



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

THE UPDATE

December 1, 2016

An Advent Invitation

Advent invites us to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming into our world anew so that we and our world may be touched once again by God's mercy and love and be changed. One way to spend our Advent season might be to consider how we can take small steps to change ourselves and our world by focusing on the words of Pope Francis to the U. S. Congress on September 24, 2015:

*"All of us are quite aware of, and deeply worried by, the disturbing social and political situation of the world today. Our world is increasingly a place of violent conflict, hatred and brutal atrocities, committed even in the name of God and of religion. Our response must be one of **hope and healing, of justice and peace**. Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good."*



So during the four weeks of Advent, let us focus on each of the Pope's themes – hope and healing, justice and peace. Let us reflect on these themes through readings which will inform our actions. In this way, our Advent season will be a rich spiritual experience of preparing to meet Jesus again in our hearts, in others around us, and in the daily events of our lives.

~ adapted from Steve Mueller, Prepare His Way!

Be the Light

On Sunday, November 27th, a prayer vigil entitled “Be The Light,” was held at the Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park in Dobbs Ferry, NY. The aim of the candlelight vigil was to bring the community together, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or immigration status.



Lorraine Campanelli, (c.) Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS) in Dobbs Ferry, NY, led a group of CIS volunteers as they participated in a candlelight vigil entitled “Be the Light” to promote community, mutual respect and understanding.

The prayer vigil, organized by several Dobbs Ferry families, wanted to promote the message of peace and unity within the community following the presidential election. It is the hope that everyone who resides in Dobbs Ferry will feel that they belong and are accepted.

During the service we were asked to talk to someone we didn’t know and share our hopes for the future. We were then asked to call out some words that were shared. We heard beautiful sentiments such as “compassion, kindness, love, acceptance and curiosity about a person, not hate.”

Several of our tutors as well as some families from Cabrini Immigrant Services participated in the prayer vigil. Our prayers will continue as we begin to heal as a nation. *~submitted by Lorraine Campanelli*

A Visit with the Senior Sisters



Photo right: Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC (3rd I.) recently led a group of Cabrini University staffers and friends to New York for a visit with the Senior Sisters.

Photo left: Cabrini University alumna Fran Carusi Brooks ’82 renews her friendship with Sr. Julie Toto, MSC.
~ with thanks to Cindy Ross for the photos.



A MISSIONARY AT HEART



*We are pleased to share this story on Sr. Alice Zanon, MSC. This article first appeared in **The Beat**, the news magazine of Cabrini Health in Australia. This is the third and final instalment.*

From time to time, Sr. Alice returns to Melbourne, Australia, out of her sense of family duty but does not feel she belongs to any particular country – not to Australia (where she was born and remains a citizen), not to Italy (the country of her family’s heritage) and not the USA (where she has lived and worked for 20 years). She describes this latter period as the most fulfilling and rewarding in her life’s work. “The Cabrini High School family is so strong in its charism,” she said. “I feel blessed to have the opportunity to bear witness to the Gospel

values, to live those values, to teach them and to instill them in the hearts of minds of our students. I am happy in my ministry as a religious Sister and to be sharing my gifts in the workplace – it is the best of both worlds.” She says they are two vastly different worlds.

Although a teacher, she says the field in which she is involved is secondary to that of helping others to take on and live the charism of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. “We put people first, rather than labelling them as students or patients, and seek to accompany each other in our journey through life.” In doing so, Sr. Alice has touched many thousands of young lives as well as those of their families. As well as her full-time ministry at Cabrini High School, Sr. Alice is Spiritual Director with the Legion of Mary, a lay Catholic organization present in most countries whereby members give volunteer service to the Church. Also, she is involved with her local parish church, Our Lady of the Rosary. Sr. Alice hosts fortnightly groups of visitors to the Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine comprising Mother Cabrini’s bedroom and the Sacred Heart Chapel, located on the grounds of Cabrini High School. Also, she ministers at frequent weddings and baptisms held in the chapel, where former students return to hold these special celebrations. During the month of August, 2015, Sr. Alice collaborated with WLAE (New Orleans public television) to produce a documentary film on the lives of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini and six other people who left a lasting legacy in New Orleans. This program, *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Gifts*, won the national 2016 Gabriel Award.



While she loves her life and ministry in New Orleans, Sr. Alice is ready to pack her bags if called by the Province to do so. “I love it here but I am not attached; I cannot afford to be. As a Missionary Sister, I have surrendered my life to Jesus and have taken a vow of obedience. Therefore, I need to be free to go wherever I am needed. I feel at home here today and all I can look at is today. I don’t fit in anywhere in particular but it doesn’t bother me – I have enjoyed all my missions, as people have welcomed me and I have found fulfilment in all my ministries.”



Now 71, Sr. Alice is still going strong. She rises at 4.30 am daily, beginning with a holy hour, followed by Mass at 7 am at her local church. “The Lord equips me to face whatever comes my way during the day,” she said. She works out for 20 minutes on the treadmill in her apartment or walks in her beloved City Park. A slim, vital, gentle woman, she loves her ministry, enjoys good health and does not see retirement on her horizon anytime soon. In fact, at the time of the author’s meeting, Sr. Alice was preparing to travel to the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Denver, Colorado. In honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, the Shrine offers retreat facilities, daily Mass, and is open every day for visitors. Everyone is welcome to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine, which was designated as a pilgrimage site for the 2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy. ~submitted by Christine Elmer



Cabrini Immigrant Services
Liberty & Justice Awards Reception
December 8, 2016
Estherwood Mansion
Dobbs Ferry, NY
honoring
Sr. Damien Ciminera, MSC
Dr. Eric and Donna Garfinkel
and
A Special Dedication in Memory of Tom Pettit
Cocktails and Light Fare 6:00 pm
Award Ceremony 7:00 pm

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

The Centenary Year



Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

1917 - 2017

100 Years of Remembrance and Missionary Zeal

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus invite you to
The Eucharistic Celebration of the Opening of this Centenary Year!

When: December 17, 2016

Where: Saint Frances Cabrini Shrine, 701 Fort Washington Ave., New York

Time: 2:00 p.m. - Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, Main Celebrant

As we gather during the Advent Season, Pope Francis invites us to "enlarge the space of our hearts" to receive the many ways that He comes to visit us as Emmanuel - God with us! May we enlarge the tent of our lives, our homes, our communities, our hearts to welcome Jesus and to go forth as Missionary Disciples of God's love in the world.

"Jesus, enlarge my heart so that I may love you more,
be more generous and be able to respond with greater love."
St. Frances Cabrini, Retreat Notes



Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC...

Gifting Others Through Your Generosity



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/>

Or contact Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC: 212-791-4590/4591



Please see what your donations make possible.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12 (4) Pss II

The Peaceable Kingdom



Second Sunday of Advent

From early childhood, the theme of the Peaceable Kingdom has been a favorite of mine. I was intrigued by the symbol of the Lion and the Lamb sitting side by side as a statue in our nativity. I often think of the Lion of Judah as a sign of justice and the Lamb of God as a sign of peace. Here exists the challenge for harmony and balance.

The Responsorial Psalm speaks of Justice and the fullness of Peace. In these very troubled times, globally - when fear and lack of respect for other so strongly exist - we are called to have a voice for

justice that brings us out of complacency - resembling more the Lion of Judah- armed with both missionary passion and zeal. We are simultaneously called to be signs of the fullness of peace that begins in our communities, mission and families that resembles the Lamb of God. Advent brings a message of Hope. In Romans, Paul speaks of harmony with one another so in one voice we may glorify God. The theme of our recent assembly was to widen our tents - we are called to do so in community, mission and family by being bearers of Jesus' love to the world.

In Matthew, John the Baptist's passion and zeal are evident but also is His humility. John clearly demonstrates this humility when he steps aside and encourages his disciples to follow Jesus. He knew when to step aside so the other could shine. John truly demonstrates following both the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God - keeping each in balance.

Matthew also challenges us to welcome one another as Christ welcomes us in community, mission and family. So does Mother Cabrini in our charism of hospitality as bearers of His Love to the world. ~ *Dianne McKenna, MSC*



One Minute Meditation

This Advent, try experiencing Christmas in a more gradual way, allowing the symbols, rich colors, poetry and music of Advent to wash over you slowly during these weeks. Take time to contemplate the pillars of Advent: Isaiah stoking humanity's longing for the Redeemer, Mary bringing Jesus into history and John the Baptist urging us to begin a new life. If you experience "the holidays" as an exhausting trial, let Advent calm you. Let its mystery refocus your life and make you eager for God.

~ Take Five for Faith

Prayer Requests

Eugene Block

Please pray for Eugene Block, the grandfather of former CMC missionary Ashley Block. At this time, Mr. Block is nearing his return to the Lord. Please pray for his comfort and for the strength of his family.

Elizabeth Fitz

Your prayers are asked for Elizabeth Fitz, who is 24 years of age and has been told she has 2 to 4 weeks to live. She has cancerous floating tumors in her brain. The only thing the doctors can do is try a experimental treatment that has not yet been tested on animals or people. Please keep Elizabeth in your thoughts and prayers.

Mark

Please pray for Mark, the son-in-law of a Cabrini University Trustee, who was recently diagnosed with a seizure disorder.

Kathie Minnino

Prayers are requested for Kathie who has worked in Dining Services at Cabrini University for years. She has been very ill and spent a few days in the hospital. She is having further tests. Please pray that she will soon be feeling better. Thank you.

Norma Rivera asks prayers for her sister

My 70 year-old sister who already suffers from fibromyalgia, diabetes and a host of other health issues, had been battling triple pneumonia. Now, she has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure with only 30% use left! Please place her in your very powerful prayer group. Norma Rivera is a good friend of Cabrini Companion Alba Thompson.

Sr. Ruth Tavares, MSC

Please pray for Sr. Ruth who remains hospitalized following hip surgery. Pray that she will experience a full and speedy recovery.



With Grateful Hearts

Sr. Martha Lopez, MSC

On this Saturday, December 3rd, MSC novice Sr. Martha Lopez Prada will make her profession of first vows in a ceremony at Cabrini-on-Hudson House of Discernment and Formation in West Park, New York. This is a cause for great joy and thanksgiving in the Institute of the Missionary Sisters as Sr. Martha continues her journey of faith. Please join the Missionary Sisters in prayer for Sr. Martha. Martha, we wish you all love and blessings.

In Loving Memory

Minnie Bosich

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Minnie Bosich. Her maiden name was Falcone and she attended St. Donato School in Philadelphia for a time and was the first to teach me to know and love Mother Cabrini. She was 98 and died peacefully in her sleep. Thank you and may the blessing of peace surround you,

~ John Bosich, Cabrini Companion

Nancy Marzo Costantino, Villa Cabrini Academy, Class of 1949

Linda Grant Jones '71, a Villa Cabrini Academy alumna shares, "With deep sadness, I am sorry to report that our friend, alumna, and Villa Cabrini webmistress, Nancy Marzo Costantino (class of 1949), has passed away after a valiant battle with cancer. On a personal note, Nancy will be sorely missed. She inspired us by her indomitable spirit, cheered us with her hearty laughter, comforted us with her tight hugs, amused us with her lively stories, encouraged us with her unfailing optimism. She loved her friends and adored her family. We are fortunate and thankful to have been part of her journey. Please pray for her family in their sorrow."

Eleanor Macchia Hughes

Eleanor died on Thanksgiving Day after suffering complications from a stroke. Eleanor grew up in St. Donato's Parish, Philadelphia and was a former Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, her sister and nieces and nephews. May she rest in God's eternal peace.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

