



Future of Anti-Human Trafficking Bills sought by Catholics Unclear amid Wider Immigration Debate

~ by Kate Scanlon, OSV News for Global Sisters Report

A trio of bills to combat human trafficking sought by Catholic advocates faces an uncertain future in Congress amid a wider debate over immigration policy.

At a June 6 briefing at the Capitol, representatives from the Alliance to End Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd pointed to three bills they said would aid efforts to combat the practice: HR 5856, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection

Reauthorization Act of 2023; HR 1325, the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act of 2023; and HR 6145, Immigration Court Efficiency and Children's Court Act of 2023.

Sister Brigid Lawlor, founder of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, or NAC, and a sister of that community, said the issues of human trafficking and forced migration are closely linked.



A group including students from Sacred Heart Academy and Presentation Academy in Louisville, Ky., attend a prayer service for victims of human trafficking in downtown Louisville. At a June 6, 2024, briefing at the Capitol, representatives from the Alliance to End Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd urged passage of three measures they said would aid efforts to combat the practice. (Photo: OSV News/CNS file, Ruby Thomas, The Record)

"We have seen firsthand how traffickers prey on those forced to flee their homes by circumstances beyond their control," she said in remarks at the briefing. "We all know

what they are, could be floods, famine or gang violence, domestic violence, poverty, persecution and political corruption."

Ending human trafficking, she said, "is a bipartisan issue with bipartisan solutions," pointing to both Republican and Democratic staffers in attendance. "We need legislative action to address these particular trafficking vulnerabilities."

The House in February approved the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act with a broad, bipartisan majority. The bill was sent to the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, which has not yet moved to advance it. That legislation also is supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act and its Senate companion, S 255, would shorten the waiting period for asylees to be granted work permits, allowing them to seek employment and reducing their vulnerability to traffickers, supporters said. The USCCB also supports that legislation. The House and Senate versions of that

legislation have yet to be taken up by their relevant committees.



The bipartisan Immigration Court Efficiency and Children's Court Act, which supporters say would reduce the immigration court backlog and strengthen due process rights for children in that process, also has yet to be taken up by the House Judiciary Committee.

But key provisions of that legislation were among the Biden administration's December 2023 executive action on immigration, establishing separate dockets focused on the adjudication of unaccompanied children's removal proceedings. Rep. Dan Goldman, D-N.Y., praised that move in a December statement as "welcome progress" but argued "we must build on this effort from the Executive Branch by passing my bipartisan Children's Court Act to codify the creation of a separate Children's Court into law."

Congressional staffers in the House and Senate who spoke with OSV News about the bills' prospects were unable to provide information about a timeline for advancing them, with one suggesting that any legislation dealing with immigration is getting caught up in wider debates over the border, even if the items have nothing to do with the border. To read the entire account, please click [here](#)

Did You Know?

MSC CORPORATE STANCES



JUST POLICIES for IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES and ASYLUM SEEKERS

"It is necessary to respond to the globalization of migration with the globalization of charity and cooperation, in such a way as to make the conditions for migrants more humane."
- Pope Francis



**SAINT FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI
PATRONESS OF IMMIGRANTS**



Frances Cabrini's life was centered on the heart of Jesus. In and through her personal relationship with Jesus, she felt sent as a missionary to the world. With complete dedication to Christ and to the people, Cabrini's desire to spread the love of God and neighbor evoked a zealous and passionate missionary style, which was courageous yet strategic in its risk-taking, confident in facing difficulties, swift in its pace, and intense in its focus.

At the time of her death in 1917, Frances Cabrini and her sisters had founded 67 institutions in nine countries, on three continents.

Frances Cabrini was the first American citizen saint, canonized in 1946. In 1950, she was declared the Patroness of Immigrants by Pope Pius XII.

Today, in centers throughout the world, MSC missionary endeavors strive to keep pace with the rigorous demands of change in responding to the cry of the poor and those trapped in new categories of poverty, while maintaining a continuity of spirit that is personal and life-giving in its approach.

"The world is too small to limit ourselves to one point; I want to embrace it entirely and to reach all its parts."
- Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

**MISSIONARY SISTERS
of the SACRED HEART of JESUS**
Bringing Christ's love to the world

MSC CORPORATE STANCES



Just Policies for Immigrants,

The Missionary Sisters have Corporate Stances on Anti-Human Trafficking and Immigration. To learn more, please click [here](#) and [here](#) for Anti Human Trafficking information and [here](#) for Immigrant Advocacy. To access the MSC Corporate Stances brochures in a downloadable PDF, please click [here](#)



CABRINI MISSION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

LET'S PLAY BALL

3RD ANNUAL BASEBALL FUNDRAISER

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Cabrini Mission Foundation want you to join us for a day at the ballpark! Get your team together and meet us behind home plate in the Staten Island FerryHawks stadium's big event suite. Hotdogs, burgers, bottomless popcorn, cold beer, and soft drinks are included.

Spectacular fireworks show to follow immediately after game

Date: Saturday, August 3rd, 2024
Game Time: 6:30 PM
Where: Staten Island University Hospital, Community Park, 75 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301
(Easy to get to by ferry, car, train or bus)

Cabrini Mission Foundation

Save the Date!

August 3rd

6:30 pm




Cabrini Health Australia Celebrates Refugee Week: Fostering a Sense of Family and Freedom



The Cabrini Outreach Health Hub staff works to promote a family environment for all those seeking their services.

Refugee Week, June 16-22, celebrates "Finding Freedom" with a significant focus on family, the heart of the refugee journey, which encapsulates resilience and unity.

This sentiment of family resonates deeply within our Cabrini community, where we strive to create an environment that nurtures the human spirit,

regardless of background. We celebrate the power of compassion and the impact that a sense of family can have on the lives of those who have weathered unimaginable challenges.

To honour Refugee Week, Margaret Stewart, Group Director, Identity and Mission, had the privilege of spending a day at the Cabrini Outreach Centre in Northcote. She was deeply moved by the staff's warmth and dedication, which truly embody the spirit of compassion and support for refugees. Their commitment to embracing each individual, offering a sense of belonging and safety, is a testament to Cabrini's mission of fostering a family-like environment for those in need.

During Refugee Week, the focus is on raising awareness about refugees, their challenges, and the positive impact they have on the Australian community. Cultural events are arranged to foster unity and understanding among communities. At Cabrini, we embrace cultural diversity and celebrate multiculturalism.

~ submitted by Margaret Stewart, Group Director, Identity and Mission, Cabrini Health

Cabrini Mission Foundation names John Leguizamo as Ambassador

The [Cabrini Mission Foundation](#) — which continues the legacy of the religious order founded by St. Frances Xavier Cabrini in 1880 — has named Emmy Award-winning actor, producer and activist John Leguizamo an ambassador for the foundation.

"With his remarkable talent, commitment to social justice, and drive to create positive change, John embodies the spirit of the mission to serve and empower communities in need," the New York-based foundation said in a [June 11 announcement](#).

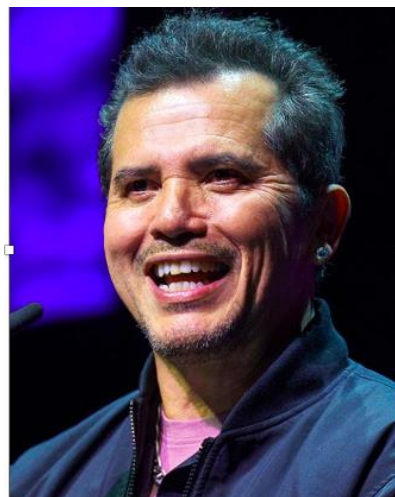
The foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the [Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#), Guadalupe Province, the religious order founded by St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants.

The announcement said that Leguizamo, who has appeared in more than 100 films and is a frequent star on the Broadway stage, "will use his voice and influence to raise awareness about the foundation's essential work in immigration, education, healthcare, social services and pastoral care, especially among the most vulnerable and marginalized communities."

"John Leguizamo's ability to connect with people from all walks of life makes him an ideal partner for our mission," said Sr. [Pietrina Raccuglia](#), MSC who is the chairwoman of the foundation's board of directors. "We're honored to welcome John aboard and eagerly anticipate collaborating with him to effect meaningful change."

For his part, the Colombia-born actor said, "My mother has long been connected to the Missionary Sisters, and I have always respected St. Frances Xavier Cabrini's legacy here in New York City. The Foundation is a wonderful organization continuing Mother Cabrini's work, and I am honored to be associated with them." ~

This announcement appeared in Chris Herlinger's column in the Global Sisters Report, click [here](#)



Actor John Leguizamo has been named an ambassador for the Cabrini Mission Foundation.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons/Jay Dixit



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

Power Perception



People from different cultures perceive power differently. Scholar Geert Hofstede named two broad categories for how cultures perceive power and authority: low-power-distance and high-power-distance. People from low-power distance cultures feel that they are closer to the source of power, and therefore, feel powerful, while high -power-distance cultures feel that they are far away from the source of power, and therefore, feel powerless. Among our vocation candidates some have embraced the dominant culture of the U.S., which is low-power-distance. These candidates feel that have power and may even challenge leaders respectfully. If they have needs, they can easily communicate them to the vocation minister. They may air their views without fear or even disagree with the minister if necessary. They may be able to jump into and out of conversations smoothly without feeling they have interrupted others. A vocation minister may want to encourage them to share their power with others by inviting them to share their views.

High-power-distance cultures believe that hierarchy has its rightful place and a leader is not equal to the one being led. People from these cultures many avoid challenging a leader. If there is to be any change in such a society, it has to be revolutionary. Since most Latinos come from high-power-distance cultures, vocation ministers should understand that some candidates may feel that they do not have the right (or power) to disagree, argue, criticize, or share their views with those in leadership. Thus, compared to people from the dominant culture, they may be more deferential to people in the congregation and less assertive of their own needs and thoughts. They may not bring their needs to a vocation minister because they expect the minister to know that they need and to respond accordingly.

Vocation ministers will probably need to empower those coming from the high-power-distance culture by encouraging them to speak out. This does not mean that these people are inauthentic and timid. Rather, they believe the leader knows best and acts in the best interest of everyone. This cultural pattern is particularly important to be aware of when it comes to immigration status. Instead of sharing their grievances (or needs or status) with the vocation minister, they may only share them with other candidates because they perceive communal power in the group.

Next edition: the concluding segments - Formality and Informality and Personal Space

Weekly Update Summer Publication Schedule



Here is the publication schedule for The Update for the upcoming weeks:

Thursday, June 27th – **No Update** due to scheduling in Communications Office

Thursday, July 4th – Early delivery on July 3rd due to Independence Day holiday

Thursday, July 11th – **No Update** due to scheduling in Communications Office

Thursday, July 18th - The Update will be published.

Thursday, July 25th - The Update will be published with an early delivery.

August – **The Update goes on vacation this month.**

Thursday, September 5th - The Update resumes publication.

Prayer requests are always welcome and will be published on Thursdays as they are received.

If your email address has changed or if you know someone who might like to receive The Update, please send that information to:

Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org

The Update is a great way to keep up with all the MSC news!

