



From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

I'm over 40. Can I still join religious life?

This is the fourth and final instalment of an article that appears in the VISION Vocation Guide by Sr. Adrienne Kaufmann, OSB and Br. Ronald Hingle, SC.

Not all religious communities accept candidates over the age of 40 (the MSCs welcome women on an individual basis, but generally will invite women ages 18 – 45 to apply for candidacy). In this series of articles we will explore the questions and answers that mature candidates often have.

This week, we focus on further items of consideration...

What else should I know as an over-40 person considering religious life?

Sr. Adrienne: Most women and men have limited exposure to religious community. Not knowing the inner workings of community life, discerners often have a romantic view of life together as a conflict-free escape from human weaknesses. A religious community is not the “communion of saints.” That’s heaven! Community life is challenging: we are one another’s joy, but also we are one another’s sandpaper, rubbing each other smooth.

Those living in community for 50 or 60 years have scant understanding of the struggles of life immersed in the world. Patient learning from one another is essential to bridge the cultural gap between new members and those seasoned in religious life. Flexibility and openness, along with intentional community-building work, are essential ingredients of blending mature-age adults into community.

Also, do not give away your savings. To deeply discern your call during the years of initial formation, you need the freedom to leave or stay. This is serious. Communities are unlikely to accept a new member who would not be able to be self-supporting if that member discerns before final vows – or the community discerns – that she is not called.

Br. Ronnie: One of the most important realities for the 40-plus vocation is that he or she will need to go through formation. Formation implies taking a hard look at ourselves and being willing to undergo conversion to the life of the Gospel and of the community. Conversion is a lifelong process, and change will be required.

Community life is
challenging: We
are one another's
joy, but also we
are one another's
sandpaper,
rubbing each
other smooth.

Older candidates must also realize that while the initial fervor for religious life may inspire an idealized view of the life, those who are in the community are human and do not always live the ideal. Joining a religious community is not about escaping the trials and tribulations of the world. Everything we find “out there” can be found “inside here,” hopefully, to a lesser degree. Though the professed men and women in community have vowed to be different, we still fall short of the glory of God.

While many have an idealized view of ministry, accomplishing the mission on a day-to-day basis is simply hard work. There is often very little that is romantic about it. People are not always eager to receive the Good News, nor are the recipients of our ministries always grateful for our service. But we work hard anyway, very hard, and we pray that the Lord will make up for our inadequacies and shortcomings, helping us succeed according to his plans for that work.

Personal and communal prayer is difficult at times. Consolations are not always granted, and fidelity to daily spiritual exercises, on both the personal and communal levels, can be challenging. The beauty of community is that when I am not strong, the brothers or sisters with whom I live, can be. Together, we challenge each other to be faithful.

Religious life is about working, playing, praying and living *together!* While such a life can be quite challenging, it is also extremely rewarding. It is a wonderful way to build the Kingdom!
~ VISION Vocation Guide



Save the Date!

Cabrini Immigrant Services

Liberty & Justice Awards Reception

December 8, 2016

Estherwood Mansion
Dobbs Ferry, New York

Details to follow!

Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC...

Gifting Others Through Your Generosity



As the weather gets colder and you reach for your warmer coats and jackets, we ask you to be mindful of those who might be without that extra layer of warmth. Cabrini Immigrant Services wishes to remind you of their annual coat drive, which will take place in early November. The Missionary Sisters and the good folks at Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC are collecting **new or gently used coats or jackets** that our clients can use. We are **also in need of winter scarves, hats and gloves**. They can be brought to CIS by November 11, 2016.



For **Thanksgiving** this year we are giving out vouchers to use in grocery stores for the food they would need for their holiday dinner. \$25 can feed a family of four. Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Christmas is a big event for the children of our clients. We will have a big party and gift giving. We need to start early to buy gifts and plan for the party. We spend \$40 on each child, making sure that they feel special and receive a gift their parents would not otherwise be able to afford. Please help us guarantee a merry Christmas for these children by donating today.



It is with your support and that of other generous individuals that Cabrini Immigrant Services can continue to make a positive impact on thousands of immigrant working class families. Please help us in whatever way is possible for you. Thank you.

<http://cis-nyc.org/donate/>



Please see what your donation make possible.

*Please Save the Date
and Please Join Us*

FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

for

**St. Frances
Xavier Cabrini**

PATRON SAINT OF IMMIGRANTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

10:00 am–4:00 pm

10:00 am Italian Mass

12:00 French/Haitian Mass

2:00 pm Spanish Mass

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10:00 am–4:00 pm

11:00 am English Mass

2:00 pm Filipino Mass



Saint Frances Cabrini Shrine

**701 Fort Washington Avenue New York, NY 10040
(212) 923-3536 CabriniShrineNYC.org**

RITE OF CLOSING THE DOOR OF MERCY

On Sunday, November 13 at the 11:00 am Feast Day Mass

Multicultural Mass with Bishop Gerald Walsh and Father Ambiorix Rodriguez



On Sunday, November 13 at the 11:00 am Feast Day Mass, Bishop Gerald Walsh will officially close the Holy Doors at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine NYC. That day the Jubilee is brought to a close in local churches, and the following Sunday, November 20, the Holy Door at the Vatican will close.

To obtain the special Jubilee Indulgence, make a pilgrimage to Cabrini Shrine before the 11:00 Mass on November 13!

ST. FRANCES CABRINI SHRINE

Official Jubilee Church for the Year of Mercy

701 Fort Washington Avenue, New York, NY 10040 212-923-3536
www.cabrinishrinenyc.org | info@cabrinishrinenyc.org

Prayer Requests

Gary Breaser

Please remember Gary Breaser in your prayers. Gary is currently going through a difficult time. Gary is the brother-in-law of Cabrini University alumna Maria Valente Breaser '73. Maria and her husband, Rob, would be grateful for your prayers.

Glen Burger

Kindly pray for Glen Burger. Glen is the brother-in-law of Sr. Lisa Valentini, MSC of the MSCs of Reading, PA. Glen is currently undergoing chemotherapy and is having difficulty tolerating the treatment. Please pray for his strength and that of his family during this time. Sr. Lisa and her family are most grateful for our prayers.

Peggy Deegan

Please continue your prayers for Peggy Deegan for whom we have been praying. Peggy has been buoyed by our prayers during her illness. She and her family are most grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

MSC Provincial Assembly

This Sunday, Missionary Sisters from the Stella Maris Province, Central America and Mexico will gather for their annual Provincial Assembly. Please keep them in your prayers as they meet to discuss the many aspects of forming a new canonical entity. May their time together be blessed and fruitful, and may they all travel to and from the meeting in safety.



William “Perkie” Pergolina

Your prayers are asked for William “Perkie” Pergolina, husband of Helen McCormick, cousin of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, who is experiencing cardiac complications.

Stella Petersheim

Your continuing prayers are asked for Stella Petersheim, mother of Karol Brewer in the Province Formation Office. Mrs. Petersheim was hospitalized recently and is now recuperating at home. Please pray for her and Karol and her sisters who are taking care of their mom.

Prayers for a Grandson

A Cabrini University staff member asks our prayers for her grandson who is struggling with addiction and other mental health issues. Please keep this young man in your prayers.

Prayers for Rob

Jackie Neary, one of the Cabrini University coaches, asks for prayers for a friend, Rob, who is undergoing a series of tests to determine the cause of vision problems and severe headaches.

Dr. Shur's daughter

Dr. Shur is a friend and physician of Sr. Arlene Primus, MSC. Dr. Shur asks our prayers for his daughter who is 30 years of age and is presently in a coma after cardiac arrest. She lives in Russia and has a six year-old daughter. Please pray for her complete recovery.

With Grateful Hearts

In recent weeks we have been praying for the daughter of a Cabrini University staff member who was undergoing medical tests. The good news is that all has turned out well. Thank you so much for your prayers.



In Loving Memory

Richard LaMattina

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Richard LaMattina, who passed away suddenly earlier this week. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

Publication Notice

Due to the Provincial Assembly of the Missionary Sisters, which will be taking place next week, The Update will not be published next Thursday, October 20th. We will resume publication on Thursday, October 27th. Please submit all notices and news no later than Wednesday, October 26th at noon. Thank you.

cabrininews@mothercabrini.org

