



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

THE UPDATE

December 16, 2015

# *Welcoming the Christ Child*



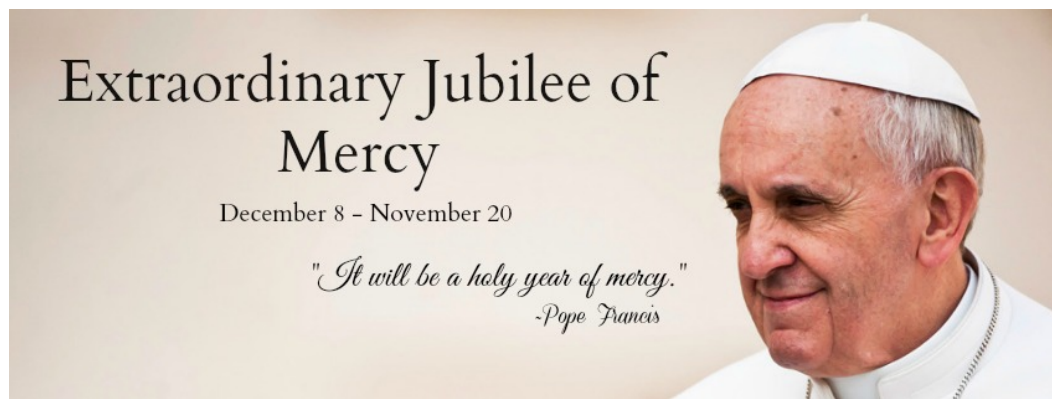
For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6

May the celebration of God's birth inspire us to seek  
new ways of bringing God's love to the world.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a peace-filled new year,

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Stella Maris Province



## How will you celebrate the Jubilee?

*Pope Francis asks each one of us to celebrate by showing to others the mercy that God constantly extends to all of us. Here are a few things that you can do:*

### ~ Contemplate Mercy

The motto for the Jubilee Year will be “Merciful like the Father.” By contemplating mercy, we begin to see how God gives himself to us and asks nothing in return. Because we are touched by God’s mercy, we can be merciful towards others.

### ~ Don’t Judge or Condemn

No one can look into another person’s soul. We see only what happens on the surface. Refraining from judgment and condemnation is an act of mercy, because it allows us to accept the good in every person and spare that person suffering caused by our negative attitudes.

### ~ Forgive

Jesus asks us to forgive others in the same way that we have received forgiveness from God. When we forgive, we release the poison of resentment that builds up inside of us. Forgiveness is an act of mercy for ourselves as well as for the person who hurt us.

### ~ Listen to God’s Word

To become more merciful, we must listen to the Word of God in Scripture and meditate on the message of God’s mercy. As we grow in our understanding of mercy, we can better incorporate mercy into our lives.

### ~ Go on a Pilgrimage

Pope Francis hopes that we will make a pilgrimage to a Holy Door in Rome or in our diocese where we can receive special graces granted during the Jubilee Year.

### ~ Recognize the Need for Mercy

During this year, we are called to recognize human misery in our world and reach out to those in need of mercy. We must find ways to heal wounds, break down barriers of indifference, offer friendship and restore human dignity.

## ~ Practice the **Spiritual** and **Corporal** Works of Mercy

We practice the **corporal** works of mercy when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead. We practice the **spiritual** works of mercy when we counsel the doubtful, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear patiently all those who do us ill and pray for the living and the dead.

## ~ Change Our Hearts

The ultimate goal is to help us change our hearts so we can become conduits of mercy.

~ *taken from Our Sunday Visitor, A Year of Mercy*



## St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine, New York, NY

### *Opening the Holy Door*

Sunday December 13th was an historic day for St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York. Pope Francis opened the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy on December 8, 2015 and all cathedrals and designated shrines opened their Holy Year Doors on December 13, 2015 - the Third Sunday of Advent. St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine was designated an official pilgrimage site by Cardinal Egan and thus a door of the Shrine was blessed by Bishop Gerald T. Walsh as the Holy Year Door.



Bishop Gerald T. Walsh blesses and opens the Holy Doors at the St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine in New York City.





The Shrine was filled with worshippers at the bi-lingual Eucharistic Celebration.

The Shrine was packed for a bi-lingual Eucharistic Celebration. St. Elizabeth Church choir provided the music and the staff and volunteers of the Shrine contributed countless hours to prepare for the celebration.

In his homily Bishop Walsh reminded the people of the words of Pope Francis: *"I present, therefore, this Extraordinary Jubilee Year dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us. In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of casting open the doors of His heart and of repeating that he loves us and wants to share his love with us."*

All are encouraged to make a pilgrimage to any of our three Shrines (New York, Colorado or Chicago) all of which have been designated as official sites of pilgrimage. As Pope Francis said: "May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us." ~ *submitted by Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC*

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## Mother Cabrini Shrine, Golden, CO

### *The Year of Mercy*



Mother Cabrini Shrine has been designated as a Denver Archdiocesan pilgrimage site for the Year of Mercy. On Sunday, December 13, the Holy Doors of the chapel were decorated, blessed and opened. A banner proclaiming the Shrine as a pilgrimage site has been displayed outside of the chapel. Pilgrimage site stamped cards are being distributed as people make a pilgrimage to the Shrine for the special indulgences that come with this Year of Mercy. Prayer cards of Pope's Prayer for Mercy were distributed in English and Spanish to Shrine visitors this past weekend and they were also taken to the local prison to share. Upcoming Year of Mercy events include adding information to the Shrine's website from Pope Francis each month and playing a recording of the Chaplet of Mercy in the Shrine chapel for a couple of hours each day. Banners will also be placed in the chapel displaying the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. ~ *submitted by JoAnn Seaman*





The student body of Cabrini High School (CHS) lines the galleries and courtyard as the Holy Doors are opened to the school's Sacred Heart chapel. Presiding over the ceremonial opening is Fr. Kyle Sanders who spoke to the students about the Year of Mercy and asked the girls to pray for a special person in their lives who needs forgiveness and prayer. Fr. Sanders told the students that when they are at CHS they are walking on Holy Ground. The ceremony concluded with Fr. Sanders giving the students a special blessing for the Year of Mercy.

~ submitted by Vivian Coutin

## Cabrini High School, New Orleans, LA

### *Opening the Holy Doors of the Jubilee Year*

### *Advent Outreach Program at the Shrine in Golden, Co*



One of the outreach projects at Mother Cabrini Shrine during this Advent season has been filling and delivering Christmas stockings to the students at Annunciation Catholic School in Denver. Through the generosity of those who worship at the Shrine, we were able to deliver close to 200 stockings filled with toys, treats and candy. A \$400 donation was also given to help with the social service needs of the students.

~ submitted by JoAnn Seaman

Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC (c.) joins a cadre of volunteers at the Mother Cabrini Shrine as they stuff Christmas stockings for the children at Annunciation School in Denver.



## Cabrini Mission Foundation 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spirit of Christmas

The Cabrini Mission Foundation held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spirit of Christmas at Rockefeller Plaza event last Friday. With a crowd of 150 people, delicious food, and an amazing view of the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree, the holiday spirit was in full swing. Sisters and friends of Mother Cabrini and the Missionary Sisters came from all over the country to enjoy this festive occasion.

This year's special appeal was for a dental chair and equipment to be installed at the Barcena, Guatemala clinic. Run by Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, this clinic provides critical Senior Citizen, Maternal Health, Nutritional, Psychological, and Internal Medical care to impoverished families. With the generous donations of those in attendance, the Sisters will now also be able to provide quality Dental Care to those whom they serve.

*~ submitted by Melanie Paccillo*

**And the winners are...!**

At the end of the evening, the winners of the raffle were drawn by Cabrini Mission Foundation Development Director, Ellen Cunningham:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** – Carol McNamara (Guest of Bill O'Connor, Parish Property Management)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** – Detective Flores, 13<sup>th</sup> Precinct, NYPD

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** – Sr. Ilaria Povero, MSC



Photo above, from left: Missionary Sisters Mona Hallock, Veronica Piccone and Amada Liboro are welcomed to the CMF event by Development Director Ellen Cunningham. Photo right: Dave and Linda DeCervo enjoy the party with family and friends. Photo below: Melanie Paccillo (standing l.) mingles with Sr. Arlene Primus (standing) and seated from left: Sr. Bernadette Casciano, Sr. Ilaria Povero and Sr. Joan Marie Sariti.





# “Today love must not be hidden... It must be living, active and true.”

~ St. Frances X. Cabrini

*At the recent Provincial Assembly of the Missionary Sisters one session focused on the way in which Cabrinian ministries are addressing the pressing issues of immigration, migration, refugees, asylum seekers and human trafficking.*

*This is the final instalment in our series of in-depth looks at individual Cabrinian ministries as we explore how they are responding to the needs of those who are experiencing upheaval in their lives due to war, poverty, violence or captivity.*

## **Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition – Anti-Human Trafficking**

The MSCs have two corporate stances...the first: to support the rights and dignity of all immigrants and the second: to stop human trafficking. The Cabrini Action & Advocacy Coalition (CAAC) was formed to support those stances.

CAAC's first focus was on educating and raising awareness on human trafficking especially in our Cabrinian institutions and we continue those efforts. To that end, the CAAC has held movie premiers on trafficking followed by Q & A sessions with a panel of experts such as FBI agents, district attorneys and members of Covenant House (Covenant House is an international organization that houses and provides care to homeless youth aged 14–20).

CAAC has held prayer services at St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine in NY and at Cabrini College. Additionally, CAAC has raised awareness at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO and established an information booth at Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC during their coat drive.

We have collaborated with area coalitions and trained local hotel staff on how to recognize human trafficking and steps to follow thereafter. CAAC held a concert in New Jersey and did an educational session for the audience. We've participated in World Day of Peace Twitter campaigns; held Stand for Freedom campaigns; aligned with other anti-human trafficking coalitions. We've attended meetings at the UN and lobby consistently at state capitals for new, just, anti-trafficking laws.

One of the newest initiatives has been the addition of our Cabrini Closets. One is located at Cabrini Apartments in NYC and the other in The Cottage at Cabrini College in Radnor, PA.

The idea for the closets began after a conversation with an FBI victims' advocate who specializes in trafficked victims. She shared that with all her connections, she had trouble finding clothing these young girls would be proud to wear upon being rescued. Clothing was donated from other sources but it tended to be items such as sweatshirts and sweat pants. After much thought and prayer, the Cabrini Closets were the CAAC response to this need.



Thanks to the generosity of many, donations of clothing and gift cards started pouring in. One need has led to another and CAAC now also collects baby clothing and baby items. There was a great need for shoes, boots, coats, hats, gloves, and basic household items such as glasses, plates, cleaning supplies, bedding and towels. The turnover is significant and the need for donations is continual.

Yet another new project is the establishment of our Cabrini Garden - Francesca's Garden. The Cabrini College grounds crew created a container garden and planted tomatoes that were donated by a College trustee – and the yield was phenomenal. The tomatoes were picked and delivered to shelters in the Philadelphia area that house and care for trafficked victims. With the encouragement of President Dr. Donald Taylor, plans are to enlarge the garden in the spring to include a greater selection of vegetables allowing CAAC to expand our outreach to further service agencies.

*~ from a presentation at the Provincial Assembly by Karol Brewer, Chair, CAAC*

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## Cabrini High School, New Orleans, LA

### *Hosts Annual Christmas on the Bayou Celebration*



Santa arrives on his pirogue ready to mingle with the Cabrini High community.

Cabrini High School hosted its annual “Christmas on the Bayou” event Saturday, December 5 in front of Cabrini’s Moss Street Campus overlooking Bayou St. John.

The evening began with a Mass celebrating the holy season of Advent in Cabrini’s Gym. The group exited the gym to enjoy the Cabrini Cheerleaders and Eclipse Dance Team performing special Christmas routines, the Chamber Ensemble led the crowd in singing Christmas carols, and children from Crescent Cradle dressed as angels sang carols for the crowd. The celebration included a live nativity scene and Christmas readings.

Santa made his grand entrance, as he does every year, paddling down Bayou St. John in his pirogue. Santa and guests gathered in the Cabrini cafeteria to enjoy Christmas cookies, made by Cabrini students and their dads, and hot chocolate as the children shared their Christmas Wish Lists with Santa and had their photos taken.

*~ submitted by Nall Gearheard*

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## Christmas at The Cottage



Getting ready to welcome the Cabrini College community to a Christmas Open House at The Cottage are front row from left: CMC Director Gina Scarpello; Communications Director Nancy Costello; Communications intern Christle Gehman and Sr. Grace Waters, MSC. Standing: CAAC Chair Karol Brewer and CMC missioner Ashley Block. Those of us at The Cottage wish everyone a happy Christmas season and blessings in the new year.







## A Golden Christmas Parade

The Missionary Sisters, staff and volunteers from Mother Cabrini Shrine participated in the Golden Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 5. The Shrine truck and banner carriers led the way through the parade route followed by Santa Claus and the Sisters and volunteers who handed out candy to the crowd. It was a fun, annual community event to celebrate the Christmas season. ~ *submitted by JoAnn Seaman*

Bundled up against the cold, Sr. Isalia Carvalho, MSC (l.) and Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC (r.) distribute candy to the young and young at heart along the parade route.



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## Cabrini Immigrant Services, New York, NY

### *Continuing to help others during the holiday season*

We're continuing to get ready for the holiday season here at Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC. We're starting to buy Christmas gifts for our families, which Santa will distribute at our annual Christmas celebration on December 19.

We still need your help to make sure we have enough Christmas gifts for everyone. Any amount you can donate will help us guarantee that our community can celebrate this holiday season without worrying about whether they can afford a Christmas gift. ~ *submitted by Madison Koenig, CMC missionary*

**Please donate at [www.cis-nyc.org/donate](http://www.cis-nyc.org/donate) or mail a donation to Cabrini Immigrant Services, 139 Henry Street, New York, NY 10002. Thank you!**



## The Update

Kindly note that this is the final edition of The Update for 2015.

Thanks to all our faithful readers and contributors throughout the year. Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

The Update will return on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

All 2015 Update editions are archived under "News and Publications" on the homepage of [www.mothercabrini.org](http://www.mothercabrini.org)



Cabrini of Westchester is proud to report that in as of December 14th, there were no gift tags remaining on the tree! Thanks to the merciful acts of the staff, family members and visitors who contributed to the Giving Tree, twenty children will have gifts to open and twenty-five families will have food to put on the table this Christmas. The knowledge of the difference we have made in each of their lives this Holiday Season is a gift unto itself!

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In  
honor of  
**THE YEAR OF MERCY**  
announced by Pope Francis,  
Cabrini of Westchester has established this  
**GIVING TREE FOR LOCAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED.**  
Please select a tag representing a child or family and bring your  
wrapped gift, with the tag attached, to Administration no later than  
December 18th.  
Thank you,  
God Bless  
and  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

[illegible]

A photograph showing a variety of handmade cards and small booklets arranged on a dark wooden table. Several items are tied with purple ribbons in bows. The designs on the cards include floral patterns, abstract art, and nature scenes. Some cards have small circular tags attached to the ribbons. In the background, there are stacks of white paper and a small container of silver sequins or beads.



## This is the Third Week of Advent

For two weeks already, the season of Advent has been calling us to spiritual vigilance in preparation to welcome the Lord who is to come. This week, we note another interior attitude by which to live out this time of waiting for the Lord – joy. So in these days, let us pray asking for the joy of Christmas. Let us give thanks to God for the good things that God has given us, above all, our faith. This is a wonderful grace. Let us think where we can go to bring a little relief, a little peace to those who suffer. Pray, give thanks and help others.

~ Pope Francis

## Cabrini Day of Prayer, Reflection and Restoration Save the Date: March 12, 2016



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Where?

Cabrini College, Radnor, PA 19087

#### When?

Saturday, March 12, 2016, 10AM-4PM

#### Who?

All are welcome! Cabrini College Employees, Cabrini Companions, Cabrini Lay Missionaries, Cabrini Missioners and Alums, and MSCs

#### What?

Come join the Cabrini Community for a day of Prayer, Reflection and Restoration - \$25. Includes continental breakfast, boxed lunch, afternoon refreshments and materials. Pre-registration begins January 4, 2016.

Event sponsored by:





# National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini

The Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year  
December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016

The National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini-  
Official Archdiocesan Site for Pilgrimage

December 13, 2015 is the day that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked that each Cathedral and Pilgrimage site around the world open the Holy Year Door.

On December 13, 2015 at the 10am Sunday Mass, we will gather and bless our Shrine Holy Year Door as we celebrate the third Sunday of the Advent season.

After Mass, Fr. Louis Cameli will offer a free presentation on the meaning of The Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year.

The National Shrine, along with all designated Pilgrimage sites for The Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year are places where the faithful may gain the Plenary Indulgence offered by Pope Francis.

You may receive the Plenary indulgence, by making a visit to The National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini and walking through the Holy Year Door to spend time in prayer for our Holy Father's special intentions, to make a personal Profession of Faith and to take part in a liturgical celebration.

The best means to receive the Indulgence is by going to Confession followed by the reception of the Eucharist at a Mass:

#### The National Shrine Schedule of Liturgical and Devotional Celebrations

Every Tuesday during The Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year:

10:30am-12pm– Mercy Prayer Group

Every Friday during The Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year

1-3pm Eucharistic Adoration

2:15pm- Chaplet of Mercy / 2:45pm- Benediction

Every Saturday during The Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year

3pm- The Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

4pm- Sunday Vigil Mass

Every Sunday during The Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year

10am- Sunday Mass



Go to [www.cabrinishrinechicago.com](http://www.cabrinishrinechicago.com) or call 773-360-5115 for more info  
2520 North Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614 FREE PARKING

# Prayer Requests

## ***Alex Avitabile***

Prayers requested for Alex Avitabile, the brother of Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC, who will undergo surgery on Dec 23rd at Mt Sinai Hospital. Pray for a speedy recovery and a good report afterwards.

## ***Peggy Brown***

Susan McGuire asks that the community pray for Peggy Brown. They found cancer in Peggy's lung and they will know on December 18<sup>th</sup> how far it has spread and if surgery is available.

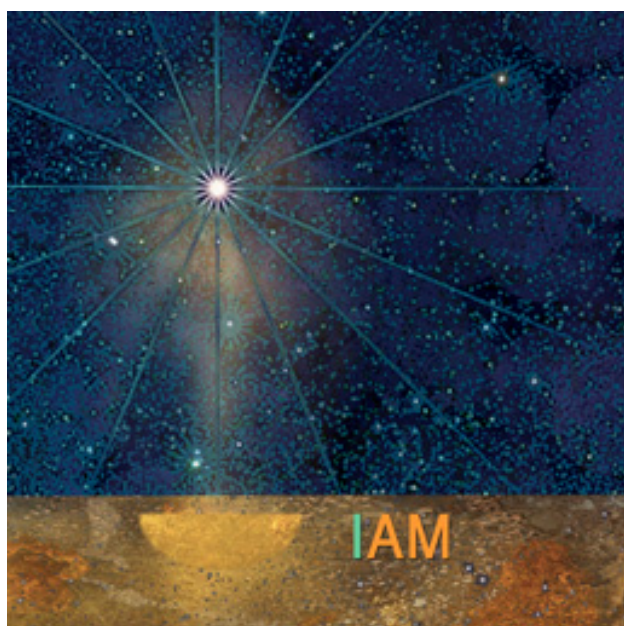
## ***Nancy Marzo Costantino***

Villa Cabrini Academy (Burbank, CA) class of 1949 — Nancy is the webmistress for the Villa Cabrini Academy Alumnae & Friends. She experienced complications after a recent surgery and is recuperating at home, with the loving care of her family and friends. She is upbeat, and her sense of humor is still vigorous. Nancy looks forward to joining us for the open house at Mother Cabrini's little chapel at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Burbank on January 10, 2016.

# In Loving Memory

## ***Scott Ryan***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Scott Ryan, whom we have been keeping in our prayers in recent weeks. Scott passed away on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please keep his wife Rachel and their two young children Lilyan and Arthur, in your prayers as well, as they cope with this devastating loss of their husband and father.



# *The True Spirit of Christmas*

When the song of the angels is stilled.

When the star in the sky is gone.

When the kings and princes are home.

When the shepherds are back with their flock.

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost.

To heal the broken.

To feed the hungry.

To release the prisoner.

To rebuild the nations.

To bring peace among all.

To make music in the heart.

*~ Howard Thurman*

