



# Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus UPDATE



March 5, 2015

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[www.mothercabrini.org](http://www.mothercabrini.org)  
[www.cabrinifoundation.org](http://www.cabrinifoundation.org)  
[www.cabrinimissioncorps.org](http://www.cabrinimissioncorps.org)



## National Catholic Sisters Week

March 8–12<sup>th</sup>

National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW) is an annual celebration that takes place from March 8–14. Created to honor women religious, it is a series of events that instruct, enlighten, and bring greater focus to the lives of these incredible women. The week's observance provides an opportunity to recognize the important role that women religious have played in this country. It is also an opportunity for young women to learn more about women religious and perhaps, follow in their footsteps.

National Catholic Sisters Week is supported by a \$3.3 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and is headquartered at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and is held in conjunction with National Women's History Month.

It began in 2014 as part of National Women's History Month. The inaugural National Catholic Sisters Week was held with the highlight being the NCSW Sister/Student conference drawing more than 50 pairs of Catholic sisters and college students across the country to St. Catherine University and engaging hundreds more online, shining a national spotlight on Catholic sisters and raising awareness of their profound influence on young women and indeed, all of society.

A highlight of the weekend was SisterStories, a storytelling event hosted by acclaimed broadcast journalist Soledad O'Brien and produced by The Moth Radio Hour, the National Public Radio program that won a Peabody Award in 2010.

"National Catholic Sisters Week was a sweeping success," says Co-executive Director Sister Mary Soher, OP. "Among the sisters there was such a claiming of sisterhood. There really is this sense that we are all sisters working in the mission of Christ. The college students who got involved were delightful. They found



We celebrate and give thanks for all our Missionary Sisters! From left: Sr. Lucy Panettieri, Sr. Martha Lopez, novice and Sr. Antonia Plata are missioned at the Cabrini House of Formation and Discernment in West Park, NY.

such peer support among other young women who also have this hunger to learn more about sisters.” ~ adapted from NCSW website

To learn more or to find out about a NCSW event near you:

<http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org/events.php>



During *National Catholic Sisters Week*, we also give thanks for the *internationality* of the Missionary Sisters. Together are from left: Missionary Sisters: Loredana Manzoni, Maria Aparecida Correa de Castro, Superior General Barbara Staley, Patricia Spillane, and Joan McGlinchey.

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## Cabrini College and Cabrini High School

### *CHS Students Visit Radnor Campus*



A group of Cabrini High School (CHS) students traveled from New Orleans to Cabrini College in Radnor, PA. Led by CHS Campus Minister Laura Arand, (lower left) the girls met with Admissions Directors and enjoyed a special visit with Cabrini College President Dr. Donald Taylor. (standing r.)





## Cabrini Health, Australia

### *A Great Save For Maya – Truly a Story of the Heart*



It was an eventful Valentine's Day (Saturday 14 February) for little Maya Benau (5) and her family from the Melbourne suburb of Carnegie. It was also a great save for Maya, testament to our mission to provide excellence in all our services.

While visiting her aunt's home, Maya climbed up a gate. The ring finger on her right hand became caught, and when she jumped down, her finger was severed at the base of the nail. Maya was taken to the emergency department at Cabrini Malvern, where she was

immediately admitted. Thanks to the quick thinking of Maya's family, her finger was retrieved, carefully preserved and brought it to the hospital. At the same time, emergency plastic surgery was being organised to save Maya's finger.

Cabrini surgeon Mr. Simon Overstall performed the complex operation to reattach Maya's finger. He had planned to spend Valentine's Day with his wife and children, and later, the couple would join friends for dinner. Maya had other ideas.

The urgent operation, which took more than three hours, was a success and Maya is expected to regain full use of her finger, which is all the more important given she is right-handed. Mr. Overstall also expects her nail to grow back. While the surgeon is highly experienced, Maya's was a challenging procedure as her blood vessels

are so tiny. "There are few time-critical emergencies in plastic surgery but this was one," said Mr Overstall. "Finger replantation is a technically challenging operation, as it involves repairing very small arteries and veins to allow the blood circulation to be restored to the amputated part. Naturally these vessels are smaller in younger patients: Maya's were approximately one third of a millimetre in diameter. The challenge is to put a number of stitches into these arteries and veins that will allow the continuity of the vessel to be restored. For this, we use an operating microscope and very fine instruments and sutures."

Mr. Overstall says the other challenge was to keep the blood flowing without clots forming in the repaired vessels that would block the circulation. "This is especially problematic when the finger has been pulled off such as in Maya's case: it causes extensive damage in the vessels making them more likely to clot."



Cabrini surgeon Mr. Simon Overstall and his new friend Maya Benau.

For this reason, Maya remained in hospital for five days after her operation, so that nurses in Cabrini's Children's Centre could monitor her finger. "Initially she was frightened," says Maya's mother Claudia. "But the staff in Cabrini's emergency and in the paediatric ward have been amazing." A curious, adventurous and playful child, Maya was a popular patient during her stay, often seen in the play area of the Children's Centre.



"Maya has been amazing through this whole experience," says Mr. Overstall. "She has been the epitome of brave. Considering the trauma of the accident and then the surgery, she has remained calm, full of smiles and utterly charming. After initial wariness, she watches as I change her dressings while curiously looks on at her healing finger."

Less than a week after her surgery, Maya returned home from hospital and looked forward to rejoining her friends at school. Mrs Benau describes the result as amazing. She has just as much praise for the surgeon's bedside manner. The challenge now is to keep Maya from running, jumping and climbing while her finger heals completely. Her parents' hopes for Maya are that "she is happy, healthy, has a life of fulfilment and finishes prep (her first year of school) in one piece."

~ submitted by Christine Elmer



#### Cabrini *Action and Advocacy* Coalition

In recent weeks in the Update we have been featuring a request from CAAC Chairperson Karol Brewer who has been seeking donations of stylish, up-to-date clothing for victims of human trafficking. These young women when they are able to find freedom, often escape, literally with only the clothing they are wearing.

As an integral part of their healing and rehabilitation, they will receive job training. In order to restore a sense of self-esteem and to be able to go on job interviews they need to be appropriately dressed.

An FBI agent shared the pressing need for attractive, up to date clothing. Hence, the "Cabrini Closet" that Karol has spearheaded at The Cottage in Radnor. The need will be on-going. Donations of "like-new" clothing in all sizes, and gift cards to such stores at Forever 21, Target, Marshall's, TJ Maxx would be greatly appreciated.



CAAC Chairperson Karol Brewer (l). welcomes and thanks Alba and Lee Thompson, long time friends of the Missionary Sisters, who made generous donations for the victims of human trafficking. They are pictured in the "Cabrini Closet" in MSC Mission Offices at The Cottage in Radnor that houses stylish clothing for victims of human trafficking.



**Interested in donating?** Please contact Karol at:  
610-902-1038  
Email: [cabriniformation@aol.com](mailto:cabriniformation@aol.com)



Cabrini *Action and Advocacy* Coalition

*27<sup>th</sup> of February for 27 Million People Enslaved*



Participating in the End It Movement social media awareness event are from left: Sr. Dianne McKenna, MSC; CMC missionary Melanie Paccillo; Sr. Bernadette Casciano, MSC and Ashley Block.

Slavery exists, and together we must shine a light on this tragedy. That is the mission of **End It Movement**, an international coalition made up of the world's leading anti-trafficking organizations. A21, ECPAT USA, Exodus Road, Not For Sale, International Justice Mission, and many others are partners in this group, which together work to create holistic solutions to this global issue.



On February 27<sup>th</sup> End It Movement held a social media based awareness-raising event they called, "Shine a Light on Slavery Day." The coalition asked people to draw a red "X" on their hands, take a photo, and post it on social media using #enditmovement. The CAAC was proud to be a part of this event, which caused a stir on social media as well as with those who encountered participants. Several people asked CAAC members why they had an "X" on their hands, which created an opportunity to speak to people about human trafficking.

This was a simple, yet powerful way to raise awareness and create a global conversation about human trafficking. Together we will join hands until

we will live in a world truly free from slavery. ~submitted by  
*Melanie Paccillo*







## *From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...*

The Year of Consecrated Life declared by Pope Francis, continues.

In this year-long observance, we bring you differing perspectives on consecrated life. This week, we share excerpts of a talk at the National Religious Vocations Convocation given by **Fr. Bernhard Eckerstorfer, OSB**, the director of vocations, novice master and spokesperson for the Kremsmunster Abbey in Austria:



In the Austrian church we frequently judge our present situation by referring to the past: “If we had as many members as we used to, then...” “If we had more monks we could again staff our school...” The implicit assumption is that the future will be mastered if it is like the past. Nobody says this so bluntly, but, this is the underlying belief. This is natural, of course. If the bulk of your community members are older, it’s natural to think that the future will be bright if it recaptures the abundance you once knew. However, we need the perspective of young people to see what our communities look like, how they are perceived from outside.

We all agree that we can and should do our best to increase vocations and prepare ourselves and our communities for the future. But, I think it is wrong to expect this only from our own efforts. Authentic Christian renewal does not start with programs but with a new awareness of God’s loving care. This is why Pope Francis asks us again and again if we are really missionaries.

Let us consider St. Benedict. On the one hand, we know that he was the very successful founder of monasteries. But, his biography can also be read as a series of failures. We can see that a desert experience of failure can become a blessing.

Knowing that we have these imperfections, we need to ask ourselves, Do we depict our communities as being only for the perfect? Are they only for saints? Do we introduce young people to a realistic view of religious life?

This brings us to the Transfiguration. We should gaze upon Christ to bring people to the center of Christ. This is what young people see, and this is what they are searching and longing for, too: a relationship with Christ. This is what Pope Francis is asking of us. Our lives as religious need to be about zeal, vision and mission. Let us re-center our gaze upon Christ.

The young people will inherit the religious life of the future. Religious life will continue. It is not about us; it’s about the church. God has not promised us that religious communities as they are, as they used to be, will have eternal life. He only said that the church, the Body of Christ, the pilgrim people of God will live into the future.

**Next week:** Fr. Eckerstorfer shares what his Benedictine Community has learned with regard to religious life in today’s global community.

## *More from the Province Vocation Promotion Team...*



Studies have shown that the growth in the Catholic Church in the United States will be largely in the Hispanic/Latino/a community. The Hispanic Vocation Outreach Committee of the Philadelphia area met this week at The Cottage in Radnor to discuss on-going plans to engage Hispanic young adults in their faith. Serving on the committee are from left: Sr. Carmen Cabrejos, ACJ; Sr. Mary Jo Ely, IHM; Mrs. Maryellen Glackin for the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart; Sr. Lisa Valentini, MSC (Missionaries of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Reading, PA); Sr. Amelia Breton, SBS; Sr. Anita Quigley, SHCJ; and Nancy Costello for the MSCs.

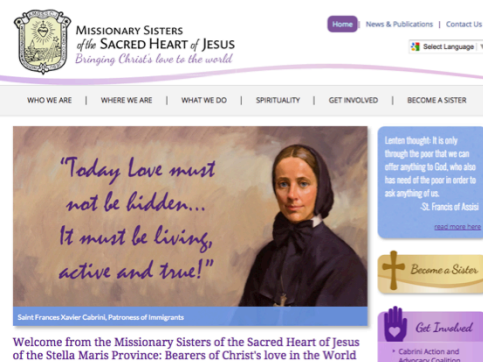
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*This Lenten season, as in past years, the Missionary Sisters will be offering reflections on the gospels of the Sundays of Lent.*

*This week, the reflection is written by Sr. Diane Dalle Molle, MSC.*

**REFLECTION for the  
3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK OF LENT  
March 8, 2015**

***While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well. (John 2:23-25).***

This passage from John strikes at the heart. Jesus understands our selfishness; he is not fooled by our outward proclamations and often-empty words by which we soothe ourselves. He knows that for so many of us when we do not see what we consider proofs of his love we turn away to our idols: accumulating things, overworking, overeating, gossiping, etc, (add your own) .... we turn the temple of the living God, our very self, into a den of thieves, taking from God what belongs to God.

And yet these same words..."....*he knew them all and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well*" also are a cause for deep happiness, the joy of forgiveness and redemption. Our God, our loving God in Jesus, has shown us that He knows who we are: the depth of our desire to do good, to love generously. He also knows well our weakness, selfishness, sin, how easily our desire to be good and do good gets distorted. Today's scripture shows us that God through Jesus is full of zeal to cleanse, to forgive, to make us again into temples of prayer filled with the Holy Spirit.

May we take these words...that Jesus Christ understood human nature well...and be comforted, strengthened by them... We have a foolishly intense and loving God.

*~ Sr. Diane Dalle Molle, MSC*



## Lent

During Lent we are thinking about serious change, deep change. In an article entitled, "Turning Over a New Leaf," Robert Stoudt distinguishes between change and renewal. He writes, "Change pertains to exterior details, renewal to interiority." He goes on to say that change relates to "specific behaviors modified, curbed or adapted"; whereas renewal "considers the suspect motivations that produce the behaviors in the first place." A good question to reflect on during Lent, then, is this" what motivations are producing behaviors I would like to change or modify? Getting to the root may take time. Lent offers us forty days to begin that process.

Everyday Epiphanies – Sr. Melannie Svoboda, SND



## Prayer Requests

### ***Sr. Marie Louise De Antonio, MSC***

Please keep Sr. Marie Louise in your thought and prayers at this time. She will need to be readmitted to the hospital.

### ***Fr. Dan Morey, OSF***

Please pray for Fr. Dan who has been hospitalized and is in serious condition. Fr. Dan was a former chaplain at Cabrini Medical Center in New York City.

## In Loving Memory

### ***Priscilla Stauffer***

The Cabrinian Community joins the Cabrini College Community in extending sympathy to Larry & Liz Stauffer, Facilities & Disability Resource Room, on the loss of his mother & her grandmother, Priscilla Stauffer, who passed away on Saturday, February 28th, 2015. Priscilla Stauffer was also the mother-in-law of Kate Connolly Stauffer, Cabrini College Class of 1983.

Services will be privately held in Hilton Head, SC.

Mass will be offered in Priscilla's memory on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 12:30 p.m. in the Bruckmann Memorial Chapel of St. Joseph. Please continue to keep Larry, Kate and Liz and their family in your prayers.

### ***Marie Greco Talluto***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marie Greco Talluto, the mother of Antoinette (Toni) Talluto, alumna of Cabrini High School, New Orleans. Marie entered eternal life on March 3, 2015.

