



REFUGEE **S**EEKING

SAFETY



CABRINI
COLLEGE

OCRS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As we celebrate shared successes and acknowledge the work that still must be done, we thank all of those who have helped us make a difference in communities around the world, including:

Catholic Relief Services Ambassadors
at Cabrini College

Catholic Relief Services and
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Fall 2014 COM ECG 100

Cabrini Mission Corps Missioners

Wolfington Center at Cabrini College

Cabrini Office of Marketing & Communications

INTRODUCTION

“If one member of Christ’s body suffers, all suffer. If one member is honored, all rejoice.”
– 1 Corinthians 12:26

Solidarity and prayer must journey together. We cannot fully realize Christ’s presence at our side without opening our mind and heart to Him. As we continue our journey, let us move mindfully, prayerfully, and reverently. Welcome Christ into this space.

As we reflect on our lived experience through the simulation of pain, heartbreak, anxiety, and fear, let us quiet our minds and hearts. We ask that the men, women, and children in these images be empowered to achieve unconditional love, justice, and peace...as one body of Christ.

As our individual journeys continue, live through a prayerful understanding of the reality in which our brothers and sisters fleeing to safety exist. May the experience of solidarity be our path to love, and may prayer light the way.

DESIRE TO LEAVE



Reflection

We do not choose the place into which we are born. It simply invites our presence bearing blessings and hardships, alike. What are we to do when those blessings are few and those hardships define our existence?

Extreme poverty, oppressive societies, innocent men, women, and children murdered or missing...these are the reality for millions of people in Central America alone. The six-year-old girl from Honduras who unwillingly witnesses the death of her father did not choose to exist in a place of violence and injustice. She did not choose a house with leaks or an empty dinner plate, but now there might be one thing she can choose: leaving. She can turn her back on the violence and oppression of her country to flee towards a land of promise and safety. If you had the choice, wouldn't you do the same?

STRUGGLE OF FLEEING



Reflection

Imagine leaving everything you know and love – your family, friends, and country – behind. Imagine holding on for dear life to the top of a train speeding north. Imagine being suffocated by heat in the deserts, with no food, water, or shelter from the sun. As you picture yourself in this struggle, understand that thousands and thousands of individuals are living that reality right now.

Hundreds of deaths occur every year on the journey from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to Mexico and the United States. Men, women, and children fleeing desolate lives are received as incapable thieves of American livelihood, when in reality...they are refugees.

HOPE



Reflection

Hope is such a fragile thing. It is so easily built up and just as easily torn down. Hope is often lost or abandoned in situations like the ones that these refugees face every day. The desperation that forces them to leave, the horror they face on the path, the seemingly endless journey ahead of them; one could not help but to understand giving up on that fragile little thing called hope. The beautiful thing is that most of these refugees don't. Hope keeps them moving. Hope for a new home; hope for safety; hope for peace. They continue to hope because even though it is fragile, it is the light at the end of the tunnel that keeps them going. It is their reason to smile when the struggle is over.

SAFETY



Reflection

Security. Insurance. The house alarm. Deposited pay checks and savings accounts. A full stomach. A place to rest after a long day. A warm hug from a loved one. A welcoming smile. Joy and love. Justice.

Refugees seeking safety from their Latin American homes are longing so much for the basic rights of life. They are chasing after borders, running from terror, violence, and poverty. They long for the things we take so much for granted. Hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters are sacrificing everything they know in order to feel safe. They are suffering through deep hunger and dry thirst for the safety found in a warm, loving embrace. Young and old alike flee to the north in search of safety and security, but is that what they are really finding once they arrive?



Education of the Heart

Cabrini College is a Catholic institution of higher education dedicated to academic excellence, leadership development and a commitment to social justice.

The College welcomes learners of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds and prepares them to become engaged citizens of the world.

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