



October 15, 2015

Why the Pope's Visit Matters to Catholic Higher Education

In the midst of the pandemonium and exhilaration of the visit of Pope Francis, a spark has been ignited in Catholic colleges and universities throughout the Philadelphia region. This is a long overdue call to re-examine what it means to be a Catholic institution of higher education, and a challenge to the sometimes-stale (and yet vitally important) debate over Catholic identity that exists within our colleges. Pope Francis has brought a dynamic energy to this discussion, which will have implications in Catholic higher education for decades.

First, the Pope's visit has reminded Catholic higher education students, faculty and staff that their Catholic identity is one that they can be proud of and that their spirituality can be the foundation to their success after graduation. Francis' call to transcend a "culture of waste" and to commit to "care of creation" touches on increasingly important issues for young Catholics today. His insistence to visit incarcerated individuals in the Philadelphia prison system and to tell them that he was there to "share your situation and to make it my own," demonstrates that "solidarity" is not just a papal vocabulary word, but a lived-out commitment to the dignity of all human life. His relationship with Sister Mary Scullion, RSM and the important work of Project HOME in Philadelphia inspires all of us to an action that is both beyond words of faith, *and* embedded within these same virtues. Young Catholics can be inspired by a Church that is passionate, sincere, and active.



Second, for many of us non-Catholics in Catholic higher education (I am a Mennonite who is provost of a Catholic college), the visit has prompted us to consider why we were attracted to Catholic institutions despite our diverse faith traditions. It also encouraged us to find the multitude of ways that our own traditions coincide so closely with Francis' message of hope and encouragement. As Francis stated while standing in front of Independence Hall, "It is imperative that the followers of the various religions join their voices in calling for peace, tolerance and respect for the dignity and rights of others." For those of us not of the Catholic faith, we understood in these words that our work at Catholic colleges and universities can give us a stronger religious identity in our own traditions *because* we work at Catholic institutions.

Francis also was able to remind us of the unique “charisms” that shaped each of our college traditions, including those at Cabrini College—named for Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. It was reaffirming and strengthening to have the Pope not only acknowledge, but also gratefully affirm the power of women religious in the Catholic Church. I know that Cabrini College’s sponsoring order, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, continues to model the engagement that we hope alumni aspire to every day. These Missionary Sisters embody the best in us and it is inspiring to have this acknowledgement from the Vatican. Equally, I am sure that other Catholic colleges and universities take immense pride in their own founding orders that have built each institution.



Finally, the Pope’s visit to Philadelphia, and to the United States, confirmed that Catholic higher education matters. Amidst the constant challenges of enrollment, budgets, and socio-political pressures to devalue a faith-based liberal arts education our mission is still vital amidst the changing landscape of higher education. The “call to action” from the



Pope’s message to the City of Brotherly Love brings a renewed optimism in our foundations of Catholic Intellectual Tradition and Catholic Social Teaching. We recognize his consistent call to think beyond consumerism and beyond professional status. Faith-based liberal education, combined with strong professional skill development, is the basis of both a moral and a thriving society.

Let us hope that this is *not* just a great story to tell at parties and gatherings. Let this be a constant reminder to us all that Catholic higher education is a gift to the world community. Let us acknowledge that it creates the kind of leaders in the corporate, civic, and non-profit worlds that will create a thriving society and economy. And let us remember that a more fair and just world with a sincere care for those less fortunate can be led by Catholic higher education alumni, inspired by Pope Francis.

*~ Submitted by Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Cabrini College*

Treasures of the Vatican

Franklin Institute – now to February 15, 2016



The Franklin Institute of Philadelphia is currently hosting the exclusive East Coast destination of Vatican Splendors. The exhibit explores the historical and cultural impact of the Vatican over the span of 2,000 years through significantly relevant objects straight from the Vatican. Every object in the exhibition tells its own story, together forming a great historical mosaic of the Vatican. Many of the artifacts have never before been on public view. Highlights include works by Michelangelo, and Bernini and Guercino, some dating back to the first century. For further info: <https://www.fi.edu>



Religious Vocations at Mid-Life – Continuing the Conversation

According to Sr. Adrienne Kaufmann, OSB, a vocation at mid-life has its great blessings but, it also brings with it practical challenges. What do these women do with their assets? If God is calling women to community they feel a call to uproot. Most sell their homes and bank their assets. If they are renters, some communities require that they have sufficient savings so that they are as free to leave the community, as they are to enter.

Discernment of their call requires freedom; therefore, if they have nothing saved, and are living paycheck to paycheck, or have debts (other than possibly educational debt) they are not eligible to discern with some communities. Each religious community sets its own parameters on financial matters. Those who have taken an early retirement deposit into their own accounts any monthly payments or pensions they receive during initial formation. This additional money will assist them to restart their lives should they leave the community before the time of final vows. After final vows, any monthly payments, Social Security, etc. come to the religious community.

Those religious communities who have chosen to accept women who are mothers and grandmothers are wise to have a conversation with their vowed members about their feelings surrounding the blessing of motherhood and grandmother-hood. A range of feelings and emotions is natural. The community should be in agreement that women who are mothers and grandmothers will be accepted warmly into the community and not be a source of discontentment or resentment.



There are literally hundreds who are calling themselves to community. Some are lonely, some are living with mental and physical disabilities, and are unable and occasionally, unwilling to hold down a full time job. They *are* religious and desire a relationship with God; they desire a life of companionship and security; but they are incapable of fully entering into an interdependent relationship.

Sr. Adrienne gives inquirers who are not realistic candidates clear, honest reasons why she believes they are not called to religious life. She is also very clear that they need a regular spiritual director to assist them in sorting out the difference between a call that comes from God, and a call that originates from a need inside themselves. She encourages other religious communities to be open to what God is doing among mature-age women because God is truly calling. Mature age women are a treasure.

~ Sr. Adrienne Kaufman, OSB, How My Community Has Welcomed Midlife Vocations; HORIZON, Journal of the National Religious Vocation Conference

Cabrini Mission Foundation, New York, NY Cabrini Immigrant Services, New York, NY



Bowling FUNdraiser

A great night was had by all on October 7th at the Cabrini Mission Foundation's first Bowling FUNdraiser. Held at the beautiful Chelsea Piers in NYC, this event raised money to support the Angel Fund. Special thanks to Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC, Provincial, for this amazing idea!

The Cabrini Immigrant Services Angel Fund Program is to provide low-income immigrant students with the opportunity to fulfill their educational potential and access higher education. Each year, 7-9 students receive scholarships that provide for tuition and materials. Winners of these scholarships are also offered an internship at Cabrini Immigrant Services.

~ submitted by CMC missionary Madison Koenig and Ellen Cunningham, Cabrini Mission Foundation

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the Cabrini Mission Foundation office (212-228-8608 or www.cabrinifoundation.org).

Special thanks to Event Sponsors:

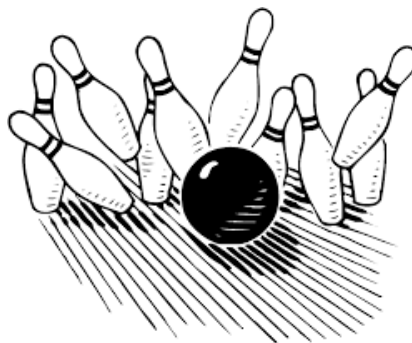
Kingpin Sponsors: Diana and Bob Jackson - Dr. Lawrence J. Ottaviano

Strike Sponsors: Cabrini of Westchester - David DeCerbo - James Sweeney (via Paul Selvin)

Sponsors of Sisters: Geraldine Castagna, Lee Ann & Brother Cervelli, Vanessa Corchia, Geraldine Flaherty, Jeff & Betsy Gingerich, IT Help Central, Michael Le Fante, Bill & Melanie Penders, V-Cloud, Jimmy Wood



Melanie Paccillo (l.) Cabrini Mission Foundation consultant and Javier Ramirez Baron (r.) Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC, mingled with the guests at the FUNdraiser



Cabrini College, Radnor, PA

Adding touches of the season



Photo above: Administration, faculty, staff and students all pitched in to plant mums, bulbs and trees for the Fall Campus Beautification Day. Photo right: CMC missionaries Vanessa Miranda and Rachel Recolcolin got busy planting spring bulbs. *Photo credit: Ashley Block*

On a gorgeous autumn Friday, administrators, faculty, staff, students and CMC missionaries all picked up shovels, rakes and trowels to beautify the campus for the fall season and to plant bulbs to further enhance the campus beauty in the spring.

According to campus Grounds Manager Gus Feudale, 14,000 bulbs, 200 mums, 7 trees and 4 shrubs were planted on the 112-acre historic campus in Radnor. Following the morning of gardening, all those who planted, were treated to a festive luncheon in the College's Grace Hall Atrium. ~ submitted by Nancy Costello



One Minute Meditation

Living by Faith

Does faith help you to live longer? Whether or not it makes us live longer, it lets us live each day to the full. Faith is about how we live, not how long. But, perhaps that is precisely the point. Happiness is elusive. You do not find it by pursuing it. Faith helps us to live better, more generously, with less fear and more delight than we otherwise might have done. It helps us to develop an appetite for life, to cherish the miracle of being, to celebrate in the midst of uncertainty. Perhaps that is its secret, its wisdom and its gift. Faith teaches us to make a blessing over our lives.

Jonathan Sacks, Celebrating Life

From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

Today's Catholic Sisters. Who they are. Why we need them.



On Saturday, October 10th the National Religious Vocations Conference (NRVC) hosted New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity. Above: Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, introduces the authors Patricia Wittberg, SC (I.) and Mary Johnson, SNDdeN. (Hidden is Mary Gautier, Ph.D.)

The authors presented their findings with regard to the changing demographics of US Catholics and the Institutes of women religious. They addressed the diversity in age and culture in today's candidates. A panel discussion of recently professed sisters was moderated by Sr. Mary Johnson. Attending were Sr. Grace Waters, MSC and Nancy Costello.



In their book, the authors bring together quantitative and qualitative data canonical and theological perspectives and sociological insights and analyses to present a multilayered portrait of women religious in the United States today. The book includes survey data and archival material that has never been women together before. A most interesting read for all those who have journeyed with Catholic sisters.

The Gift of Mission, Chestnut Hill, PA



Thirty-nine juniors and seniors from Archbishop John Carroll HS, Bishop McDevitt HS and Mount St. Joseph Academy gathered last week at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph for an interactive and spiritual day on life vocational discernment. The day is filled with learning activities, prayer and a panel discussion in which girls can ask sisters a wide range of questions on religious life.

You are invited to attend the
**Feast Day Celebration for
 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

10:00 am Italian Mass
 11:30 am French/Haitian Mass
 2:00 pm Spanish Mass

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

11:00 am English Mass
 2:00 pm Filipino Mass

St. Frances Cabrini Shrine
 701 Fort Washington Avenue • New York, NY 10040 • (212) 923-3536
CabriniShrineNYC.org

Prayer Requests

Andy Litavec

Please continue your prayers for Andy Litavec, Professor Emeritus at Cabrini College. Andy underwent heart surgery last week and has been moved out of ICU to a cardiac unit. He is up and walking a bit each day. He would be so grateful for our prayers.

Missionary Sisters, Stella Maris Province

The MSCs, along with many of their lay collaborators, will be holding their Provincial Assembly next week in New Jersey. Please keep their meeting in your prayers and pray that all may travel safely to and from the Assembly.

Earl Rogers

Please pray for Earl Rogers, brother of Marilyn Rogers, a wonderful tutor at Cabrini Immigrant Services in Dobbs Ferry. Earl is experiencing some physical and emotional difficulties at this time.

Ronnie Waters

Please pray for Ronnie, the cousin of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, who is currently hospitalized.

With gratitude

Peter Karpinski

Cabrini Companion Peter Karpinski thanks everyone for their prayers. Peter recently received word that his cancer has not grown. Please continue to pray for his health and happiness.

Cindy Ross

Cabrini College staff member Cindy Ross wishes to express her gratitude to all those who sent cards and offered messages of condolence upon the death of her mother, Agnes Smiley.

In Loving Memory

Edward A. Pettit, Jr.

Please remember Edward A. Pettit, Jr. on the 1-year anniversary of his death. His brother, Tom Pettit, is a long-time volunteer at Cabrini Immigrant Services.

