



March 19, 2020

Pope Francis tells Italian newspaper: 'I asked the Lord to stop the epidemic.'

~ by Gerard O'Connell, *America Magazine*

"I asked the Lord to stop the epidemic," Pope Francis said, describing how he prayed on Sunday afternoon when he walked "on pilgrimage" along a deserted street in the center of Rome. "Lord, stop it with your hand. That's what I prayed for."

In speaking with Paolo Rodari, the Vatican correspondent of *La Repubblica*, an Italian daily, [and] asked how people should live these days in Italy and other countries while on lockdown and isolated in their homes, Francis counseled people, "Don't waste these difficult days," instead "rediscover" the importance of "small, concrete gestures expressing closeness and concreteness toward the people closest to us, a caress for our grandparents, a kiss for our children, for the people we love."



He said such gestures are "important, decisive," adding, "If we live these days like this, they won't be wasted."

"We must understand that in small things lies our treasure. These gestures of tenderness, affection compassion are minimal and tend to be lost in the anonymity of everyday life. For example, a hot meal, a caress, a hug, a phone call...they are familiar gestures of attention to the details of everyday life that make life meaningful and that create communion and communication amongst us."

He remarked that sometimes in families "we only experience a virtual form of communication with one another. "These difficult circumstances create an opportunity to "discover a new closeness."

"Families often eat together in great silence," the Pope said, "but not as a result of not listening to each other, rather because the parents watch television while they eat and children are on their mobile phones...all isolated from each other."

He said that, "listening to each other is important because that's how we can understand the needs, efforts, desires of the other." He expressed hope that "the pain of these days should open us up to this concreteness. He said the doctors, nurses, medical staff and volunteers, who are risking their lives to save the lives of other people during the pandemic "are an example of this concreteness."

[Citing] the feast of St. Joseph [which we celebrate today] and to whom the Pope has a great devotion, he encouraged people "to invoke [the assistance of St. Joseph] with confidence, especially in difficult moments and entrust your very existence to this great saint."

To read the complete article: <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/18/pope-francis-tells-italian-newspaper-i-asked-lord-stop-epidemic>

A Message from the Cabrini Mission Foundation



March 18, 2020

Dear Cabrini Mission Foundation Family, Friends and Partners in Ministry,

These are challenging times. With the uncertainty and escalating nature of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) the environment in which we work and live is rapidly changing. We are all becoming familiar with the term social distancing as well as a series of precautions designed to protect us as well as those most vulnerable to the spread of the virus. During this Lenten season we must not only keep strong in our faith but be prepared to address and adapt to what lies ahead.

“We want to assure you of our prayers during this difficult time for you and your family. All of us need to work and pray for the common good and health of people throughout the world.”

The Cabrini Mission Foundation is adhering to Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and recommendations. As of March 16, 2020, the Foundation office is closed and staff is working remotely. Business hours however will remain 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time and phone calls, voice messages and emails will be answered.

How you can help...

True to Mother Cabrini’s charism, the Foundation works each day to support programs of healing, teaching, and caring. As you may know, Cabrini Immigrant Services in Manhattan operates a food pantry that provides food to 750 families each month. Many of these families will be disproportionately impacted by the current economic situation due to layoffs or simply the loss of available working hours. **Also, the Foundation is supporting some immigrants who have won their asylum cases one of whom just had a beautiful baby girl.**

If you are in a position to help others at this time a financial gift to the Foundation for the emergency fund for **COVID-19** would be helpful.

You can learn more about the Foundation, as well as make a gift online at:
www.cabrinifoundation.org

We are pleased to join you in making efforts to minimize the risk of a COVID-19 infection in all of our communities.

May our tender and loving God make you firm in faith, joyful in hope, and active in charity.

God bless,

Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC
President

Updates from the MSCs in Central America



Among those participating in the meeting of the International Health Commission were Cath Garner, Cabrini Health, Australia (2nd I.) and Sr. Maria Concepcion Vallecillo, MSC (4th r.) and Provincial Councilor Sr. Maria Elena Plata, MSC. (3rd r.)

Recently, the Missionary Sisters in Guatemala hosted the visiting MSC International Health Commission members in working session at the Mother Cabrini Dispensary, with sisters and staff members. The purpose of the visit was to develop the second part of the evaluation of health works in view of their progress.



The Missionary Sisters were also pleased to welcome several visiting professors from Cabrini University during a trip that took place during the Spring Break at the University.

Visiting professors from Cabrini University in Radnor, PA came to Guatemala to become better acquainted with the staff of the Mother Cabrini Dispensary in order to establish forms of collaboration between the works in Guatemala and the University.

~ submitted by Sr. Maria Elena Plata, MSC, with thanks to Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC

The Impact of the Coronavirus on the Faithful



On Monday, March 9, the Staff of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines, IL participated in a day long retreat at Cabrini Retreat Center. This included celebration of the Eucharist in the Retreat Center Chapel.

Photo left: Celebrating the liturgy together was a highlight of the Shrine staff retreat which was held at the Cabrini Retreat Center.

Photo below: Cabrini Retreat Center Executive Director Nancy Golen (front r.) welcomes the Shrine staff to the Cabrini Retreat Center in Des Plaines, IL.



Later in the week, on Friday, March 13, Rev. Esequiel Sanchez, Rector of the Shrine, provided a reflection on the Suspension of Eucharist in the Archdiocese of Chicago:

Dear Friends,

The COVID virus is a deadly global virus. The impact is not only on our health, but is also on the lives of the poor, those losing their jobs, those in need of health care, and so many basic things needed to survive.

One area that it cannot impact us is in our conviction that we must care for one another. Even if it is in the simplicity of our prayers that we stand in solidarity.

This is the time in which we Catholics celebrate our Lenten season.

Lent is a time of austerity, of letting go, but never did we ever imagine one of the things we would have to let go of is the Eucharist itself

The inability to gather together for fear of hurting for another is a thing we must overcome. Let us take this Lenten season and this horrible experience that we are going through as a way of preparing for Easter, in which life comes out of death. We continue in our faith, we continue in our journey, we continue together."

Rev. Esequiel Sanchez, Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Since 2013, the Shrine is the most visited shrine in the USA dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the second most visited in the world after the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico. In June 1997, the site was granted being a place where pilgrims can fulfill their pledges or promises to Our Lady of Guadalupe as if they were being fulfilled at the Basilica of Mexico. ~ submitted by Nancy Golen, Cabrini Retreat Center
The full statement can be viewed in Spanish and English at <https://www.solg.org/en/rectors-statement/>

Cabrini University Campus Closed Per PA Governor's Coronavirus Mandate



Cabrini University worked with the entire Cabrini community to close campus, as per Governor Tom Wolf's implementation of COVID-19 mitigation procedures.

There are no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 at Cabrini University

at this time, but the health of the Cabrini community is paramount, and we, as a community, must do our part to address this public health crisis.

The entire Cabrini community has pulled together to support one another—assisting families and students as they depart residence halls, supplying alternative housing options for those with housing insecurity, addressing the issue of food insecurity for those who depend on on-campus dining services, and providing support for students in need of accommodation in order to continue their studies online—to thoughtfully and respectfully address the challenges this rapidly changing situation imposes on our community as a whole.

~ excerpts from an email communication from Dr. Donald B. Taylor, President

A DIY Film Festival for the Social-distanced and Quarantined

~ by Sr. Rose Pacatte, Daughters of St. Paul, Film Critic - National Catholic Reporter

There is nothing like being unexpectedly homebound, as the coronavirus has done to us all. Even if you are working remotely, the days may be shorter because others are in a working-from-home situation, too. Children of different ages may clamor for doing something together that doesn't entail little game pieces and [movies] may be just the ticket to a varied and multiple intelligence approach to making this time a positive experience.

As NCR's film critic, I have created a list of edifying films we can watch together as grownups, families with children, or solo. If you live alone, you might consider making a home cinema divina retreat in these days, seeing and reflecting on a film and the day's Scripture reading. With so much access to technology these days, we can benefit spiritually and as members of the human family from watching stories on the screen.

This list is sourced from my Facebook friends and my own list of favorite films that edify, inspire and sometimes challenge. They include my brief comments parenthetically. Most are available on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime and other streaming services, including libraries, although some may need to be rented. Enjoy!



To access the list of films: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/diy-edifying-film-festival-social-distanced-and-quarantined>

Colorado will replace Columbus Day with Cabrini Day

the first paid state holiday recognizing a woman in the US
by [Alisha Ebrahimji](#), CNN

[The state of] Colorado passed legislation [on] Tuesday, March 10th to replace Columbus Day with Cabrini Day because bill sponsors say [Columbus Day] doesn't represent their community members.

The first Monday of October will now honor [Saint] Frances Xavier Cabrini, who according to the bill, is the woman responsible for creating 67 schools, hospitals, and orphanages in the United States and South and Central America throughout her lifetime.



Sen. Chris Hansen, one of the bill's sponsors, told CNN that Cabrini is a local Colorado hero because of the work that she did. Chicago and New York join Colorado in honoring Cabrini with a shrine dedicated to her, Rep. Adrienne Benavidez, another one of the bill's sponsors, told CNN. "We need holidays to recognize the contributions of women across history," Hansen said.

Benavidez said Cabrini Day would be the first paid state holiday recognizing a woman in the US. There are some holidays dedicated to other prominent women throughout history like Rosa Parks and Susan B. Anthony, but those are days of recognition, not paid state holidays, according to Benavidez.

In recent years, several states and even cities have stopped observing the holiday altogether after a [growing movement](#) to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day to recognize the native populations who were displaced after Columbus and other European explorers reached the continent.

[Historians](#) largely agree that he did not "discover" the Americas because people were already there, nor was he the first European to reach the "New World."

The bill will take effect no later than the beginning of August after it is signed by the governor, Benavidez said. Legislation for this particular bill started in 2007.

"This truly is this decade's long effort by so many people," Benavidez said. "There have been so many negotiations, groups of people over the years that never gave up, this is so important to the communities that are impacted by this." The transition from commemorating Columbus to Cabrini is a step forward, Benavidez said.

"The pain that they (indigenous people) endure and the historical trauma endured by indigenous people in this country as a result of what Columbus has put in place is real," she said. "And this is a step forward in erasing that pain."

CNN's AJ Willingham, Marilia Brocchetto and journalist Emanuella Grinberg contributed to this report, ~ with thanks to Lilly Hatheway, Cabrini University

To read the full article: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/11/us/colorado-columbus-day-cabrini-day-trnd/index.html>

Cabrini of Westchester

SAVE the DATE

Wednesday
April 22, 2020

CABRINI OF WESTCHESTER'S
TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL
Sharing in Mission
CELEBRATION DINNER

April
in PARIS

Honoring
MICHAEL P. HOFFMAN
SR. ARLENE VAN DUSEN, MSC
SUSAN STRANGIO

Abigail Kirsch at
Tappan Hill Mansion
Tarrytown, New York



For more information please contact 914-693-6800 x502

Each week during the season of Lent, the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLM) will be presenting a reflection for our prayer and meditation. We invite you to join with them as we journey through these 40 days.

Fourth Week of Lent

John 9: Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

As he went along, he saw a man born blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam”. So, the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Believe it or not, this blind man and I just may have something in common. Jesus’ miracle restored this blind man’s sight and the skilled hands of a surgical ophthalmologist recently removed my cataracts. Now, I too, can see. Quite amazingly, I had no idea how blurred my sight was. Just this

morning I spotted our resident cardinal breakfasting at our backyard feeder, his feathers a brilliant red. I had no idea what I had been missing. If I could ask this now sighted blind man one question it would be this. “Did you have any idea what you were missing?”

The Church teaches us in this gospel that Jesus’ concern was not just for physical sight, but spiritual sight as well. And when we are gifted with this spiritual sight, we become amazed by the beauty surrounding us. We can truly see.

Pope Francis, in his Encyclical *Laudato Si’* asks that we become “protectors of God’s handiwork”. We are asked to care for our

common home. God’s gift of spiritual sight as well as physical sight enables us to do this.

~ submitted by Marianne McGowan, Cabrini Lay Missionary



Reflection:

Here’s a challenge for us all:

- What are some specific things we can do continuing this Lenten season so that we live a *Laudato Si’* Lent?

Prayer Requests

Jim Breen

Please pray for Jim Breen, husband of Cabrini (College) University alumna Sheila Ross Breen '69, who is currently hospitalized. Please also pray for Sheila at this time since due to the overall COVID 19 restrictions the hospital has implemented, the hospital is not permitting any visitors, which is - understandably - very difficult for her and for Jim. The hope is that Jim will be discharged from the hospital today.

Annie P.

You are asked to remember Annie P. in your prayers. She recently received a serious medical diagnosis. Please pray for her as she begins treatment.

Jerry Ross

Your prayers are invited for Jerry Ross, brother of Cabrini (College) University alumna Sheila Ross Breen, who is currently seriously ill and is hospitalized. Our prayers for Mr. Ross would be appreciated.

Joseph Zazyczny

Please keep Joseph Zazyczny in your prayers at this time. He is the father of Cabrini University alumni Joel Zazyczny '89 and Jayda Zazyczny Orsatti '92. Mr. Zazyczny is very ill. Please pray for his comfort and serenity at this time. The Zazyczny Family would be grateful for our prayerful support.



A Special Prayer regarding the Coronavirus

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, shares the following prayer regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19):

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas, We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding at Cana.

Pray for us loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world and for all families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, Help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.