



July 3, 2024

## Effort to Shut Down Catholic Ministry to Migrants Violates Texas' Religious Freedom Act

~ by Kate Scanlon, OSV News, National Catholic Reporter

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, a state judge denied Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's effort to shut down Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, a Catholic non-profit serving migrants. The ruling by Judge Francisco X. Dominguez of the District Court of El Paso County found that Paxton's office "failed to establish probable grounds for the proceedings" and that the effort violated the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act.



Ruben Garcia, the founder of Annunciation House, offers a prayer of gratitude upon hearing the ruling of the El Paso District Court. Photo credit: OSV News

"The record before this Court makes clear that the Texas Attorney General's use of the request to examine documents from Annunciation House was a pretext to justify its harassment of Annunciation House employees and the persons seeking refuge," Dominguez ruled in granting Annunciation House's application for relief.

"This Court previously expressed its concern that the Attorney General did not identify what laws he believed were being violated from the outset," the ruling said.

"There is no legal basis for closing a nonprofit that provides social services to refugees, period," said Jerome Wesevich, a lawyer for Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, which represents Annunciation House. He said the ministry "has always believed that the attorney general's harassment of Annunciation House is morally and legally improper."

“This is a day of gratitude for El Paso, the work of Annunciation House and the resilience of our community’s hospitality workers. This is also an important moment for religious freedom and a recognition of the important role that faith communities play in helping our nation lead with compassion and humanity in meeting the challenges of migration at the border,” said Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso. Attorney General Paxton is expected to appeal the ruling.

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

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## *In Case You May Have Missed This...*

### PBS Documentaries on American Women Saints

Jerome Bongiorno and Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno make no bones about it: their Catholic faith is very much a part of their mission as filmmakers.

The married couple's latest project is a pair of documentaries titled "American Women Saints" that focus on Elizabeth Ann Seton and Frances Xavier Cabrini. **Broadcast initially on PBS in March, the two films are [now streaming on the PBS website](#) through Aug. 31.**

In the documentaries, the two saints talk from "beyond the grave" via Tibaldo-Bongiorno's first-person narration. It's an unexpected technique for the format, but in these films, viewers hear the saints speak in a colloquial, modern tone — with a decidedly New Jersey accent.



For graphics, the Seton documentary relies on paintings, illustrations and Bongiorno's impressionistic animation for visuals. The Cabrini film has a wealth of archival photographs and some film clips.

"We wanted them treated as historic figures, iconic women who trailblazed," said Tibaldo-Bongiorno. Seton is the first American-born Catholic to become a saint. She founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph and her life story is set against the backdrop of the birth of U.S. Catholicism in the late 1700s.

Cabrini was born and grew up in Italy in the 1850s. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Her documentary includes a history of early-20th-century Italian emigration to the United States. ~ *NCR website* Learn more [here](#)

On July 15th, we will celebrate  
Mother Cabrini's  
174<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Almighty and Eternal Father, Giver of all Gifts  
show us Thy mercy, and grant, we beseech Thee,  
through the merits of Thy faithful Servant, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini,  
that all who invoke her intercession  
may obtain what they desire  
according to the good pleasure of Thy Holy Will.  
(here name your request)  
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini,  
beloved spouse of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
intercede for us  
that the favor we now ask may be granted.

# Camp Cabrini:

## A Summer Experience for Young Girls



Camp Cabrini is an engaging summer program designed for young girls entering the 1st through 7th grades. Hosted by Cabrini High School, the camp offers a dynamic blend of educational and recreational activities in a relaxed and fun setting.

Each week at Camp Cabrini is packed with a variety of sessions that cater to diverse interests:

- Arts and Crafts: Campers unleash their creativity with various art projects.
- Dance and Cheer: Participants learn new dance routines and cheerleading techniques.
- Movies and Theater: Girls explore the world of cinema and drama through screenings and performances.
- Cooking: Campers get hands-on experience in the kitchen, learning to prepare delicious dishes.
- Sewing: Basic sewing skills are taught, fostering both creativity and practicality.
- STEM Activities: Engaging sessions in science, technology, engineering, and

math ignite curiosity and problem-solving skills.



Sharing the story of Mother Cabrini's life with love and animation is CHS Assistant Principal Vivian Coutin (c.) exhorting campers to join in.

An integral part of the camp experience includes learning about the inspirational life of Mother Cabrini. Campers visit the Sacred Heart chapel where Assistant Principal Vivian “Chica” Coutin shares the story of Mother Cabrini’s life and her global impact.

Many campers, having watched the Cabrini movie, enthusiastically share their knowledge with the other campers, making the learning experience interactive and





# In Loving Memory



Family members and friends of those who have recently passed gathered at Cabrini Health to remember and honor their loved ones.

On the evening of Tuesday June 25, the Chapel at Cabrini Hospital Malvern was overflowing for a Memorial Service honouring the memory of those who have died over the past few months either as an inpatient or cared for at home.

Three times per year Cabrini's Pastoral and Bereavement Support Team welcomes family members young and old to a service of poetry, reflection, music, reading and prayer.

Without doubt the emotional highlight of this service was when the name of each person being honoured was read by Cabrini Brighton's Cynthia White with family coming forward to light a candle in memory placing it near their loved one's photograph. It was a pure expression of the impact and effectiveness of Cabrini's mission to care and serve with love.

Without doubt the emotional highlight of this service was when the name of each person being

Group Director of Identity & Mission, Margaret Stewart, commented that it was *'...an exquisite experience of what it means to be Cabrini. I was humbled and proud to be part of a memorial liturgy of such grace, dignity, and deep compassion.'* ~ submitted by Margaret Stewart, Cabrini Health, Australia



Lighting candles to be placed by the photograph of those who have recently gone before us, is a beautiful way to pay tribute to those we hold dear.

# Mass of Thanksgiving Honors Cabrini High School Volunteers

On May 22, 2024, a Mass of Thanksgiving was held in the historic Sacred Heart Chapel, honoring the dedicated volunteers of Cabrini High School. This special event recognized the unwavering commitment of individuals who contribute to the school's mission of educating the minds and hearts of young women in the Catholic Cabrinian tradition.

After the Mass, representatives from each volunteer group summarized their contributions in terms of hours worked and funds generated for the school. The groups honored included:



Cabrini High School Alumnae Association members.

- **Alumnae Association:** Former students who continue to support the school through various initiatives including annual scholarships to legacy students.

- **Parents' Association:** Current parents involved in school activities and fundraising efforts.
- **Dads' Club:** Fathers of current and graduated students who actively participate in events and projects benefiting the school community, including Jazz Fest parking, which is the largest fundraiser for the school each year.



The Dads' Club is very active at CHS, staging many events, among them, Jazz Fest parking, the largest annual school fundraiser.



- **The Elenian Club:** A group dedicated to preserving the Italian heritage in New Orleans by facilitating the annual St. Joseph's Altar. The group also funded the needed repairs to the Sacred Heart chapel roof.



Honored for their philanthropy and for preserving traditions, the Elenian Club was welcomed to CHS.

Each group presented a summary of their contributions, showcasing their hard work and dedication. These presentations highlighted the significant impact of volunteer efforts on the school's programs and facilities.

Following the check presentations, attendees gathered for a light reception in the Mother Cabrini prayer garden. This gathering provided an opportunity for volunteers, administration, and guests to celebrate the achievements and enjoy fellowship in a beautiful setting.

The Mass of Thanksgiving and subsequent reception underscored the importance of community and volunteerism in sustaining Cabrini High School's mission and traditions. To view the photos from the event, click [HERE](#).

### **Changes for the Guadalupe Province Offices in Pennsylvania**

**Please make a note.**

**Due to the closure of Cabrini University, the mailing address has changed for the:  
Province Communications Office/Province Formation Office/Province Vocations Office**

**The new mailing address is:**

**1260 Upper Gulph Road  
Wayne, PA 19087**

**The phone numbers are changing as well:**

**Karol Brewer: 484-581-7161  
Nancy Costello: 484-581-7163**

**As of the end of July, Nancy's new email address will be:**

**[ncostello@mothercabrini.org](mailto:ncostello@mothercabrini.org)**



## **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 we bring you the final segments of the 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*

#### **Formality and Informality**



Hispanics tend to be formal in how they address elders and those in authority, and any informality may be interpreted as disrespectful. This shows up in Spanish, with the word “you” having a formal form (Usted) and informal (tú). On the contrary, Americans are very informal, and most call each other by their first names. Vocation ministers probably should not insist on being called by their first name because this can be very uncomfortable for some Latino discerners. Those from more formal cultures will probably prefer to use a first name paired with Sister, Brother, Friar, or Father.

#### **Personal Space**

In general, Latinos tend to be friendly and affectionate and are comfortable with expressing feelings of warmth and acceptance through hugs or even kisses on the cheek, regardless of the person’s social position. Some may give hugs and touch or pat people on their shoulders to comfort them. To do this, they may move close to the other person and violate their personal space. This hugging and patting should not be misunderstood as a sign of informality because the expectation to use Usted and tú remains.

The U.S. dominant culture is different because it expects personal space to be maintained, particularly with strangers and those in power. Any violation of this expectation can be misinterpreted. Some discerners are likely to avoid giving hugs to people who are not close friends or family members. A vocation minister may perceive candidates who offer hugs as too comfortable and disrespectful—even “too friendly” and in violation



Dreamstime.com

of personal space boundaries. Meanwhile, a Latino discernor may think that the vocation minister is aloof and unfriendly. It must be noted that the Hispanic acceptance for these gestures in no way gives permission to touch someone inappropriately.

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[In conclusion,] given the tremendous cultural diversity among those attracted to religious life, it is good for vocation ministers to acquire intercultural understanding and skills. Vocation ministers might want to commit to learning about their own and other cultures in an intentional, systematic way. Also, the assessment tools for



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candidates should reflect the cultural diversity of the larger church community. Lastly, the cultural values of all religious community members—as seen in food, liturgy, language, thought patterns, logic, and more—should be respected. At the same time, each religious congregation has its own culture, and candidates need to learn it. This learning does not require them to completely discard their own culture, but rather to retain that which is helpful to

the community and integrate it with the community’s own values and expressions. Intercultural living, as the late Father Anthony Gittins, C.S.Sp. said, “demands graciousness, diplomacy, compromise, mutual respect, serious dialogue, and the development of a common and sustaining vision.” The result will be a hybrid culture that honors all. This concludes the article on Latino Culture.

**Cabrini Mission Foundation**  
**Save the Date!**  
**August 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**6:30 pm**

# Prayer Requests

## *Special Intention*

A member of the Cabrinian Community has requested our prayers for a special intention.

## *Sr. Patricia Spillane, MSC*

Kindly remember Sr. Patricia in your prayers. She is experiencing some medical issues at this time. Your prayerful accompaniment would be appreciated.

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## A Prayer for Independence Day – July 4th

God, source of all freedom,  
this day is bright with the memory of those  
who declared life and liberty are your gift to every human being.

Help us to continue a good work begun long ago.

Make our vision clear and our will strong:  
that only in human solidarity will we find liberty,  
and justice only in the honor that belongs to every  
life on earth.

Turn our hearts toward the family of nations:  
to understand the ways of others, to offer friendship,  
and to find safety only in the common good of all.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen. – from *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

