



May 30, 2024

'Powerhouse' Network of Sisters Launch 5-Year Plan to Combat Trafficking

~ by Christopher White, *Global Sisters Report*



At Talitha Kum's 2nd annual general assembly held May 18 – 24 in Italy, new priorities were presented that will guide the world of the network over the next five years. (Photo courtesy of Talitha Kum)

Talitha Kum, an international network of women religious against human trafficking. More than 150 delegates from 71 countries met May 18-24 outside Rome to discuss their collaboration under the theme "Journeying Together to End Human Trafficking: Compassion in Action for Transformation."

Daughter of St. Paul Sr. [Bernadette Reis](#), who served as moderator of the May 22 final plenary session, hailed Talitha Kum as a "powerhouse" in the global efforts to eradicate human trafficking.

"Women religious can be found wherever there's a vacuum in society," Reis said. "Wherever there's an infection in society, we are the antibiotics."

One of the world's leading groups combating human trafficking has outlined its priorities for the next five years, which will include a renewed push for systemic change to root out modern slavery, a commitment to a survivor-centered approach to accompanying trafficking victims, and an expansion of global partnerships.

The new priorities were outlined in a [final declaration](#) following the second general assembly of

Her words were met with applause, and she presented the final declaration, which will guide the work of the network over the next five years.

Among the commitments included in the declaration:

- Adopting effective strategies to reduce the demand for human trafficking, including through education for boys and men and advocacy for regular migration pathways.
- Advocating for the prosecution of traffickers and for effective policy and legal changes for at-risk populations, including migrants, refugees, and displaced persons.
- Addressing the push and pull factors of migration and displacement, advocating for the protection and integration of people on the move.
- Exposing the risks of online trafficking and social media by sensitizing young people and their families and promoting cyber safety.
- Promoting safe and secure spaces/shelters, survivor-to-survivor peer support and survivor-led initiatives
- Establishing spaces for non-judgmental listening, hotlines, and mobile app reporting.
- Linking survivors to education, health services, skill-building, housing, legal aid, and job opportunities.
- Offering psycho-social support and providing spiritual accompaniment for survivors, as well as psychological and legal support and training for [Talitha Kum] members and partners.
- Standing up for equality between women and men and respect for human rights.
- Confronting the impact of climate change and mitigating its underlying causes.



Talitha Kum participants heard presentations on the impact of climate change and conflict, personal testimonials of human trafficking survivors, and reports on the push and pull factors of migration on trafficking. (Talitha Kum photo)

During the weeklong meeting, participants heard presentations on the impact of climate change and conflict, personal testimonials of survivors of human trafficking, reports on the push-and-pull factors of migration, and a sharing of best practices among the anti-trafficking networks. To read the entire article, please click [here](#)

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus have a Corporate Stance on Human Trafficking, to learn more, please click [here](#)

Eucharistic Pilgrims for Christ

Walking for Jesus

On Saturday, May 25, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage arrived at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in Upper Manhattan. Five "perpetual pilgrims" will walk the entire 1,100-mile eastern route to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis this July, and they came to celebrate Mass as they initiated their Manhattan trek. The Shrine was one of only four stops in Manhattan.

Over 500 people turned out to attend the bilingual (Spanish/English) Mass. Enthusiastic worshipers filled the Shrine to the rafters



and down the hallways. Fr. Roger Landry, the celebrant, gave a passionate homily about Mother Cabrini's devotion to the Eucharist.



A large, diverse group of pilgrims milled about on the beautiful grounds of the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine in Upper Manhattan on their stop for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

Eight Missionary Sisters were on hand to welcome visitors: Sr. Yolanda Flores, Sr. Antonina Avitabile, Sr. Pat Dunleavy, Sr. Renee Kittleson, Sr. Genet Henok, Sr. Albertina, Sr. Bernadette

Anello, and Sr. Alfonsina Gomes provided warm greetings for all who attended. Following Mass, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and then brought in procession through the streets of Manhattan. The group left the Shrine and proceeded down Fort

Washington Avenue, singing with passion and devotion in both Spanish and English. Their goal: Central Park, for Benediction.



Departing the Shrine, the pilgrims turn onto Fort Washington Avenue headed for Central Park.

Please pray for the faithful pilgrims who are committed to public witness to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The Shrine donated the collection from the Mass to support the expenses they

face as they sacrifice three months and many blisters as witnesses to Jesus.

Even if a picture says a thousand words, sometimes words tell a richer story. Thus, I offer the following vignettes of the impact Saturday's National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Mass and procession.

Note: When the procession left the Shrine, its destination was the bandshell in Central Park, 7.7 miles away.

On Sunday, Vasilisa, a 70+ year old woman from the Dominican Republic who comes to daily Mass and Adoration came up and gave me a huge hug. "Oh, that was so beautiful!" she exclaimed in broken English, "Thank you! Thank you! I walked all the way to Central Park!"

"What?" I gasped.

"Oh yes! My legs hurt and hurt so much, and I kept saying, 'Jesus, I am doing this for you!' And I did it!" She practically glowed.

Irma and Margarita, both Mexican, came to set up for the Spanish Mass. "Are you okay?" I asked, concerned, as Margarita hobbled into the sacristy. She could barely walk

"Yes, but the bottoms of my feet are covered in blisters," she explained, "We walked the whole way yesterday."

Irma chimed in, "It was *wonderful!* That was the best thing we've ever done here! We sang to Jesus the whole way! The whole world knew! We should do this more often!"

Margarita nodded, and, smiling, continued to prepare for Mass.



Maria, a Filipina, knocked on my office door Tuesday morning.

"I was here Saturday," she said, shyly, "I'd never been here before. That was a bit of heaven on earth!"

She'd brought some pamphlets of a newly-approved Litany to the

Blessed Sacrament that she bought and wanted to offer the Shrine for free. Because the Shrine can become easily overwhelmed with outside literature, it's a daily task to quietly remove what people leave behind. Thus, I'm generally averse to accepting donations of this sort. But the pamphlets were beautiful, the prayer fitting, and the intention splendid. So, I accepted the gift gladly. It seemed a suitable thank offering for a spectacular day that honored Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

And by the end of the day the first stack of 25 was half gone.

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

FOUNDATIONS of CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP

Spring 2024

Recently, five Cabrini Nursing Home Leadership staff successfully completed an eight-week formation course facilitated by the Catholic Health Association. The course was titled:

“Foundations of Catholic Health Care Leadership.”

The course was open to leaders in health care facilities throughout the United States. Cabrini Nursing Home has been participating in these courses over many years. We were delighted to have five Department Head Leaders participate in this year’s formation course from different areas of our Cabrini facility as follows:

- Kristen McCauley; Director of Therapeutic Recreation
- Mark Pohar; Director of Nursing
- Enrique Vargas; Director of Food Services
- Dr. Soodabeh Zolfaghari; Medical Director
- Cassidy Barnes; Director of Information Technology



We love caring for people.



The St. Cabrini Nursing Home Department Leaders attending the formation course were from left: Dr. Soodabeh Zolfaghari; Enrique Vargas; Mark Pohar; Cassidy Barnes and Kristen McCauley.

Topics covered included:

- Leadership in Catholic Health Care
- Spirituality and Reflection
- Catholic Social Tradition
- Community Benefit; Catholic Social Tradition in Action
- Global Health
- Ethics and the Catholic Moral Tradition
- Culture and Identity
- Models of the Church
- Integration, Discernment and Human Flourishing

Our participants listened attentively and participated enthusiastically during each of these sessions. The subject matter was engaging, relevant and allowed each participant, no matter their background, experience or faith tradition the opportunity to learn and contribute in meaningful ways. Each session incorporated important opportunities for small group discussions. Cabrini leaders participated in our own small group, facilitated by Fr. Ron Galt from Mission Integration and Pastoral Care. These conversations proved to be very rich and meaningful. It was the hope and intention at the start of the course, to make clear to our participants that they would share their learnings and engagement with their teams and staff in their respective



departments and areas of responsibility. The following contributions are from two of our leaders detailing just a few highlights of the learning:

“Understanding the essence of the human spirit is extremely important in the healthcare environment. Failing to acknowledge the unique needs of everyone may inadvertently harm their spirit. It is vital for healthcare workers to recognize and

respect the diverse requirements of each person, as these needs play a significant role in shaping their spirit. The spirit, intrinsic to one’s identity, serves as a compass for happiness and well-being.” ~ *Kristen McCauley, Director of Therapeutic Recreation*

“This training matured me professionally and personally on so many levels. It allowed me to look around my everyday surroundings and ask myself; ‘How can I improve my everyday responsibilities and leadership of my staff?’ That motivated me and sparked

a flame within me to motivate my staff as well. So, I decided to do a social experiment with my staff to see how I could motivate them. I told them about this course and mentioned a quote I saw that was meaningful to me; “Take a step to change a life.” I asked them what they can do today to change a life at Cabrini. I gave them a task to come back and share how at the end of their shift, what they had done to change a life. To my surprise, they all came back with beautiful examples, from helping a resident to the elevator, to making sure that a resident was happy with their meal. Every day since, I have had staff coming to me to share their stories and to share with department colleagues to make sure our efforts are team centered in our seeking to change the life of a resident, visitor, volunteer or family member for the better.”

~ *Enrique Vargas; Director of Food Services*



It has been a joy to watch and encourage our department leaders to approach this learning opportunity with an open heart and a Mission and Values centered spirit. We look forward to more of our Cabrini leaders participating in the years to come.

~ *submitted by Fr. Ron Galt, Vice President of Mission and Pastoral Care, Cabrini of Westchester*

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Friday, June 7, 2024

As we approach the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we invite you join us in praying the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

To access the Novena, please click [here](#)



Cheers! To One Hundred Years!

On Friday, May 24th, Cabrini of Westchester held a festive celebration honoring its centenarians, 5 special women who are celebrating milestone birthdays this year. The esteemed honorees are: Anna Ciccone, 102; Sister Rose Golden, 100; Sister Margaret Hernandez, MSC, 100; Theresa Izzo, 100; and Helen Nathanson, 102.



What is their secret to a long life well-lived? From left: Helen Nathanson, Sr. Rose Golden, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Anna Ciccone, Theresa Izzo, Sr. Margaret Hernandez, and Cabrini of Westchester Trustee, Symra Brandon enjoy their very special 100th birthday celebration.

Bonita Burke, Vice President of Operations and Administrator addressed the gathering of residents, staff members, family and friends: “On behalf of the Administration, Board of Trustees and Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we offer congratulations and well wishes to each of our centenarians as we celebrate a century of your utmost grace, strength and kindness. You’ve witnessed a lifetime of history, yet your spirit remains timeless. We celebrate your remarkable journey, honor your wisdom and anticipate more chapters in your extraordinary story.”



A blessing was offered by Pastoral Care Associate, Christina Tiesi, followed by a presentation from special guest, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Senator Stewart-Cousins bestowed framed resolutions to each centenarian and said, “I am so happy to be here to say happy birthday to you all! I am proud to recognize

each of you for having lived over 100 wonderful years and for allowing women like me to stand on your shoulders. We wish you God speed, continued good health and thank you for inspiring us with your strength, your stories and your wisdom.”

~ submitted by Susan Herceg, Director of PR and Development, Cabrini of Westchester



Cabrini Immigrant Services – NYC



To register: <https://cis-nyc.org/celebrate-25>

Please note: The deadline for sponsorships is **tomorrow, May 31st**!

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

~ by Father Juan J. Molina and Deacon John Chitakure

Eye Contact

People from different cultures are socialized differently regarding eye contact during conversations. The U.S. dominant culture, which the vocation minister and aspirants may consider their own, expects that a respectful eye contact should always be



maintained because it is part of nonverbal communication. Eye contact is believed to convey emotional cues. Although some Latinos encourage and appreciate direct eye contact, others may avoid it to prevent being perceived as intimidating or disrespectful. A vocation minister should not expect some Latinos to maintain eye contact as others would do. Vocation ministers who belong

to the U.S. dominant culture can be tempted to interpret the avoidance of eye contact negatively, which may lead to erroneous interpretations. Instead of interpreting the avoidance as rude or hostile, the vocation minister might seek to understand the cultural reason for its avoidance.

Concept of Time

The cultural iceberg theory is at play when it comes to attitudes toward time. Vocation ministers and discerners may have to dig a little to understand one another in this regard. For instance, Hispanics tend to adhere to a Kairos sense of time, which is measured by the task to be accomplished. Kairos is God's time, where people's activities govern the time to be spent on those activities instead of being controlled by the clock. Some discerners are likely to function in Kairos time, where others are likely to function in chronos (quantitative) time because of being raised in the U.S. dominant culture. Sometimes Kairos people arrive late to



meetings, parties, gatherings or even Mass – and they may not feel bad about it. A party can start late and go on forever. Their pace of life is relaxed because they feel that they own their time and can do whatever they want with it.



Kairos timekeepers are different from chronos timekeepers who generally see time as money, which should not be wasted. Meetings, parties, and church services start and end as scheduled, and participants are expected to arrive on time. Hence, serious conflict over timekeeping can arise. A vocation minister might feel disrespected when certain discerners are late for in-person or virtual appointments, while Kairos people may feel rushed by a schedule. That said, it should be noted that chronos time has been exported to other cultures, and many people have accepted it as the

appropriate standard for business. Meanwhile, Kairos time is a temptation for people of all cultures. Consequently, vocation ministers may need to gently remind discerners, regardless of their cultural identity, of the need to observe time as understood by the religious community.

Next week: Communal Approach and Adaptation to Cultural Change

Prayer Requests

Christina Ann LaBianco

Please unite in prayer for Christina Ann, who is critically ill. She is the mother of Christopher LaBianco, Executive Director of the Cabrini Mission Foundation. Your prayers would be appreciated.

Missionary Sisters Benedict O'Donnell, MSC and Ilaria Povero, MSC

Your prayers and mindfulness of Sr. Benedict and Sr. Ilaria would be welcome.

With a Grateful Heart

Thanksgiving for medical tests

A member of the Cabrinian community sends thanks to the Cabrinian community for your prayers for the favorable outcome of medical tests.

June is the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

