



PSMCONNECT

Presented by Catholic Charities Parish Relations

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Solidarity: Together, we are our brothers' and sister's keepers (CST)

Featuring

Terry Cody | Legal Director

Maria Mitchell | Managing Attorney

St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigration Legal Assistance

Moderator

Rhonda Sepulveda | Parish and Government Relations Coordinator



PSMCONNECT

Dear Jesus,

Our journey through life is long and hard.

We cannot make this trip alone; we must walk together on the journey.

You promised to send us a helper, your Spirit.

Help us to see your Spirit in those you send to journey with us.

In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence,

R. *Let us see your Spirit.*

In the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables,

R. *Let us see your Spirit.*

In the asylum--seeker, seeking justice for himself and his family,

R. *Let us see your Spirit.*

In the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world,

R. *Let us see your Spirit.*

Teach us to recognize that as we walk with each other, You are present.

Teach us to welcome not only the strangers in our midst but the gifts they bring
as well: the invitation to conversion, communion, and solidarity.

This is the help you have sent: we are not alone. We are together on the
journey, and for this we give you thanks.

Amen.



Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration and the Movement of Peoples

Terry Cody, Esq., Legal Director

Maria Mitchell, Esq., Managing Attorney

Rhonda Sepulveda

Parish Social Ministry Coordinator



Agenda:

- Catholic Social Teaching
 - Love for Strangers
 - Three Basic Principles
- St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
- Legal Services



Love for Strangers

- Old and New Testament
 - People forced to flee because of oppression:
 - Exodus – the Chosen People of Israel who were oppressed as slaves in Egypt.
 - God ordered his people for all time to have special care for the alien



Love for Strangers

“You shall treat the alien* who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.”
(Lv 19:33-34)



Love for Strangers

- Matthew's story of Joseph and Mary's escape to Egypt with their newborn son, Jesus.



“There is neither Jew
nor Greek... for you are
all one in Christ Jesus.”
(Gal 3:28)

In Christ, the human
race is one before God,
equal in dignity and
rights



Three Basic Principles of Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration

- First Principle:
 - People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives of their and their families
- Second Principle:
 - A country has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration
- Third Principle:
 - A country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy



St. Frances
Xavier Cabrini

Who was St. Frances Xavier Cabrini?

- Italian born sister
 - Funder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart
 - Asked Pope Leo XIII to be sent to China
 - “No, to the East, but to the West.”
 - Sailed to New York to work with Italian immigrants
 - The NY archbishop decided he did not need her, and nobody met her at the docks when she arrived
 - The bishop told her that she should return to Italy
 - “In America I stay”
-
- Mother Cabrini stayed in the U.S. and helped countless immigrants
 - She is the patron saint of immigrants
 - “She organized catechism and education classes for the Italian immigrants and provided for the needs of the many orphans.”
 - Established schools and orphanages



Special concern for undocumented immigrants

- Every person has basic human rights and is entitled to have basic human needs met – food, shelter, clothing, education, and health care.
 - Undocumented persons are vulnerable to exploitation
 - By employers
 - Victims of crimes
- God promises that our judgment will be based on our treatment of the most vulnerable
 - The lack of legal status doesn't deprive a person of rights given by the God



Pope Francis: Four points to guide the world's response to refugees

- To Welcome
- To Protect
- To Promote
- To Integrate



St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance



St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigration Assistance

Since 1980, the mission of Cabrini Center derives from the mission of Catholic Charities and from the Catholic Social Teachings. The Cabrini Center advances social justice and racial equity by securing immigration protection and citizenship for immigrants to enable them to fully participate in the economic, political and social life of the United States. We provide high-quality, free or low-cost immigration legal representation and assistance to the immigrant community in Harris and surrounding counties.

Cabrini Center - Legal Services

➤ **Outreach and Consultations**

- Charlas – Free information sessions to provide current immigration information, individual evaluation and referral to applicable services (at Cabrini Offices (remotely by phone during the pandemic) and at community locations (by zoom and other technology during the pandemic)
 - Please contact us for a Charla appointment at 713-874-6750 or 713-595-4100
- Community Outreach – Information provided to immigrant community members, parishes, churches, social service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, and more regarding services provided, needs of the immigrant community and advocacy.

Cabrini Center - Legal Services

- **Workshops**

- Pro Se Naturalization assistance
- DACA information and updates and representation for renewals and initial applications
- Pro Se Asylum assistance

- **Pro Bono Collaboration**

Pro Bono attorneys work with Cabrini Center staff to provide assistance:

- Unaccompanied Minors,
- Victims of Crime,
- asylum applicants,
- naturalization applicants,
- DACA applicants and more

Cabrini Center – Legal Services

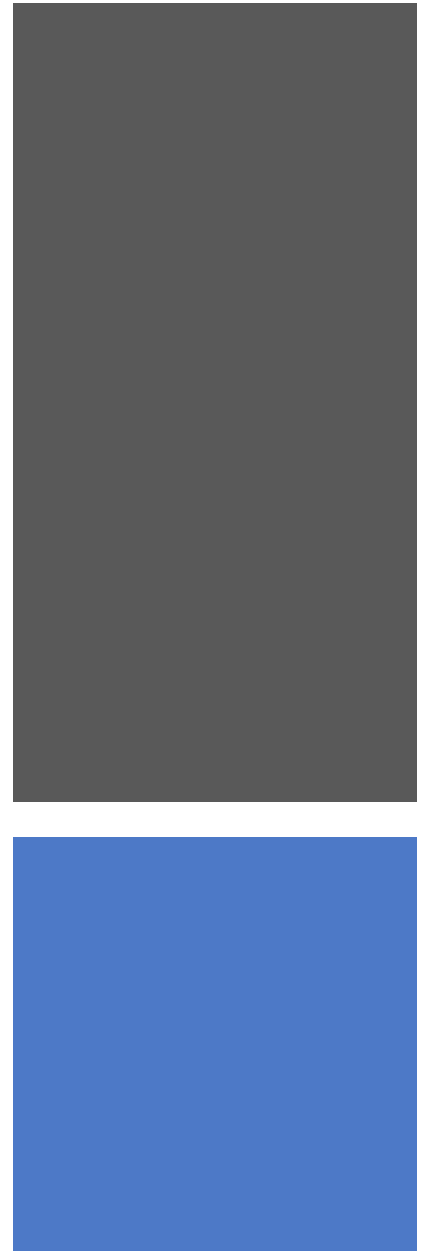
➤ Unaccompanied Children Program Services

- Pro Bono Program for representation of unaccompanied minors
- Legal services for Unaccompanied minors in ORR custody at specific shelters
 - Provide Know Your Rights and legal screening
 - Assist with reunification and alternative release options such as LTFC
 - Represent Minors appearing in court while detained as Friend of Court or as Counsel
 - Represent Minors upon release in the Harris County area.
- Direct Representation of Unaccompanied Minors
 - Represent Unaccompanied Minors after release from custody
 - Represent in immigration court
 - Represent UC seeking relief from deportation such as Asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile status, trafficking or victims of crime applications
- LOPC
 - Provide Legal Orientation and legal assistance to Sponsors of Unaccompanied Children
- Safe Release
 - Provide Fingerprint services to Sponsors of Unaccompanied Children

Cabrini Center – Legal Services

➤ Family Immigration Program

- Provide representation of persons eligible to pursue family-based immigration benefits such as permanent residence sponsored by a US Citizen adult son or daughter and temporary immigration relief such as DACA, TPS and refugee asylee immigration benefits, FOIAs and more
- Clients are at or below 300% of Poverty Guideline and pay low fees from immigration representation
- Persons are referred to the FVP by registering for a Charla



Cabrini Center – Legal Services

➤ General Immigration Program

- Naturalization and Citizenship Services
 - Assistance Workshops
 - Free representation and referral to education and test preparation if under
- Immigration Services for Asylees and Refugees
- General immigration services to persons below 200% of the poverty guidelines including adjustment of status and employment authorization for asylees and refugees
- Referrals to the General Immigration Program –Appointment required. Please email Citizenship@CatholicCharities.org, or call 713-874-6700 or 713-595-4100 to request a Charla appointment.

Cabrini Center – Legal Services

➤ Crime Victims Program

- Provide immigration assistance to victims of violence, crime and trafficking
 - U- Visas – Crime Victims and Witnesses
 - VAWA – Violence Against Women (and men) Act
 - T- Visas – Trafficking Victims
 - Adjustment of status for the above
- Persons must be below 200% of the poverty guidelines
- Referrals by phone and by registering for Charlas at 713-595-4100 or 713-874-6750



Our Services

WINTER STORM URI RESOURCES

COVID ASSISTANCE

COVID FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

COUNSELING AND
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CLINIC

DISASTER RECOVERY –
RESTORING HOPE AND
REBUILDING LIVES

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

IMMIGRANT LEGAL ASSISTANCE

INTERNATIONAL FOSTER CARE

**MAMIE GEORGE
COMMUNITY CENTER**

PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SERVICES

REFUGEE SERVICES

ST. MARGARET BRIGHT
FUTURES PROJECT

ST. MICHAEL'S HOMES FOR CHILDREN

St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance

COVID-19 Response

Charles at this time. Charles will be conducted by appointment through phone and email interaction. Please call the Cabrini intake line to request information and assistance at 713.874.6750 or 713.595.4100.

[COVID-19 Resources and Information](#)

Apply or Renew DACA

Interested in applying for DACA for the first time? Register for a free information session:

[REGISTER FOR INFORMATION SESSION](#)

DACA Renewals for persons currently eligible to renew their DACA status:

Schedule a phone appointment with a Cabrini attorney or staff member to receive help with the renewal process.

SCHEDULE DATA APPOINTMENT

Mental Health Resource Guide for DACA Recipients and undocumented individuals [PDF]

Catholic Charities' **St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance** provides a diverse array of immigration legal services in greater Houston. Our experienced corps of attorneys and legal professionals provide free and low cost legal services to children who arrived in the U.S. alone, families seeking immigration assistance, crime victims, asylum-seekers, and immigrants seeking to become U.S. citizens.

Please contact us for a Charta appointment at 703-874-6750 or 703-595-4300

Immigrant Rights Hotline: 1-833-468-4664

Houston Immigration Legal Services Cooperative Immigrant Rights Hotline: 1-813-HC2-IMHO (468-4664).

[Cabrini Center for Immigrant
Legal Assistance | Catholic
Charities](#)

SENIOR SERVICES

WOMEN VETERANS
SERVICES

NEED HELP?

VOLUNTEER

FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS

DONATE

Donate Now

Information for Pro Bono Attorneys and Law Students

- + Services Provided
- + Information Sessions: Charlas
- Citizenship Workshops

Application assistance is offered for a person seeking to apply for U.S. Citizenship. No service fees for counsel, advice and assistance with applications. Attorneys and accredited representatives will be present to screen for eligibility. Pre-registration is required; no walk-ins accepted.

Please email Citizenship@CatholicCharities.org, or call 713-874-6700 or 713-595-4100 to request a Charla appointment. Click on our [events calendar](#) to view the next available workshop.

- + DACA and Unaccompanied Minor Representation
- + We DO Accept the Following Cases
- + We Do NOT Accept the Following Cases
- + Eligibility
- + Fees
- + Resources
- + Contact

Catholic Charities St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigration Legal Assistance is generously supported by www.TexasLawHelp.org

What Jesus never said: "Feed the hungry only if they have papers." "Clothe the naked only if they're from your country." "Welcome the stranger only if there's zero risk." "Help the poor only if it's convenient." "Love your neighbor only if they look like you."

– James Martin, S.J.

Questions and Answers

- Jesus commands us to love and care for the stranger:
- "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me."
(Mt 25:35)



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