

From Ethiopia to Italy:

A humanitarian corridor research project

BY COSTANZA MONTANARI,
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Ilaria Schnyder Von Wartensee is a research assistant professor with the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Since 2017, she has been working on a five-year Humanitarian Corridor Research Project sponsored by the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Ford Program in Human Development.

The research focuses on one particular corridor, extending from Ethiopia to Italy. In January 2017, the Italian Bishops' Conference and three nongovernmental organizations — Caritas Italiana, Migrantes and Sant'Egidio — signed an agreement with the Italian government to introduce a safe passage for 500 Eritreans, South Sudanese and Somalis (Christians and Muslims) to resettle from Ethiopian refugee camps to communities in Italy.

Schnyder's research will analyze and evaluate the integration experience of the 500 refugees into Italian society over a period of five years.

"Our research will shed light on the wider context of the role of religion, faith and dignity in one of the most pressing political and social challenges of our times, namely international migration," says Schnyder.

Pope Francis has called on the Church to accompany and serve immigrants, actions that Schnyder's research also examines.

"The role of accompaniment, the reality of encounter between refugees and their Catholic hosts,

and the general cultural context is of special interest to us," Schnyder notes. Since November 2017, approximately 150 refugees arrived to Italian shores in separate flights. Schnyder, together with Caritas and Sant'Egidio volunteers, is accompanying them from Ethiopia to Italy, meeting them in the refugee camps and witnessing their pre-departure cultural orientation.

Upon arrival to Italy, refugees are located and welcomed into local communities, families, churches, schools and dioceses. Schnyder, as part of her research, will follow them during their integration period, through a variety of narratives and daily experiences of both beneficiaries and communities in different geographical contexts. She says refugees are welcomed in all sorts of realities, from rural to urban, from southern to northern Italy, with clear diverse reactions of locals and volunteers.

"Sorrento, the famous tourist town overlooking the Bay of Naples, for instance, has welcomed a big group of refugees," says Schnyder.

"Being a small town, it is not used to witnessing migration episodes, and everyone reacted with fear and closure, especially hotel owners scared for their business. I happened to know one of the owners and suggested that he organize a meeting with all the hoteliers and the 'new citizens of Sorrento,' to ask them all the questions they had and dissolve the fear of the unknown."

Schnyder says this is something possible only in small municipalities or towns, whereas bigger cities, such as Rome, are more likely to be distant although more welcoming to refugees. The project is taking her all over Italy to meet the communities and interview the people involved.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



Above, Ilaria Schnyder Von Wartensee, pictured, has been working on the Humanitarian Corridor Research Project since 2017. Left, Schnyder meets refugees in the refugee camps in Ethiopia and accompanies them to Italy.

In January, nd.edu will feature a closer look at the Humanitarian Corridor research project, including the story of "Joseph," an Eritrean refugee who is resettling in Rome.

Family CONNECTIONS

Scott Appleby, Bill Purcell and Angie Appleby Purcell

BY CAROL C. BRADLEY, NDWORKS

Scott Appleby, dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs, is convinced that his sister, **Angie Appleby Purcell**, finds it especially amusing when people on campus tell her they just met her father.

The two are the oldest and

youngest, respectively, of six siblings from Shreveport, Louisiana — and they're only 13 years apart.

Growing up in Shreveport, Scott says, most of his classmates went on to Louisiana State University. "But I had a basic image of Notre Dame and decided to take the risk of applying." A tender memory, he adds, is of

his normally undemonstrative father leaping from his chair when Scott received his acceptance letter — and a scholarship — to Notre Dame.

He was the first of what has become an extended family of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's graduates. "And none of us would be here without that scholarship," he adds.

After graduating from Notre Dame in 1978, Scott completed master's and Ph.D. degrees in history from the University of Chicago. He came back to Notre Dame in 1994 as a professor of American religious history and director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, then served as the Regan Director of the

Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies from 2000 to 2014. In 2014 he was named Marilyn Keough Dean of the new Keough School of Global Affairs.

Youngest sister Angie, associate director for strategic initiatives and special projects for Notre Dame International and interim director of the Jerusalem Global Gateway at Tantur, is a 1991 graduate of Saint Mary's College and received her master of divinity degree from Notre Dame in 1997. She met **Bill Purcell** when both were leaders of a Campus Ministry weekend retreat.

Bill, from Buffalo, New York, is the seventh of seven children and senior associate director for Catholic social tradition at the Center for Social Concerns. He completed his undergraduate degree at Notre Dame in 1986 and M.Div. in 1992. **Rev. Don McNeill, C.S.C.**, and **Rev. Bill Lies, C.S.C.**, Angie notes, presided at their wedding. Bill and Angie returned to Notre Dame as a family in 2005.

Of Scott and Angie's siblings, Kevin '84 is another ND graduate, while sister Amy is another Saint Mary's College graduate ('88). Their other siblings are Tim (University of Iowa) and Julie (Boston College). Scott has four children, Ben, Paul '05 (a well-known operatic tenor), Claire '07 and Tony. He is also the grandfather of four, with another two on the way.

The Purcells have three children, John, Joseph (currently a Notre Dame senior) and Olivia. Angie and Scott's mother, Joanne Appleby, will be making the trip from St. Louis to South Bend in the spring for the 2019 graduations of her grandchildren, Bill and Angie's son Joseph and his cousin Allison, daughter of Scott and Angie's sister Amy.



BARBARA JOHNSTON

Scott Appleby, Angie and Bill Purcell