



Missionary Sisters  
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

## *To the Ends of the Earth*

Prot.S.G. – L. 040/2020

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Dear Sisters and Partners-in-Mission,

When you hear the words ‘refugee’, ‘asylum seeker’, ‘internally displaced people’, or ‘human trafficking’, what images come to mind, what stirs in your heart? We have witnessed lifeboats on the Mediterranean carrying families, including children and babies, crossing perilous waters for days on end without access to food or water, many not making it. Or those facing extreme violence fleeing for their lives only to be arrested at border posts, separated from their children and sent into forms of incarceration. Others who, because of their vulnerability, are kidnapped, trafficked or sold into a life of slavery. The human suffering is great and none of us can say that ‘we did not see’.

Around the world we watch humanitarian crises unfold, economies collapse, and natural disasters erupt due to climate change. Each of these events carries a heavy human toll. It is estimated that there are at least 79.5 million people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes. Among them are nearly 26 million refugees, around half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also millions of stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and lack access to basic rights such as education, health care, employment and freedom of movement. These are men, women and children like you and me and our families.

Human displacement is one of the greatest challenges of our time and it will take each of us playing our part in our communities and countries in order to address the enormity of the need. Such depth of challenge requires a multi-disciplinary, multi-level approach, from advocating for policy change, to providing food, legal aid and medical services and more. **Our blog** ([www.cabriniworld.org/msc-blog/](http://www.cabriniworld.org/msc-blog/)) and this newsletter seek to highlight how some of those in and connected to our Cabrini World are using their talents and time to serve **People on the Move**. We are so honored to be a part of these intelligent, timely and compassionate responses.

In this time of **novena in preparation of the Feast Day**, I encourage you to open your hearts and your minds, to seek to truly understand what others are going through, to reach out and take action, and to unite with those who provide services to and advocate for the rights of **People on the Move** wherever you or they may be. We are called to be contemplatives in action, knowing that our foundress led the way in her innovation and compassion for the marginalized and vulnerable of her day, as she followed her lover Christ who laid down His life for all of us. Our **2014 Chapter conclusions** remind us

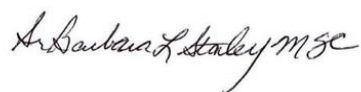


that as a Cabrinian Missionary Community our essence is to make known the love and mercy of Jesus, who urges us out of ourselves, “to touch human misery, the suffering flesh of others”. Let us draw on Christ’s divine inspiration in order to bring hope in our world when it is so very needed.

I leave you with the words of Pope Francis: “Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees who flee death from war and hunger, and who have begun a journey moved by hope for survival, the Gospel calls us to be “neighbors” of the smallest and the abandoned, and to give them concrete hope. It’s not enough to say, “Take heart. Be patient”.... Christian hope has a fighting spirit, with the tenacity of one who goes toward a sure goal.”

Yours in the heart of Christ,

*Sr Barbara Staley, General Superior, MSC*



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*The **International Health Commission (IHC)** is a collaboration of health professionals and MSCs that provide guidance to strengthen the MSC sponsored health ministries. **Prof. Mario Raviglione** is a member of the IHC and together with **Dr. Simone Villa**, they illustrate for us a contemporary and intelligent example of the outworking of the charism in improving the **health and lives of migrants and refugees**.*

## ***CARING FOR MIGRANTS DURING THE EUROPEAN REFUGEES CRISIS: our experience in migrants’ and refugees’ shelters in Milan, Italy***

Migration is a dynamic phenomenon that requires active engagement of stakeholders working in different sectors and, in general, of the community as a whole to allow a humane and effective support to those in need. In recent years, migrant influxes towards the European shores increased in 2015 because of the tightening of civil tensions and conflicts in some parts of the globe. Following such a large arrival of migrants, the EU system for asylum application, relocation and resettlement, was rapidly overwhelmed. Likewise, public health agencies responsible for the health of individuals were burdened with a tremendous amount of work.



## **The experience in Milan's shelters**

In Milan, Italy, between 2015 and 2018, we participated in a project focused on tuberculosis (TB) prevention and care for those migrants arriving in the city as a result of the Italian relocation scheme. The project was coordinated by the public health agency of Milan, with the expertise of physicians of the Istituto Villa Marelli which serves as the regional reference center for TB. As University of Milan, we were involved in producing evidence and best-practice guidance. The interventions applied to safeguard the health of migrants included screening for TB infection and disease, confirmation of diagnosis, and offer adequate treatment.

The most difficult task was to care for the health of those migrants affected by TB who could suddenly be relocated within the EU thus interrupting ongoing treatment and jeopardizing their health as well as permit continuous transmission of the infection. Key element to avoid such risks was the engagement in multi-lateral discussions with key people so that relocation could be halted until treatment completion or supported through the provision of sufficient medicines to complete therapy.

Another problem was the saturation of the service which resulted in a wide temporal gap between the two phases of the intervention (i.e., screening and diagnosis). This, together with the distance between migrants' shelters, where asylum applicants were hosted and screened, and the healthcare facility, where diagnosis and care were provided, resulted in people not able to comply with medical appointments.

## **Multidisciplinary is the key**

Many care providers have a narrow vision of the problem faced when caring for vulnerable populations. As a result, some key supportive measures may be neglected thus undermining the effectiveness of the entire intervention if adjustments are not introduced. In our case, the distance among facilities and the lack of coordination had negative effects. This taught us that a multidisciplinary team, with physicians, nurses, social workers, lawyers, and urban planners, is necessary to achieve results and better care for migrants.

The principles learned are currently being applied to another vulnerable community in Milan: homeless people. To date, the diagnosis of both TB infection and disease can take place directly in homeless' shelters. This will ultimately allow more people to be well taken care of and not to fall ill in the future.

## **Advocacy matters, but also vision**

Every intervention that seeks to alleviate illness or unhealthy conditions among vulnerable communities requires funds and visibility to reach its goal and provide access to health for every person, especially those whose rights are denied.

Apart from advocacy aims, it is enriching to see major health issues from a different angle as it helps in covering the multiple aspects that such a complex phenomenon entail. Therefore, our experience in Milan should be seen as a starting point for a wider discussion



on how to improve health of migrants and refugees at all levels and how to ensure they can access the best possible care and prevention interventions.

## Conclusions

Given her extraordinary commitment and achievements and her love for the poor, marginalized people, Mother Cabrini has been made by the Catholic Church the Patron Saint of Immigrants. Her entire life was devoted to efforts in relief of the sufferings and the struggle for survival of migrants and other vulnerable people around the world. Today, with scientific evidence applied to field operations, we have the responsibility to ensure that her vision is translated into the most effective interventions for all those who are marginalized in society and yet have a full right to access health with dignity through that spirit of solidarity and social justice that Mother Cabrini herself championed.



**Prof. Mario C. Raviglione, M.D.**, is a Full Professor of Global Health at the University of Milan and Honorary Professor at Queen Mary University of London. In 2003-2017, he was Director of the Global TB Program at the World Health Organization.

Prof. Raviglione graduated from the University of Turin in Italy in 1980 and trained in internal medicine and infectious diseases in New York, as Chief Medical Resident at Cabrini Medical Centre, and in Boston, as an AIDS Clinical Research Fellow at Beth Israel Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Currently Prof. Raviglione is the Director of the Global Health Centre and Coordinator of the on-line Master degree program in Global Health (MGH) at the University of Milan.

**Dr. Simone Villa, M.D.**, is an Italian medical doctor and research fellow at University of Milan where he works on the *EU Patient-centric clinical tRial pLatform* (EU-PEARL) project concerning the drug R&D of drugs against TB. Currently, his work is focused mainly in the field of TB, especially in vulnerable groups (e.g. homeless, migrants), and COVID-19.

Dr. Villa has graduated from the Medical School of the University of Milan in 2018 and an MGH student of the on-line course held by Prof. Raviglione at the University of Milan.



[Visit the International Health Commission section on the website: Cabrini World](#)



## *Supporting long-term economic resiliency of people on the move through the impact investments*

Certain impact investments are emerging as durable solutions to global forced migration. They do not replace the critical role of humanitarian assistance particularly in the short term, but rather support long-term economic resiliency of victims and their communities.

For example, one major challenge faced by **resettled refugees** is access to basic financial services. When left unsolved such impediments can and often do contribute to a cycle of poverty and low quality of life. Impact investing helps funds **low cost loans for displaced populations** that help pay for legal fees, transportation, education, and business start-up expenses. Low cost loans can also finance social purpose organizations that support the livelihoods of migrants.

Some of our impact investments in this area include:

**NEWBEES:** a social enterprise based in the Netherlands that matches refugees (“newbees”) with traineeships (paid and unpaid positions) and culturally appropriate job-based support. Newbees focuses on those without a formal education, a group very few job placement organizations work with. Their goal is to increase job readiness and wellbeing for participants, and in addition, build a more culturally inclusive society. To date they have matched 932 individuals with traineeships



**FREEDOM100:** an innovative impact investment that works in partnership with [Freedom for Immigrants](#) and [Mission Driven Finance](#) to post bond for immigrants that are held in detention centers in the United States so they can await their asylum trials with their friends and family. To date, Freedom100 has freed 22 individuals from immigration detention centers at no cost to the individual or their families.



**International Rescue Committee's Center for Economic Opportunity (IRC CEO):** division of the International Rescue Committee, a refugee resettlement agency and international NGO, provides low cost, flexible, financial services to refugees.

*Gregory Lane and Kayoko Lyons,  
On behalf of the Generalate Finance Team*

[Visit the Social Impact Investing section on the website: Cabrini World](#)



## *Mother Cabrini and People on the Move: the importance of Storytelling*

Pope Francis in his **message for the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees**, celebrated by the Church on September 27th 2020, proposed to each of us an essential path of love for our lives that would ultimately have a strong positive impact on all society. Recalling the image of the Samaritan woman running to bring the announcement of the One who told her everything she has done (John 4v28-29), the Holy Father believes that in order to welcome People on the Move it is necessary to "*see their real riches*", in order to "*involve them and make them agents in their own redemption*". However this is the last act of love within a relational and spiritual process that begins much earlier.

Monsignor Silvano Tommasi writes how it was not a sudden decision that pushed Mother Cabrini to immerse herself in the care for migrants, "*but a process of awareness and empathy*"<sup>1</sup>. Taking care of those who, from all over the world, flee in search of a better life,



*Photo 1. From qualified candidates, UNHCR selects the most vulnerable refugees like orphans and women with children. (Mustafa Khayat/Creative Commons)*

means first of all learning to listen, to walk beside and to be close to them, in order to love them. Thus begins our journey of communication, truly honoring people by seeing them, listening to them, empathizing with them, and through this revealing their stories.

Mother Cabrini, founder of our Institute and **Patron Saint of Migrants**, shows us the way that the Church is continually inviting us to bring Christ's love to the whole world. Francesca Cabrini never wrote "*a Manual on Migration*,

*but she dedicated her life to migrants, and today we read and learn from this life*"<sup>2</sup>. Our mission today is to break down inequalities, to contribute to the creation of a world in which the rights of every man, woman and child are respected and where everyone has the possibility to choose to live in safety.

In a polarized world where many live in fear, often resulting in persecution of foreigners, communication is an instrument that can bring further division or bridge the divide. Words are one of our most powerful assets, they are extraordinary, as are visuals. The Word says that life and death is in our mouths. If we choose in our communication to **listen with an open heart first and then to speak**, to seek for a truth that honors, and to represent with impartiality, **we bring life**.

In our **Cabrini World**, choosing to have a special care for migrants and People on the Move means being intentional about the stories we tell and how we tell them. Even in this we wish to look at Mother Cabrini, who "*sees new; feels new: and speaks, and writes new*."<sup>3</sup> "*This remarkable woman, who devoted her life to the service of migrants and became their patron saint, taught us to welcome, protect, promote and integrate our brothers and sisters.*"<sup>4</sup> Where we see an injustice and stay silent, we tacitly comply with it.

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<sup>1</sup> Tomasi Silvano M., Bentivoglio Gabriele F., Pionieri della solidarietà con i migranti. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini e Francesca Saverio Cabrini, Roma, Città Nuova Editrice, 2020, 53.

<sup>2</sup> Ivi, 58.

<sup>3</sup> De Luca Giuseppe, Madre Cabrini. La Santa degli Emigrati, Roma, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 2000, 26.

<sup>4</sup> Pope Francis I, *Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Celebration of the 51st World Day of Peace*, Rome, 1 January 2018.



In communications we have a duty to speak up. We further have a responsibility in how we represent others, and how we create space for them to represent themselves. There is a vulnerability of People on the Move, but also an incredible strength. Each person, whether fleeing war or being trafficked, has a story. **When we speak up, and how we speak, will count into eternity.**

*Tatiana Paradiso, Giulia Angelucci and Nicole Rose Nieman  
On behalf of the Generalate Communications Team*



## THE ESSENCE OF LOVE

Talitha Kum – Get up!

*Facing human trafficking is our commitment! Everyone needs decent housing that can be called home!*

### ***My life and missionary experience in the fight against Human Trafficking and my participation in UNANIMA<sup>5</sup>.***

I have been involved in the fight against Human Trafficking since 2006 when I participated in the first training for Religious promoted by the Religious Conference of Brazil at the request of the International Union Superiors General (UISG). In the beginning I was very curious as I had never heard about human trafficking. The only trafficking I knew of was that of drugs, and how complicated and compromising it was for the people involved in it. Moreover the effect for all the communities that were under the command of drug dealers, especially on the outskirts of large cities, was enormous.



*Photo 2. Celebration of 10 years of the network in a demonstration against Human Trafficking*

In 2007, I participated in the foundation of the “Rede Um Grito pela Vida” (A Cry for Life) network, which today operates in all Brazilian States, mainly with the prevention, awareness and visibility of crime. What is not seen, is believed to not exist, therefore one of

<sup>5</sup> Discover more about UNANIMA’s work all over the world on: <https://unanima-international.org/>



the network’s objectives worldwide is to give visibility to this “new form of slavery” (quoting as Pope Francis has termed human trafficking).

In 2018/2019 I had the opportunity to participate in the first Training Course for Leaders, promoted by another international network “**Talitha Kum**”, linked to **UISG** (International Union of Superiors General) and based in Rome. The course, part online



Photo 3. Leaders Course Participants “Talitha Kum”



Photo 4. End of Course February 2019

and part face-to-face, was based on the network's spirituality and focused on various women of the Gospel: Mary and Isabel, the bent woman and others, as a reference of how we should welcome and work with victims of human trafficking. The social doctrine of the Church, sociology, aspects of psychology and anthropology, among others, were themes developed during the course. The two face-to-face sessions were extremely rich in content, with various networks sharing on what they were doing globally.

At the end of 2019 the General Council asked me to represent our Congregation at **UNANIMA**, an NGO formed by **22 Congregations** and founded in 2000 with the initial objective of “**ending the demand for human trafficking**”, and linked to the UN.



I had already participated in a meeting of representatives of the Latin American Networks in Chile led by UNANIMA to address the issue of human trafficking. However, when I participated for the first time in the meeting in February of that year, I realized that UNANIMA had broadened the view on the current problems and was promoting research and presenting the results to the UN so that the situation of homelessness be included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



UNANIMA is a pioneer of this struggle and reference point at the UN when it comes to the issue homelessness. My experience is still growing but sufficient to understand the magnitude of the work done by this NGO.

It is said that “trafficking in persons is a parasitic crime that feeds on vulnerability, thrives in times of uncertainty and profits from inaction” (UNODC Report), those who do not have a decent place to call “home”, represented by migrants and refugees (especially women and children) are



Photo 5. UNANIMA Annual Meeting - 6-9 February 2020 NY





often the most targeted by traffickers. In addition, it is believed one of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic will be the further aggravation of the vulnerability of these people who will be even more exposed to the exploitation and abuse of traffickers. **UNANIMA is at the forefront of this fight against trafficking**, sensitizing others to understand how the vulnerability of homelessness leads to human trafficking.

Victims of human trafficking are people, mainly women and children, whose energies and power have been drained and all their forces have been plundered and they therefore feel destitute, like the woman mentioned in the Gospel Mark 5, 25-34. However, these people do not lose their ability to think and act; they just need help to take initiative and regain their power.

Victims of trafficking need to be healed from within and strengthened, so that they have the courage and determination to look up and rebuild their lives with their heads held high, each according to their ability to plan and take steps to resume their autonomy. It is in this sense that the various networks around the world act in a systematic and decisive manner in the prevention and welcoming of victims of human trafficking. As UNANIMA (and other global organizations) state: “No one should be left behind!” May the Heart of Jesus inspire us and help us on this journey!

*Sister Glória Caixeta, MSC  
Uganda*

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*We sincerely want to say **THANK YOU** so much all the people who in all the corners of our Cabrinian world, through our **sponsored ministries**, in a generous and excellent way are caring for the people on the move in classrooms, in healthcare, in social services, in parishes.*

*Thanks for bringing the love of Jesus Christ and continuing the work of Mother Cabrini, especially in this time when we are called to care for the wounds of our world!*

*We would love to learn more from you about **what you are doing to serve People on the Move around our Cabrini World** and to share your stories on our Cabrini World social media platforms.*

*Please do connect with us, by emailing Tatiana on [communications@cabriniworld.org](mailto:communications@cabriniworld.org) or tagging us on social media using #CabriniWorldMSC ashtag.  
Thank you!*



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