



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

THE UPDATE

January 19, 2017

Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC, Provincial, Stella Maris Province, would like to share the following message with our Update readers...



Trump: The Joy and Responsibility of Leadership

SILVER SPRING (January 18, 2017). The Presidents of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) representing the elected leaders of more than 55,000 Catholic religious sisters, brothers, and priests sent a letter to President-Elect Donald Trump reminding him of the gift and responsibility of leadership.

LCWR President, Mary Pellegrino, CSJ and CMSM President, Brian Terry, SA write out of their concern for the critical needs facing the country and the world today, and the call to respond through the service of leadership.

They express deep concerns about the “fractures and divisions” that “threaten the well-being and freedom of all Americans and those who have fled in fear to our shores and borders.” They urge all of us to commit to “respectful and dignified civil discourse.”

Sister Mary and Father Brian invite President-Elect Trump and his administration to join them in promoting the “common good” and they renew their own commitment to “actively advocate against promoting the privilege of some over the needs of others and turning away from our shores those who are in need.”

They make this commitment in the context of the Holy Father’s message for the World Day of Peace and they urge President-Elect Trump “to join us in accepting Pope Francis’ challenge to political and religious leaders to apply the Beatitudes in the exercise of our respective responsibilities. ‘It is a challenge,’ the pope writes, ‘to build up society, communities and businesses by acting as peacemakers. It is to show mercy by refusing to discard people, harm the environment, or seek to win at any cost.’”

The letter to President-Elect Trump reads as follows:

The gift of leadership is given to American leaders by the “Right of the People.” Leadership brings with it a great joy and a great responsibility.

We serve as Presidents of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), respectively. Together we represent the elected leaders of 38,800 Catholic Sisters and 17,000 Catholic Brothers and religious priests who live and minister throughout the United States. As elected leaders we know and share with you both the joy and the burden of this service.

We and the members of our communities seek to be instruments of the reconciliation our people urgently need. In our poverty of spirit, we rely on the help of God and the example of Jesus, the one who came to serve us all. Since before the founding of our nation and often during its darkest hours, Catholic Sisters, Brothers and religious priests, ourselves often immigrants, have served the needs of both civic leaders and those on the outskirts of influence. We have chosen to live with those who were sick, dying or living in poverty. Our schools, hospitals and social services helped to build, shape and humanize American society by healing, educating and serving those in need regardless of ethnicity, religion, means or circumstance. Then and now, we strive to bring healing, hope and consolation in the face of sadness and despair.

As religious leaders, we are committed to contemplative prayer which compels us to take a long, loving look at what is real, to name its truth and to respond lovingly to its call through our service and leadership. We write today from this contemplative space, immersed in the Gospel call for all of us to grow in unity, peace, dialogue, and ultimately, conversion to the Reign of God.



We are deeply concerned by the fractures and divisions—seen so clearly during this past election season—which continue to threaten the well-being and freedom of all Americans and those who have fled in fear to our shores and borders. We remember how we struggled at our country’s very foundation as strangers and pilgrims in this land. From this humble beginning, we celebrate how the United States of America has often been a beacon of hope and unity to a broken world. We rejoice in how our diversity has been our strength. America is at its best when its people come together to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles with ingenuity and creativity even going so far as to courageously risk their lives to transform conflict

into peace.

Jesus Christ’s Gospel of Love is the charter that moves us to action. In order to be “one nation under God,” we believe we are all called to live as true ambassadors of reconciliation, in all places and all times, so “that all may be one” (John 17:21). We believe that we need a

President who transcends party politics and personal agendas in order to heal deep divisions that threaten the stability of our nation. We strongly believe that we all need to be dedicated to respectful and dignified civil discourse with those whose positions differ from our own.

We pledge our own efforts toward this end.

To the extent that the new administration seeks to promote the common good through its policies, practices and people, we stand ready to collaborate. We will actively work for the preservation of the dignity of all whose home is here in America and to welcome those who come to our shores in search of safety, freedom and a life worthy of their dignity. We will also actively advocate against promoting the privilege of some over the needs of others and turning away from our shores those who are in need. Together, we have the opportunity to advocate for and build a just, merciful and humane society worthy of the dignity of all.

We invite you to join us in our constant prayer and hope that God might act in our hearts and through our actions as leaders. We urge you to join us in accepting Pope Francis' challenge to political and religious leaders to apply the Beatitudes in the exercise of our respective responsibilities. (Pope Francis, World Day of Peace Message, January 1, 2017) "It is a challenge," he writes, "to build up society, communities and businesses by acting as peacemakers. It is to show mercy by refusing to discard people, harm the environment, or seek to win at any cost."



We pledge the service of our leadership and urge you to pledge yours toward this great endeavor of building a truly good and just society.

We congratulate you on your inauguration and assure you of our prayers as you begin your service as President of the United States. ~ *from the LCWR and CMSM Presidents*

Pope Francis Appeals for Greater Care for Child Migrants

Pope Francis appealed for better treatment of child-migrants on Sunday. Speaking to pilgrims and tourists gathered in St. Peter's Square to pray the *Angelus* with him, the Holy Father renewed his call for prayerful and concrete solidarity with minors forced to flee their homelands – especially for the children and adolescents forced to flee on their own, without the company of parents or older relatives.



“It is necessary to take every possible measure to ensure protection and defense to migrant children,” Pope Francis said, “as well as their integration,” into host societies. “These, our brothers and sisters, especially if unaccompanied, are exposed to many dangers,” the Pope said – dangers that include being taken and sold into slavery – often sexual slavery.

January 15th was the 103rd iteration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which this year is focused particularly on the plight of the youngest migrants under the theme: *Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless*.

Pope Francis offered special greetings in this regard to the representatives of the many different ethnic communities present in the city and in St. Peter’s Square for the occasion. “Dear friends, I hope that you are able to live peacefully in the places that welcome you,” the Holy Father said, “respecting their laws and traditions and, at the same time, maintaining the values of your cultures of origin.” The Pope went on to say, “The encounter of different cultures is always an enrichment for everyone.”



Offering thanks to the *Migrantes* office of the Diocese of Rome and those who work with migrants to welcome them and accompany them in their difficulties, and encouraging everyone so committed to continue in their work, **Pope Francis commended the example of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**, the patron saint of [im]migrants, who passed into eternal life 100 years ago this year. “This courageous sister dedicated her life to bringing the love of Christ to those who were far from home and family,” he said, “Her witness,” said Pope Francis, “helps us to take care of the brother from a far-off land, in whom Jesus is present, often suffering, rejected and humiliated.” ~ *from Vatican Radio*

IN A RELATED ARTICLE from the CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY...

Pope Francis points to Mother Cabrini as prime model in caring for migrants

On the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis pointed to **St. Frances Cabrini** as an example of how to treat foreigners, calling her a “courageous” woman who knew how to bring God’s love to those who were lonely and in hardship.

After praying the Angelus with pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square January 15, Pope Francis sent a special greeting to members of different ethnic communities gathered who had gathered in honor of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

“I wish that you can live peacefully in the towns that welcome you, respecting their laws and traditions and, at the same time, maintaining the values of your cultures of origin,” the Pope said, adding that “the meeting of different cultures is always an enrichment for all!”

Speaking to those who work directly with migrants, the Pope thanked them for the welcome and accompaniment they provide to newcomers, and encouraged them to continue their efforts “always remembering the example of **St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**,” who is remembered in a special way this year, which marks the centenary of her death.

“This courageous Sister dedicated her life to bringing the love of Christ to those who were far from their homeland and families,” he said, adding that her witness can help us learn “to take care of our foreign brother, in whom Jesus is present, often suffering, rejected and humiliated.”

St. Cabrini, more commonly known as “Mother Cabrini,” was an Italian missionary who spent much of her life working with Italian immigrants in the United States. Though she had a deathly fear of water and drowning, she crossed the Atlantic Ocean more than 30 times in service of the Church and the people she was assisting.

After arriving to the U.S. she wasted no time getting to work, and traveled not only overseas, but also throughout the U.S. setting up orphanages, hospitals, convents, and schools for the often marginalized Italian immigrants.

Eventually, St. Frances became a naturalized U.S. citizen. She died in 1917 and was canonized in 1946, just before a new wave of immigrants began to arrive in the U.S. Due to her tireless service to struggling foreigners, she was named **patron of immigrants**.

Announced Oct. 13, the theme for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees is “Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless,” and is meant to draw attention to the plight of the many children who suffer due to various forms of slavery and exploitation.

Speaking of the theme, Pope Francis said these “small brothers and sisters of ours, especially those who are unaccompanied, are exposed to so much danger.” Because of this, we must “adopt every possible measure in order to guarantee child migrants protection and defense, as well as their integration.”



~ by Elise Harris, Catholic News Agency

St. Cabrini's First Miracle

A family perspective... Fr. John Frances Xavier Smith shares the story of his brother's remarkable entrance into this world.

**FRIDAY
JAN. 13
2:00 PM**

Talk by Fr. John
Francis Xavier Smith



Left to right: Frs. Peter Smith
& John Francis Xavier Smith

CABRINI'S FIRST MIRACLE

*Brother of 'miracle baby' continues
devotion to St. Frances Xavier Cabrini*

Join this rare opportunity to witness Father John Francis Xavier Smith at Saint Frances Cabrini Shrine as he shares the story of the miracle that baffled the medical experts and saved his brother's life. The healing of this New York City infant was the initial miracle that gave the Church our first American saint, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini.

As the beneficiary of the first miracle attributed to St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Father Peter Smith had his eyesight restored and his life saved following a horrific hospital accident just hours after his birth. Now his message of praying to the saints for intercession and for nourishing a devotion to the sacraments is being carried on by his younger brother, also a priest: Father John Francis Xavier Smith.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There will be a reception following the talk.

ST. FRANCES CABRINI SHRINE

701 Fort Washington Avenue New York, NY 10040

On Friday, January 13th, Missionary Sisters along with many others, had the opportunity to join Fr. John Frances Xavier Smith at the St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine in New York City as he shared the story of the miracle of his brother, Fr. Peter Smith. Fr. Peter Smith's eye tissue and sight restoration was Mother Cabrini's first miracle.

Fr. John took us back in time to old New York as he shared the story he had heard from his mother, Margaret Riley Smith. She would retell time and time again the particulars of this miracle that occurred on March 14, 1921. He repeated several

times how she commented on seeing Peter after his birth and how blue his eyes were. Peter was born healthy and normal but a nurse's mistake of [administering] the [incorrect dosage of] silver nitrate solution [to baby Peter] ate through his corneas and some of his facial skin.

During Father John's [presentation] many of the [attendees] were leaning forward in their seats listening to the story that was being retold by this baby's brother many years later.

Another interesting aspect was how Fr. John paralleled Mother Cabrini's vulnerability as an infant with that of his own brother.

The group [in attendance] was diverse and all seemed to enjoy being connected to the encounter that was unfolding before them. Father was very generous with his time and he and the audience passed a great deal of time sharing informally during the reception.

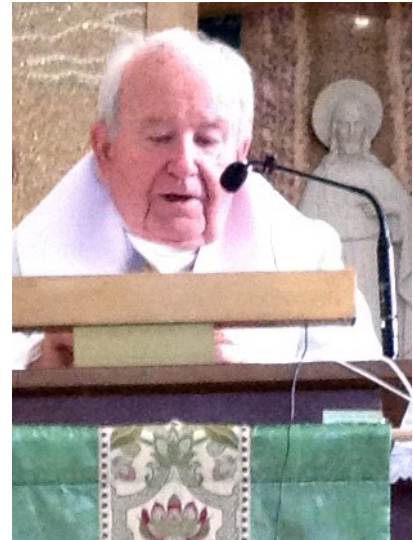
Father was accompanied by Fr. Michael McMahon from Colorado Springs and Jo Ann Tedesco-Clayton, a long time friend and

videographer.

Missionary Sisters in attendance were Sr. Maria Loretta Caeti, Sr. Dianne McKenna and Sr. Frances Brogan. Sr. Marisel and MSC Candidate Claudia were in attendance from the Formation Community.

The day of the presentation – January 13th – was also the day of the funeral of Sr. Marie Louise DeAntonio, MSC and Sr. Mary Louise Sullivan, MSC, therefore, many of the MSCs were unable to attend Fr. John's presentation. (Fr. John will be undergoing surgery later this month and would appreciate our prayers.)

~ submitted by Sr. Dianne McKenna with the input of many.



Fr. John F.X. Smith shares the compelling story of his brother's miraculous healing through the intercession of St. F.X. Cabrini.



Shrine staffers Miriam King (c.) and Cherie Sprosty enjoy socializing with Fr. Smith.



Cabrini High School *fights* Human Trafficking

On December 1, 2016 Cabrini High School celebrated **Dresseember**.

Dresseember was Cabrini's way of helping in the fight against human trafficking. On December 1, 2016, students wore dresses in school and used their own fashion to advocate for women who have been exploited for their femininity. Dresseember exists to inspire and empower the Cabrini community of like-minded women who are locking arms to face one of the greatest injustices of our time, human trafficking.

The heart of Dresseember is freedom—that every woman has the right to live a vibrant and independent life. Students were invited to advocate for the dignity of all women by paying \$1 to dress up with dignity, modesty, femininity, and their own fashion. These words guide the Cabrini dress guidelines for every occasion. All money collected on December 1 went to Eden House, a house for women survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Prior to Dresseember, Ms. Laura Arand, Campus Minister, and Mrs. Vivian Coutin, Assistant Principal, educated the students about the issues concerning human trafficking and provided ideas, which can fight this form of modern day slavery. Developing ways to end human trafficking has been a very important part of our effort at Cabrini High School and Dresseember is one of the ways that we do this.



Cabrini High School students do their part to create awareness regarding human trafficking.



CHS students demonstrate their concern regarding human trafficking by demonstrating their style during Dresseember.

January is Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This month during morning prayer and announcements at Cabrini High School, students are informed of facts about human trafficking and slavery, and we pray as a community to end this horrible crime against humanity. This week, we are highlighting the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was a survivor of human trafficking. Her image is on display in the lobby next to a statue of Mother Cabrini.



~ *submitted from Cabrini High School with thanks to Ms. Vivian Coutin*

Remembering a Very Special Friend

On September 25th, Tom Pettit, a long-time friend of Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, was called home to God. Tom was a tutor, a friend, an advocate and so much more to not only CIS but to countless number of immigrants whom he helped. Tom was selfless, he never counted the cost. Tom taught so many of our students to speak English, to get jobs, find housing, etc. So often, Tom would accompany his clients to court or to a doctor's appointment. Truly, Tom was a special man.



On January 6, 2017, CIS dedicated their classroom to Tom Pettit. The celebration began with a 'Toast for Tom' where people reminisced about their memories of Tom. Following the toast, a prayer service was held during which time Fr. Edwin, OFM, Cap., Director of Pastoral Care for Cabrini of Westchester, blessed and dedicated the room and plaque which reads:

"This room is dedicated to

Thomas J. Pettit

who personified these words of Mother Cabrini

"...from you will emanate an influence that will benefit and educate in the truest sense of the word -

and so equally great will be the good you have wrought."

Tom always loved a party and so it was fitting that we followed the dedication with a celebration. Many of our tutors, Tom's students, some from many years ago as well as some of Tom's family members attended the celebration.

We know that Tom is looking down on us and is continuing to ask God to bless all the great work that is happening at CIS. ~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli

Fr. Edwin Robinson, OFM, Cap. offers a prayer and a blessing during the room dedication. ~ Photo credits: Suzanne DeChillo



Sr. Renee Kittelson Presents on Venerable Augustine Tolton

Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC (I.) recently
gave a presentation on Venerable
Augustine Tolton.



Sr. Renee Kittelson MSC, spoke at the Holy Name Cathedral, Sunday, January 15, about Venerable Augustine Tolton.. He was the first black American priest and lived from 1854-1897. He died in Chicago after building the first black church-St. Monica's. Note that he was a contemporary of Mother Cabrini. Sr. Joan McGlinchey, MSC was present in Chicago when the items for his cause were sent to Rome. He may one day be Saint Augustine Tolton. ~ submitted by Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC

Prayer Requests

Fr. John F.X. Smith

Please pray for Fr. Smith – featured on page 6 – who will be undergoing surgery later this month. Pray that all will go well with his procedure and that his recovery will be swift.

In Loving Memory

Rosemary Colonna

The Missionary Sisters and the Cabrini Community join the Cabrini College Community in extending sympathy to Diane Crompton, Institutional Advancement, on the loss of her mother, Rosemary M. Colonna, who passed away on Wednesday, January 11th, 2017. Please keep Diane and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

