



May 28, 2015

## CONSECRATED LIFE IS AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

In celebration of The Year of Consecrated Life, the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) in the United States sponsored an international vocation conference, bringing together vocation ministers and religious leaders from across the Western world. The unprecedented meeting was underwritten by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and had a three-fold purpose.

1. To learn about the larger vocation picture beyond one's own country;
2. To identify common areas of convergence in needs for vocation promotion and awareness; and
3. To explore future areas for global collaboration in promoting new membership to religious life.

Eleven representatives of vocation centers and religious conferences from nine developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, United States, Canada, England/Wales, Ireland, France and Germany) met at the Istituto Maria Santissima Bambina in Rome in February.

God has planted  
kingdom seeds in  
every heart...



be God's  
witness.

This conference was focused on the vocation needs of the Western world. The intention was not to be exclusive or elitist, but, rather simply honest in recognizing that the issues the representative countries face are far different from other countries where both the church and religious life are growing.

Through a facilitated process of dialogue, input, prayer, and theological reflection, the following areas of convergence in our common experience of vocation ministry were identified:

### DISCERNERS AND NEWER MEMBERS

Those who discern and enter religious life today come from a postmodern world where life and career choices are abundant.

This is especially true for women where opportunities for advancement are no longer limited by custom and culture. Those who come to religious life today, therefore, intentionally choose to deepen their relationship with God through private and common prayer, to live the evangelical counsels and to live in community.

Contemporary candidates are quite diverse in their age, culture and ethnic background, work and ministerial experience, and knowledge of the Catholic faith. Labels such as traditional and liberal no longer seem to fit their profile. For example, while they may have a strong

devotion to Eucharistic Adoration, they may be equally committed to feeding the homeless and working for justice.

### RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

Some religious institutes receive several newer members, some receive members sporadically and others receive none at all. A lack of newer entrants...and the strain of maintaining current ministerial commitments can limit a congregation's vitality, creativity and ability to risk newer initiatives.

### CHURCH

"The task of promoting vocations...calls for the active collaboration of pastors, religious, families and teachers, as required in something which forms an integral part of the overall pastoral plan of every particular Church." (*Vita Consecrata*, sec. 64) Efforts are being made to build a "culture of vocation" through a national framework, discernment groups and other evangelization efforts.

### SIGNS OF HOPE

It is encouraging that people continue to inquire about religious life and that men and women continue to enter. They are not daunted by an aging or diminishing population. They are zealous, committed, and hopeful about the future.

It is agreed that the Spirit is leading all religious to revitalize the charismatic gift and prophetic dimension of religious life.

The group who gathered in Rome expressed their encouragement regarding the growing lay support for religious vocation ministry. There is an increased number of lay women and men, who not only serve as vocation ministers, but who also support religious life with their prayers, financial support and encouragement.

Of particular interest was the group's observation on communication. Global communication has changed the way we think and perceive the world. "Communication is a means of expressing the missionary vocation of the entire Church; today social media networks are one way to discover the beauty of faith, the beauty of encountering Christ. The delegates committed to exploring ways in which global communication can change the world of vocation ministry by strengthening our bonds, learning from one another's programs and resources, and providing and sharing resources.



The delegates believe that religious vocations will flourish in an ecclesial culture where all baptized Christians claim their own vocation, whether it be marriage, priesthood, single life or religious life. The delegates recognize that religious charisms are not private possessions of a given religious institute, but rather they are dynamic gifts of the Holy Spirit intended to be shared freely with the People of God.

### IN CONCLUSION

The delegates prayerfully and joyfully join Pope Francis in his exhortation to all consecrated people to "embrace the future with hope, the fruit of our faith in the Lord of history, who continues to tell us: 'Be not afraid...for I am with you.'" *Jer. 1:8* We entrust our...vocation ministry to the Holy Spirit who inspires the multitude of religious charisms in consecrated life "which is at the very heart of the Church." ~excerpts from Statement of Delegates, Spring 2015 HORIZON

## Cabrini of Westchester, NY

### *17<sup>th</sup> Annual Sharing in Mission Dinner was a Great Success!*



Having a wonderful time at the Sunset Safari are Missionary Sisters (seated from left): Sr. Veronica Piccone; Adeodata Gatti and Romualda Molon. (Standing from left): Sr. Amada Liboro; Sr. Catherine Garry; Sr. Arlene Van Dusen and Sr. Isalia Carvalho.



Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC, (l.) Provincial Councilor, delivered the invocation and was joined in the blessing sung by Sr. Hanna Dima, MSC and Sr. Amerech Herego, MSC from Ethiopia.

were humored by centerpieces of typical safari animals surrounded by African flowers and fauna. Mike Bennett, a local radio host, kicked off the evening with his great wit followed by moving speeches from each of the three honorees, all of whom gave tribute to the high-quality care for which Cabrini of Westchester is known. A highlight of the evening was Sr. Arlene Van Dusen's invocation which included a blessings sung in Amharic by Sr. Hanna Dima, MSC and Sr. Amarech Herego, MSC who were visiting from Ethiopia.

Cabrini of Westchester recognized the achievements of three honorees at its 17<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising event, The Sharing in Mission Dinner held on May 13, 2015 at the beautiful Tappan Hill Mansion in Tarrytown, NY. Thanks to the honorees, sponsors, donors and the 2015 Sharing in Mission Dinner Event Committee, the evening was a tremendous success and **netted over \$188,000 to benefit the ministry of Cabrini of Westchester!**

The Sunset Safari theme added a lot of frivolity to the evening. Guests were greeted with Sunset Martinis and Amarula on the Rocks, an authentic African Liquor, as they entered the mansion. On entering the dining room, they





This year's honorees included Ron Corti, President and CEO of St. John's Riverside Hospital and his leadership team, Peter Millock, Partner, Nixon Peabody and Joseph Bisaccia, Cabrini's Director of Food, Nutrition and Purchasing. The honorees were chosen for their dedication to Cabrini of Westchester's mission which calls on individuals to be leaders, educators, advocates and sponsors of quality services to those in need of care and compassion. ~ *submitted by Lorraine Horgan*



Photo above: Honoree Joseph Bisaccia (3<sup>rd</sup> r. back) and his staff celebrate this well deserved recognition.  
Photo below: From left: Honorees Joseph Bisaccia, Ronald Corti and Peter Millock



*Congratulations*



*to the Honorees*

## Celebrating Those Who Served Their Country

In the United States this past weekend the nation celebrated Memorial Day to remember and honor all those who have given their lives in the service of their country and all those who have served in the armed forces.

The Missionary Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent in New York City observed the day in by celebrating with a red, white and blue cookout.



The weather was perfect for dining al fresco. The MSCs gathered on the patio at Sacred Heart Convent for the traditional Memorial Day fare of hot dogs, burgers and grilled chicken.



Showing their red, white and blue colors are Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC (I.) and Sr. Margaret Mary Hernandez, MSC.



---

Gracious Lord, we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess,  
we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces.  
Give them courage, hope and strength.  
May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing.  
Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. Amen.



# Mother Cabrini Shrine Gala



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO ATTEND  
THE 14TH ANNUAL  
MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE  
*Gala*

Friday, June 19, 2015  
Pinnacle Club at the Grand Hyatt  
555 17th Street | Denver, CO  
Cocktails and Silent Auction 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner, Awards and Live Auction 7:30 p.m.

RSVP ENCLOSED  
Summer Attire

Please visit our website at  
[www.mothercabrinishrine.org](http://www.mothercabrinishrine.org)  
for more Gala 2015 Information

## MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE

In 1902, Mother Cabrini came to Colorado at the invitation of Bishop Matz to open a school in north Denver. In 1905 the Queen of Heaven Orphanage opened its doors to girls aged two to fifteen. In 1909 Mother Cabrini purchased some land in Mount Vernon Canyon to establish a summer camp for the girls at the orphanage. She acquired the site at a very reasonable price because it did not have a good source of water. When Mother Cabrini accompanied her Missionary Sisters and the orphan girls to the summer camp, Mother Cabrini pointed her cane to a rock and asked one of the Sisters to lift it. The spring of water was discovered. On that same visit they hiked to the summit for a picnic lunch and viewed with delight the majestic, snow-topped mountain peaks piercing the clear, blue sky. Mother Cabrini then sent the Sisters and girls to gather white rocks which they arranged on the ground in the form of a heart surrounded by a cross and crown of thorns. "The heart is a symbol of the great love Jesus has for each of you," Mother Cabrini told them. On July 7, 1946, Frances Cabrini was declared a saint. The summer camp became Mother Cabrini Shrine, a place of prayer and pilgrimage in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Today, the Shrine continues to provide spiritual nourishment to thousands of pilgrims and visitors who come to seek the peace and tranquility found on this holy ground. Daily Mass is offered as well as opportunities for quiet reflection and prayer, recitation of the rosary and the stations of the cross. Retreat facilities are available to parish staffs, youth groups and senior citizens among many others.

Mother Cabrini Shrine is self-supporting and does not have outside sources of revenue. Donations, gift shop sales, our annual gala and other fundraising programs account for the Shrine's income. The funds raised at this year's gala will be used for operations and on-going capital improvements. We are so grateful for your support and with your help we will continue to impart the great legacy of St. Frances Cabrini to future generations at Mother Cabrini Shrine.

## MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE

20189 Cabrini Blvd. | Golden, CO 80401  
303.526.0758 | [www.mothercabrinishrine.org](http://www.mothercabrinishrine.org)

For further details, please visit the Shrine website: [www.mothercabrinishrine.org](http://www.mothercabrinishrine.org)

# Prayer Requests

## ***Sr. Laura Baldini, MSC***

We joyfully unite in prayer and thanksgiving for Sr. Laura's life in the Church. Sr. Laura will make her final profession of vows this Sunday, May 31 in the chapel of Sacred Heart Convent in New York City. We ask God to bless Sr. Laura abundantly and to shower her with heavenly graces on this special day and throughout her life of ministry.



## ***Eugene and Colleen Block***

Your prayers are asked for the grandparents of CMC missionary Ashley Block. Each of them is recovering from health related issues.

## ***Come and "Sea" Discernment Retreat***

This weekend a retreat is being held in Cape May, New Jersey for women who are discerning a possible vocation to religious life. We ask for your prayerful accompaniment for these women that they may better know and respond to God's call in their lives.

## ***Rosaura Lopez***

Please remember Rosaura in your prayers. She is the mother of MSC Novice Martha Lopez. Rosaura has been ill and is doing a bit better, but, she is still in need of our prayers.

## ***John Wilcox***

Please remember in your prayers, John Wilcox, a dear friend of Tom and Marianne McGowan. John has been hospitalized with serious intestinal issues. Pray that the doctors can discover the root cause of this illness.  
Thank you.

# In Thanksgiving

## ***Kate Funderburk***

The family and friends of Kate Funderburk, who was listed on our website prayer page, share the following message...

"Everything went very well for Kate today. The procedure took less time than expected, they think they were successful. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers."



## In Loving Memory

*The following prayer requests are from Villa Cabrini Alumni and Friends...*

### ***Diane Reiser Bridgeman '67***

Diane was called home to God in December 2014 or January 2015. Please pray for the repose of her soul.

### ***Patti Glover '67***

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Patti Glover (Villa Cabrini Academy, Burbank, CA, class of 1967). After 29 years as special events coordinator for the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Patti passed away peacefully on May 26, 2015 surrounded by her family, after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer.

### ***Diana Carso Graham '60***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Diana who passed away in November of 2014. May she rest in the peace of our Good Lord.

### ***Frances Ricci***

Your prayers are asked for Frances, the mother of Carolanne Ricci Rapisardi '67. Frances passed away on April 4, 2015. Frances was an active supporter of Villa Cabrini and her late husband was the school photographer for many years.

## **Mary, Queen of Missions**

As the month of May draws to a close, we pray to Our Blessed Mother,

Holy Mary, Our Mother, today, each day and in our last hour, we entrust ourselves entirely to your loving and singular care. We place in your hands our entire hope and happiness, our every anxiety and difficulty, our whole lives.

May our every endeavor be directed and guided according to the Will of your Son, which is your wish, by the aid of your prayer and special favor with God.

Amen.

