



February 6, 2025

The following article details the response of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) to recent unfolding national and world events.

LCWR Responds with 'Grave Concern' to Shifting Government Policies

~ by Dan Stockman, Global Sisters Report

As we witness a global and national shift in values and priorities that go against Catholic teachings, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) said, sisters must be fearless in embracing and embodying the Gospel.

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Guadalupe Province, members of LCWR, support the following LCWR Response highlighted and linked below.



A [statement](#) released Jan. 28 by the [LCWR](#), a canonically recognized and nonpartisan organization, which represents about two-thirds of the nearly 36,000 Catholic sisters in the United States, said sisters have watched the changes "with grave concern," as they are "negatively impacting the health of the planet and the lives of millions of its most vulnerable inhabitants."

The statement addresses "policies enacted by many governments, including our own in the United States, as well as choices being made by citizens," that "point to a rapid dismantling of values that we consider bedrock for the future of the global community."

After a time of reflection and discernment the LCWR published their response and invitation to all consecrated women and men to "live our vocational call as women religious with a depth that may have never been required of us previously.

"The statement said what is happening goes against the principles sisters have nurtured and protected for centuries, including:

- The inherent right to life and dignity of all human beings;
- The Gospel demands of love, welcome and care for all, especially the most vulnerable;
- The duty to welcome immigrants and provide care and aid to all;
- Standing against violence in all its forms;
- Dismantling systemic racism;
- Care for planet Earth;
- "Respect for the journey of all persons into the wholeness of their humanness";
- Alleviating poverty in all forms.



"Staying steadfast to these principles in the face of powerful forces working towards contrary purposes may be one of the hardest challenges we will encounter — collectively and individually," it said. "The efforts to be the face of compassion and hope amid actions that create chaos and fear will not be easy. This is a time when we will need one another, and a time when we can lend our voices and our support to many of the organizations and people of faith who are laboring to bear witness to the dignity of each person." To read the entire account, please click [here](#)

Setting the Record Straight

~ *A Message from Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago*

I want to respond to the criticism some political leaders have leveled against the Catholic Church, charging that we are misusing federal funding for refugee settlement and that such ministries prove that the church is more concerned with its “bottom line” rather than the humanitarian service mandated by the Gospel.



Cardinal Blase J. Cupich

I share the disappointment of Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, who called these attacks both baseless and “scurrilous.”

Here are the facts. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) receives federal grants to assist in refugee resettlement. This partnership between church and government has been in place since Congress enacted the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in 1980. The U.S. government invited us then to partner with them in this work and, over this half-century, we have done so effectively and efficiently.

Annual audited statements show that these funds are exclusively used to resettle and serve migrants and refugees. Special attention is given to the vulnerable, particularly minors and those at risk of human trafficking.

When a Catholic agency accepts such a grant, it agrees to carry out services on behalf of the government. The claim that the church is engaged in charitable work to accrue revenue, as has been suggested...is simply false.

We take up this work, serving people of any race, creed or color because it is the Gospel.

The truth matters, and that is why I feel it is important to set the record straight.

To read the complete statement of Cardinal Cupich, please click [here](#)

The Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita – February 8th

Historians believe that sometime in February 1877, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. Although she was just a child, she was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles to a slave market in El Obeid. She was bought and sold at least twice during the grueling journey. For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She spent so much time in captivity that she forgot her original name.

One of her owners was a Turkish general who gave her to his wife and mother-in-law who both beat her daily. In 1883, the Turkish general sold her to the Italian Vice Consul, Callisto Legani. When it was time for him to return to Italy, she begged to be taken with him, and he agreed.

After arriving in Italy, she was given away to another family as a gift and she served them as a nanny. Her new family also had dealings in Sudan and when her mistress decided to travel to Sudan without Josephine, she placed her in the custody of the Canossian Sisters in Venice.

While she was in the custody of the sisters, she learned about God. She had always known about God, but she did not know who He was. The sisters answered her questions. She was deeply moved by her time with the sisters and discerned a call to follow Christ.

When her mistress returned from Sudan, Josephine refused to leave the sisters. Her mistress spent three days trying to persuade her to leave, but Josephine remained steadfast. The case went to court, and the court found that slavery had been outlawed in Sudan before Josephine was born, so she could not lawfully be made a slave. She was declared free. For the first time in her life, Josephine could choose what to do with her life. She chose to remain with the Canossian Sisters.

On the evening of February 8, 1947, Josephine spoke her last words, "Our Lady, Our Lady!" She then died. Her body lay in repose for three days afterwards.



In 1958, the process of canonization began for Josephine under Pope John XXIII. On December 1st, 1978, Pope John Paul II declared her venerable. Sadly, the news of her beatification in 1992 was censored in Sudan. But just nine months later, Pope

John Paul II visited Sudan and honored her publicly. He canonized her on October 1, 2000.

~submitted by Karol Brewer, Formation Office

To read the full account of St. Josephine Bakhita's life, please click [here](#)

The horrors of slavery are not simply an unfortunate reality of the past. Today, millions around the world are enslaved, victims of human trafficking or trapped in cycles of abuse, addiction and neglect. These modern-day slaves — most often children and women — are used and exploited for the benefit and gain of others, and some spend their entire lives never knowing the basic human freedoms that we so often take for granted.

A Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering.

Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found proper redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

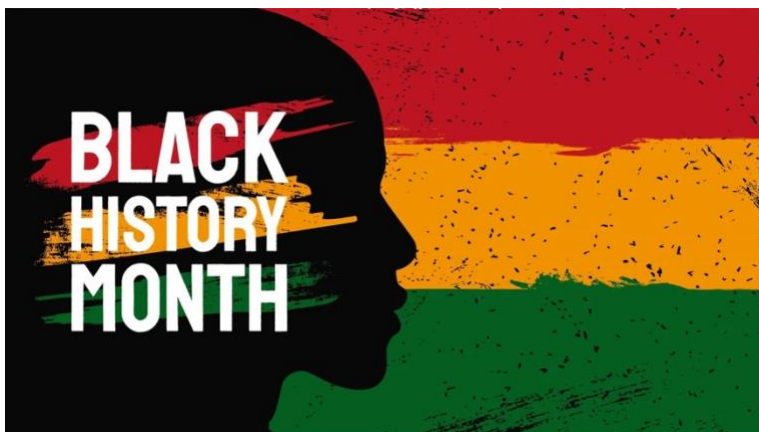
Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.

Amen.



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February is Black History Month



Black History Month is now here, bringing observances and celebrations.

The National Catholic Reporter has compiled a list of events for the month throughout the United States in the coming days and weeks.

To access the list please click [here](#)

“Using our Voices: Reflections on the NYC We Fight Back Rally”



I attended the *We Fight Back Rally* at Washington Square Park, NYC, on January 20, 2025. This was a symbolic day, being Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the presidential inauguration of Donald Trump. Hundreds of people of all ages gathered to advocate for the rights of immigrants, women, and workers, as well as to fight against genocides and global warming.

The crowd was in high spirits, showing enthusiasm and determination. Participants looked out for one another by handing out hand warmers, water bottles, resources and pamphlets, which provided a sense of community and care. Organizations from across NYC took part in the rally, including the New York State Youth Leadership Committee, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and the Hunter College Immigrant Committee, among many others.



Community leaders such as Claudia De La Cruz, Jorge Torres, and former presidential candidate Jill Stein attended and delivered impactful speeches, emphasizing the importance of uniting to advocate for oppressed groups. Plans for more rallies and peaceful protests were also shared to show continued support and action for these causes.

The march continued peacefully from Washington Square Park to 34th Street, with chants expressing unity and strength [reverberating] throughout the streets. Being a part of the rally and using my voice to stand up for what I believe in felt empowering and deeply fulfilling. I will continue to do my part in advocating and using my voice for those who can't. This rally was one of many held across the country on this significant day that showed communities coming together to fight for justice and equality.

~ submitted by Rocio Soria Morales, Intern at Cabrini Immigrant Services, and Member of Cabrini Immigration Commission



Cabrini Immigration Commission

GUADALUPE PROVINCE

Living Faith and Sisterhood through the Cabrini Spirit



The Cabrini High School Class of 2025 at their Senior Retreat



Senior “Doves” display their painted jeans during the Senior Retreat.

At Cabrini High School, we are continually inspired by the faith, unity, and joy that define our community. This past week, our Class of 2025 experienced an unforgettable senior retreat, a time to deepen their faith and strengthen their bond as a class. From heartfelt small-group discussions led by the Retreat Team to moments of laughter while signing shirts and showing off painted jeans—ideas they dreamed up themselves—the spirit of sisterhood was truly alive.

The retreat featured a beautiful Mass and Adoration, where the overwhelming number of confessions reflected our students’ openness to God’s grace. (Mass was even delayed because of the turnout!) Their final morning began with Bible study, and it was gratifying to witness as our Cabrinian women invested in God’s word. Their love for Christ and for one another was palpable throughout the entire event.

Reflecting on Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Week, which commence at the end of last week, we were reminded of the blessings of the Cabrinian education that unites us as a community. During the week students were invited to private prayer in our historic Sacred Heart Chapel where Mother Cabrini herself prayed and planned her missions.



CHS students at Catholic Schools Week Mass with Interim President Deacon Uriel Durr on the steps of the historic St. Louis Cathedral.



One artful corner of the Cabrini High School display at the archdiocesan art show in the Lakeside Shopping Center.

We honored our “Students of the Year”, Gabriella Goodick ’29 and Alaina Coleman ’25, for their outstanding character and achievements; our talented Cabrini artists displayed their work in the archdiocesan art show at Lakeside Shopping Center; and we delivered gifts to the myriad alumnae who have dedicated their lives to Catholic education throughout the greater New Orleans area. The week concluded with a glorious Mass at St. Louis Cathedral where the girls were inspired to live as Good Samaritans,

to serve others, and to embrace the mission of Catholic education.

~ submitted by Anne Argus DiPaola, '96, Communications Director, Cabrini HS

Prayer Requests

Nancy Golen

Please continue your prayers for Nancy Golen, who has been readmitted to the hospital. Nancy would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

Prayers for our immigrant brothers and sisters

We continue to pray for all those who are frightened and unsure during these uncertain times.

Dr. M. L. Corbin Sicoli

The prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community are requested by Dr. Candi Sicoli, Professor Emerita, at Cabrini College/University. Dr. Sicoli is experiencing some health issues at this time and would welcome our prayers.

Special Intention

Please pray for someone who has requested our prayers for guidance as she makes a major decision regarding employment and a resultant relocation.

In Loving Memory

Howard Lambert

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Howard Lambert, the husband of former Cabrini University staff member, Rita Lambert. May he rest in peace. Please pray for Rita and her family at this sad time.

Erlindo Liboro

Eternal rest grant unto Erlindo, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May his Soul and the Souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Repose of the Soul

Erlindo Liboro,

Brother of Sr. Amada Liboro, who went home to God today in Colorado. We ask prayers for Sr. Amada and her family during this time of their loss.

