please contact us with your new preferred e-mail, so you won't miss an issue.

The CABRINI film has introduced so many people to Mother Cabrini and the Missionary Sisters, why not invite family members and friends to join The Update mailing list? Sign-ups are quick and easy!

Please send your name(s) and email address(es) to:
Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org

Be up to date on all the news of the Missionary Sisters and more!

Prayer Requests

Mary Beth DeBlasio

Kindly keep Mary Beth in your prayers. She is a young woman who has entered hospice care. Please pray for her comfort and serenity.

Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC

Please keep Sr. Lucille in your prayers. She is experiencing some health challenges at this time. She continues to be so grateful for your prayerful accompaniment.

In Loving Memory

Marie Takes

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Marie Takes, the mother of Deb Takes, the former Board Chair and former Interim President of Cabrini College. Please keep the Takes Family in your prayers at this sad time.

