



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

THE UPDATE

October 26, 2017



CABRINI HEALTH SUPPORTS LOCAL ASYLUM SEEKERS

Australia is known as the lucky country. Yet this has not been so for asylum seekers, as Australia maintains one of the most restrictive immigration detention systems in the world.

Successive federal governments have progressively tightened our immigration policies in an effort to make Australia an unattractive destination for people seeking asylum. The current government is proud that it has “stopped the boats” through its boat turn-back policy. Its attention has now turned to withdrawing or limiting support for people who arrive by aeroplane on a legal visa and later claim asylum, as well as asylum seekers currently living in the community while their refugee claim is being processed.

In late August of this year, the Federal Government announced the cessation of financial and housing support for a group of asylum seekers who had been transferred from offshore detention in Nauru to Australia for medical reasons. We saw the immediate detrimental impact of the announcement on clients receiving care and services at the Cabrini Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health Hub in Melbourne’s northern suburb of Brunswick. This prompted us to release our first public statement calling for a more compassionate response to the plight of these people, which is available at www.cabrini.com.au/news-and-events/new-blogcategory-2/cabrini-s-stand-on-compassionate-support-for-asylum-seekers/

The move prompted Sister Sharon Casey, MSC and Sister Beatriz Santos, MSC to request that we respond in a practical way: they asked us to make two vacant apartments in the building in which they live available to house asylum seekers. A subsequent call to the Brigidine Sisters Asylum Seeker Project www.basp.org.au resulted in a family moving into the first apartment within a week. Jiko from Somalia has four children under the age of six and is pregnant with her fifth. The family had spent four weeks in emergency

accommodation, sharing just one room. The two-bedroom apartment is a vast improvement and better meets their needs.

ASYLUM

Our second group – three single women – moved into the other vacant apartment on Monday 16 October. They were sharing a house near the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project office. Their move will free up the house for an asylum seeker family in a location where it is easier for the Brigidine workers to provide support.

“We hope our accommodations will assist the women to better transition to living independently in the community when their refugee status is finally determined,” said Executive Director of Mission and Charitable Services Cath Garner.

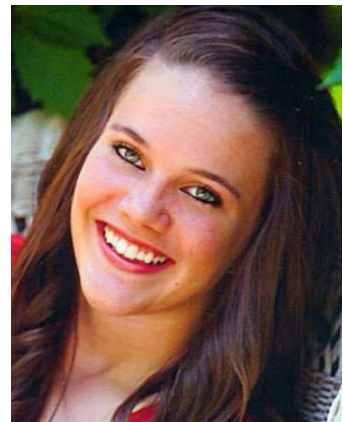
“We are grateful we have this opportunity to demonstrate to these few people that we genuinely care about their plight and stand in solidarity with them, despite the harshness of our Federal Government’s policies.

“We draw strength from Mother Cabrini’s spirit and vision, particularly in this centenary year.” ~ submitted by Cath Garner, Cabrini Health



The entire Cabrini Community could not be more proud that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities, and Catholic Relief Services is featuring Mother Cabrini on Pope Francis’ campaign for migrants and refugees. And, Cabrini University senior Molly Seaman wrote the lead article about Mother Cabrini for the world to learn more about our patroness.

Molly writes, “I feel so blessed to have been able to grow up surrounded by Mother Cabrini’s mission and true example of love and compassion carried out by the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and I am so grateful that I attend a University founded upon giving students like me, an education of the heart.”



Molly Seaman

Mother Cabrini, she lived for migrants

Do you know St. Frances Xavier Cabrini? You may know her as the first American saint, others remember her as the founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

But how many remember Mother Cabrini as the patron saint of immigrants, a fierce advocate for humans of all skin tones and a humanitarian with a deep passion for promoting the dignity and rights of every person.

Maria Francesca Cabrini was born in 1850 in Italy where she dreamed of becoming a missionary in China. Pope Leo XIII had other plans, however, and sent young Frances not to the East, but to the West, to work among Italian immigrants in New York City.

In this period of our history, Italians were leaving their homeland by the thousands for many of the same reasons immigrants are forced to migrate today: instability, conflict, ties to family. Mother Cabrini's lifetime was known as the "new immigration" era in which over 3 million Italians made the perilous journey to seek refuge in America. At this time, this was viewed as one of the largest populations shifts in history. Fast-forward to 2017 and we are witnessing a similar displacement of people but at a greater magnitude.



According to Catholic Relief Services, the war in Syria has killed over 400,000 Syrians, and displaced more than *11 million civilians* and counting. Millions of people have not only lost their homes but are struggling to retain the promise of a bright future for their children.

Similarly, hundreds of thousands of children, women and families are being forced to flee the Northern Triangle (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras) due to harsh push factors as gang violence, poverty, unemployment and climate change.

In 1880, Pope Leo desperately urged for the care of the Italian immigrants coming to the United States much like Pope Francis does today. In fact, this September, Pope Francis launched the "Share the Journey" <https://www.sharejourney.org> campaign in which he invites us all to "Share the Journey" with refugees and migrants around the world. The focus of the campaign is to see through the eyes of others rather than turning a blind eye. In the words of Pope Francis, "Not just to see, but to look. Not just to hear, but to listen. Not just to meet and pass by, but to stop. And don't just say, 'what a shame, poor people,' but allow ourselves to be moved by pity."

During his visit to the United States to speak to Congress, Pope Francis urged, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Mt. 7:12) This rule points us in a clear direction. Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated.

In the words of our hero, friend and all fleeing their homes and facing persecution, "Take to heart the interests of the poor immigrants and direct them well when they are on these shores." ~ *St. Frances Xavier Cabrini*

~ article written by Molly Seaman

To read the full text of Molly's article: <https://www.sharejourney.org/stories/she-lived-for-migrants>

To learn more: <https://www.sharejourney.org/resource-library/honor-mother-cabrini>

Calling for a “Revolution of Tenderness”

Sr. Mary Scullion, RSM, honored as Nerney Leadership Institute
Executive in Residence.

“No one is home until all of us are home.” *

On Tuesday, October 24th, Sr. Mary Scullion, RSM, the Executive Director and President of Project HOME, was honored by the Nerney Leadership Institute at Cabrini University as its Executive in Residence. Sr. Mary has been involved in service work and advocacy for both the homeless and people with mental illness since 1978.

In 1989, Sr. Mary and Joan Dawson McConnon, co-founded Project H.O.M.E - a nationally recognized organization that provides **H**ousing, **O**ppportunity for employment, **M**edical care and **E**ducation to enable chronically homeless and low-income persons to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Under their leadership, Project HOME has gone from an emergency winter shelter to more than 700 units of housing, including JBJ Soul Homes – partnering with Jon Bon Jovi - which provides supportive housing for homeless youth, and three businesses that provide employment to formerly homeless persons.



Sr. Mary Scullion, RSM, Executive Director and President of Project HOME.



From left: Michael Oliveri and David Brown, colleagues of Sr. Mary's, shared their stories of homelessness with the campus community.

Sr. Mary is also a powerful voice on political issues affecting homelessness and people with mental illness. Her advocacy efforts resulted in the right of homeless persons to vote as well as a landmark federal court decision that affects the fair housing rights of persons with disabilities.

During her day at Cabrini, Sr. Mary engaged with University administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. She was accompanied to campus by two of her Project HOME colleagues David Brown and Michael Oliveri, gentlemen who were formerly

homeless and who now have positions of responsibility within the Project HOME organization and who provide a stirring testament to the power of the human spirit in overcoming adversity when the compassionate support and guidance of others is offered.

Several themes emerged from Sr. Mary's remarks during the day. Citing Pope Francis, Sr. Mary affirmed the pontiff's call for a “Revolution of Tenderness” in which we advocate



Cabrini University President Dr. Donald Taylor (l.) and Tom Nerney, '77 (r.) founder of the Nerney Leadership Institute present the Executive in Residence Award to Sr. Mary Scullion, RSM.

During her brief stay at Cabrini University, Sr. Mary demonstrated the tenacity, humility, determination, compassion, knowledge, wit and leadership that have enabled her to be a tireless advocate for those who are experiencing chronic homelessness and mental illness.

for compassionate public policy. Pope Francis called for “the urgent need for more inclusive and equitable economic models.”

She is concerned that in the tax revision plan being put forth by the current administration in Washington, social services will be cut which will create a greater cycle of poverty and homelessness. She stated, “poverty is economic violence.”

In calling for the inclusive and equitable economic models, Sr. Mary strongly believes that elected officials should speak the truth and be held accountable.

She believes that the greatest equalizer is education – that all should be given the opportunity to receive an education and thereby, through knowledge be able to affect society in a positive manner. “True education is transformative and dynamic,” she stated.



MSC Candidates Evalyn Ndunge (2nd r.) and Bianca Huertas, (r.) interact with Sr. Mary during a lunchtime conversation. Joining them is Dr. Mark Kiselica, Dean of Cabrini University's School of Humanities and Social Sciences



To learn more about Project Home, please visit:
<https://projecthome.org/about>

* The motto of Project HOME

During the evening forum of Sr. Mary Scullion's day at Cabrini University, Vice-President of Institutional Advancement Steve Highsmith '88 engages Sr. Mary in a free-flowing conversation regarding her work, her outlook on life and her hopes for the future public policy in our country.

~ submitted by Nancy Costello; excerpts from Cabrini University Executive in Residence Program

And a little child shall lead them... Cabrini Kids Making This World a Better Place



Photo above: A "Cabrini Kid" packs hospitality bags for victims of domestic violence.

Photo below: Getting ready to box up the bags, this young man handles his task with great efficiency and pride.



In a song made famous by Diana Ross, we are told to 'Reach out and touch somebody's hand and make this world a better place if you can.' That is exactly what happened at Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY. Several of our Cabrini Kids in grades 4-6, came to the office on Friday afternoon, October 20th and made packets which will be given to My Sisters Place in White Plains, NY. My Sisters Place supports victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, dating violence and stalking. They also have safe houses for victims who need to leave their homes and find safe shelter.

Each of the 100 packets contained shampoo and conditioner, tissues, deodorant, soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a comb and body lotion. The packets will be used for victims of domestic violence. The kids also put a small red heart into the bag so the person will know that someone is thinking of them and sending their love.

Someone reached out and touched the hand of CIS so that we were able to do such a wonderful program. St. Faith's House Foundation has been so generous to CIS over the years. We were able to reach out to others because of their generous grant.

Our kids learned about domestic violence and its effects on a person, their family and friends. After the talk, the Kids created an assembly line and filled the bags with the needed supplies. One of the 6th graders noted that 'they all had fun but more importantly, they helped so many people.' What a great lesson to be learned.

After all their hard work, we enjoyed pizza and punch as we talked about all the various people who will be helped because of the goodness of our Cabrini Kids.

Truly, our Cabrini Kids have reached out their hands and helped to make the world a better place. ~ *submitted by:*
Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS, Dobbs Ferry, NY



"Cabrini Kids" lend a hand to those most in need. Basic toiletry items and a small heart are packaged for distribution and are sealed with love.



With today's edition of THE UPDATE we continue a brief series on vocation ministry taken from an article written by Father Joseph Nassal, C.P.P.S. which appeared in the Summer 2017 edition of HORIZON, the journal of the National Religious Vocation Conference. Fr. Nassal has worked in vocation, retreat, renewal, and reconciliation ministry. His article is intended primarily for those who work in vocation ministry in religious congregations, yet, his words hold great value for everyone, no matter what your vocation in life.

Six Ways to Thrive in Your Vocation

4 Preserve Your Perspective

Returning to our original inspiration allows us to preserve our perspective. We keep our perspective by focusing on the question, “Are we living our charism in the most relevant way possible?”

The prophet Micah put our lives into proper perspective when he wrote about what God requires of us. The prophet said: Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”

Life is often a matter of perspective. We keep our perspective by asking the important questions. Since so much in our world does not make sense today, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, O.P. former master general of the Dominicans, believes that religious life must be the answer to the question, “What is the sense of human life today?” One image he offered that serves as a possible answer is that of a nun in Venezuela singing the Exultet at an Easter Vigil he attended. “People must be able to recognize in our lives an invitation to be human in a new way,” he wrote. For him, the image of that nun singing in the dark to the paschal candle reflects the present and future of religious life.

Next week: Embrace imperfection.

Cabrini H.S. Takes Learning Outdoors

Located on the banks of Bayou St. John and adjacent to New Orleans City Park, Cabrini High School offers a popular “Outdoor Activities” class that extends learning beyond the traditional classroom. The class teaches young women a variety of outdoor skills including fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and golf, with archery coming soon. In addition to learning these outdoor skills, students build a sense of pride and confidence and gain skills they can share with their friends and family, as well as enjoy for the rest of their lives.



Kayaking is new to the Cabrini Outdoor Activities class this year. Training begins with several videos on safety tips and how to use the paddle to move forward, backward, and for turning. The class takes trips to Bayou St. John where they practice how to get in and out of the kayak and how to

paddle efficiently, and prepare for a kayaking adventure toward Lake Pontchartrain.

During **fishing** lessons, students are taught how to assemble poles and reels, tie hooks, bait the hooks, proper casting techniques, and how to catch and release the fish unharmed. Once they have completed their training, the class fishes off the Moss Street Bridge. Students also complete an ice-fishing unit on their iPads where they learn what it is like to ice-fish in Minnesota.

Under the direction of Cabrini P.E. and Health teacher Nancy Walsh, the Outdoor Activities class helps students grow physically and mentally. “I love teaching this class because I get to see a transformation in action. There are often students that will refuse to touch a worm. The next thing you know students are baiting their hooks, catching fish, and taking the fish off the hooks. It’s incredible to witness.”



Canoeing has been a part of the P.E. program at Cabrini for decades. Students are given all safety tips for canoeing prior to going out on the water. A canoe is brought into the gym where students can practice entering and exiting the canoe and different strokes using the paddles. After their training, the girls take three canoe trips in Bayou St. John.

Says Walsh, “I could write a book on all of the benefits our students are experiencing through these activities. They learn to tackle their fears. They gain self-confidence. They learn a sense of independence. They acquire a taste for tranquility.”

Located next door to City Park, Cabrini added **golf** to the Outdoor Activities, which has been a success with the students. They learn the pro-grip, proper stance and proper swing technique, and the difference between irons and woods. Before heading to the City Park Driving Range, students practice swinging by hitting plastic balls using both irons and woods. When they have mastered their skills, the class takes the short bus ride to the driving range.

“I get to hear touching stories. Because we’ve taught a golf unit, girls are now golfing with their grandparents. I love it when a student tells me that she went fishing with her dad for the first time. One student recently told me she wanted to buy fishing poles to take her little brother fishing,” adds Walsh. “I want girls to get out and enjoy the outdoors and not be afraid to try new things.” ~ *submitted by Katelyn Gross, CHS*



Cabrini Immigrant Services Annual Coat Drive



Help keep your neighbors warm this winter!
Donate new or gently used coats
and jackets for men, women and
children of all ages.

**We will be
receiving
donations
throughout the
month of
October.**



Drop off your
donation items at:
139 Henry Street
New York, NY
10002
Contact Cabrini at:
212-791-4590 Ext.
100 Monday-Friday
9am-5pm or via
email: Virginia
Quilli at
vquilli@cis-nyc.org
or Zenith Isidor at
zisidor@cis-nyc.org
for more
information

You may contribute by making a donation on the link below
that will go towards the children's coats:
<http://bit.ly/cabrinicoatdrive>



Save the Date!

Cabrini Immigrant Services Annual Liberty & Justice Awards Reception

November 16, 2017

**Estherwood Mansion
Dobbs Ferry, NY**

Honoring:
Thomas Dobbins
Coordinator of Justice and Peace
Producer, Sirius XM Radio
at Catholic Charities of New York

The Sisters of Charity of New York

And in Special Recognition of

Marianne McGowan
Cabrini Immigrant Services
ESL Coordinator, 2002-2017

**All Missionary Sisters are invited to be our guests at the reception.
Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to Susan Herceg at 914-693-6800
ext. 502 or sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org**

Prayer Requests

Hugh Waters

Your continuing prayers are asked for Hugh, the twin brother of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC. Hugh has been hospitalized and Sr. Grace has travelled to be with him. Please pray for his comfort and peace.



With a Grateful Heart

Cabrini High School alumna and trustee Florence Wingerter writes to thank the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian Community for your prayers for her friend, Toni Talluto, who received the results from her biopsy and all is well. “Thank you and the community again, the power of pray is wonderful,” shares Florence.

In Loving Memory

Anne “Nancy” Kovalski

The Cabrinian Community joins with the Cabrini University community in offering condolences to Mary Shrader, Facilities Department, upon the passing of her sister Nancy on Wednesday, October 18th. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for the comfort of her husband, her parents, her siblings and her extended family.

Ellen Elizabeth King Smith

Please ask for prayers for the repose of the soul of Ellen Elizabeth King Smith, the sister of Miriam King, the Executive Director of St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York City. Ellen went to her eternal rest on Friday, October 20th in Amarillo, Texas. Please pray for Ellen and for Miriam and their family.

Bruce David Weill

The Cabrinian Community joins the Cabrini University Community in extending sympathy to Cathy Yungmann, Emerita Professor of Communications, on the loss of her brother, Bruce David Weill, who passed away on Monday, October 23, 2017. Please keep Cathy and her family in your prayers.