



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

THE UPDATE

June 18, 2020

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 19, 2020

On this Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus may you and your loved ones feel the nearness of the love and compassion of Jesus. We, Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, have been praying for all of you during this difficult time of the Covid Virus; especially for those who have lost loved ones.

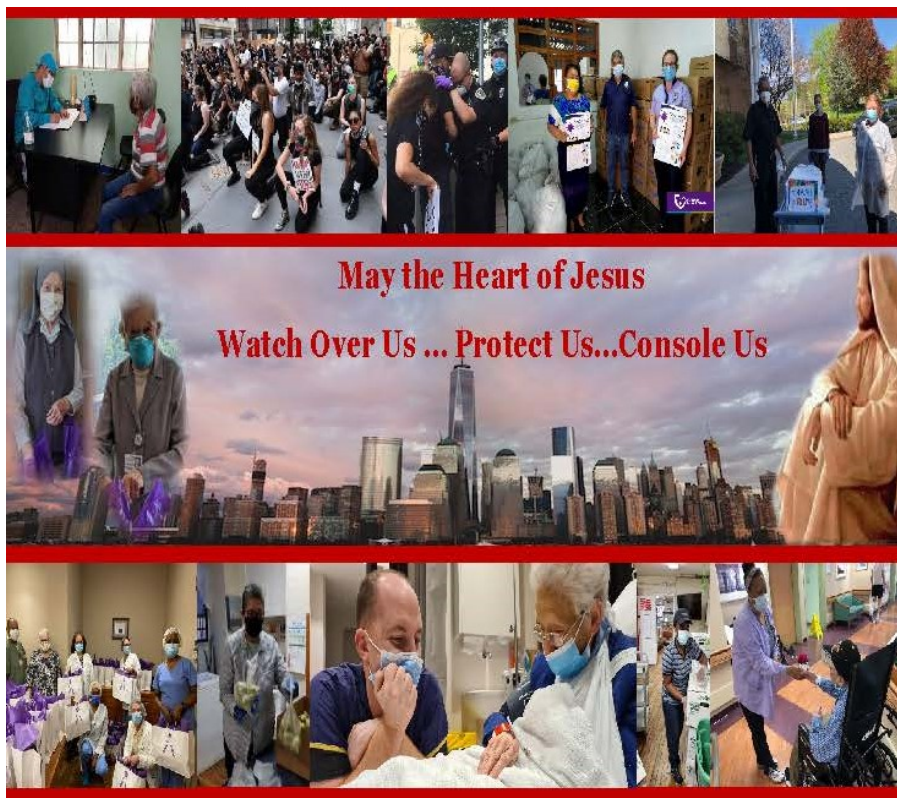
We are grateful to all the many essential workers, volunteers, health care workers, educators etc. etc. who have been so generous in their service. We beg the Sacred Heart of Jesus to bring healing to our hurting world. The impact of Covid 19, as well as, the recent death of George Floyd have demonstrated the disparities that exist in health care, access to resources and the deep rooted racism in our country.

May we, through our words and actions, witness God's love and mercy and be a light of Hope to our world.

As Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are burdened, and I will give you rest."

Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC

Provincial, Guadalupe Province, Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



~photo collage by Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC

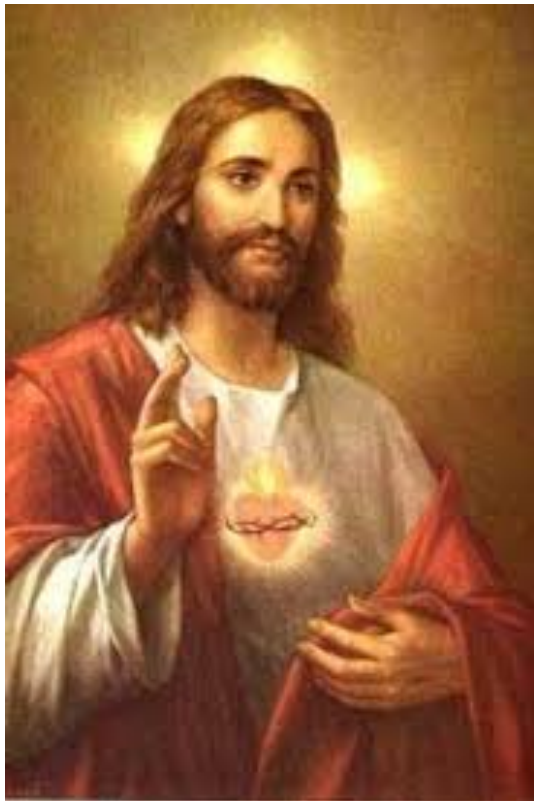
A Profound Love

This article written by Sr. Patricia Spillane, MSC, past General Superior, was recently discovered by Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC. The original copy may have been tucked in the late Sr. Victoria Dority's Bible which resides in the Gatehouse on the campus of Cabrini University.

In observance of the Feast Day, Sr. Patricia's article is excerpted here.

This message of love seems particularly relevant in this time.

The spirituality of Mother Cabrini grew into an ardent devotion to the Sacred Heart because she had been first seized by the loving person of Jesus. This Jesus who was present to her in the pages of the Gospel, also revealed Himself to her in her everyday life at all its stages. Through these experiences, she was impelled to return love for Love...in a life of ever-increasing prayer, service of others, and imitation of Him. Specifically, the love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ drew her



into that explicit mode of discipleship in the Church known as religious life. Since God Himself is the teacher of deeply interior souls, Cabrini grew in intuitive appreciation of love as the central reality of the spiritual life – that love which is “poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit”. Hence came her innate attraction for the Holy Spirit and for the Eucharist – principal gifts of the Heart of Christ.

In the same manner, Mother Cabrini was intuitively drawn to those interior attitudes which correspond to the chief attributes of the devotion to the Divine Heart: adoration, reparation and missionary fervor.

This attitude of participation in Christ's redemptive activity naturally impelled her to missionary activity as the consequence of God's love for her – a boundless zeal to bring all to the Father as she herself had been brought. It was this redemptive love for those whom Christ loved that she sought to express in the possibilities of a vow of charity and in dedicating her religious family to the “greater glory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

Sr. Patricia wrote to her Missionary Sisters, “As missionaries of the Sacred Heart and inheritors of Cabrini's insight into the ‘love of God made visible in Christ Jesus,’ both the foundation and the goal of our life must be love. We must always seek to grow in profound and fruitful appreciation of all the aspects of God's love. We must be signs of God's love in the world – a love which is redemptive, zealous, universal, fruitful and faithful.”

~ we are grateful to Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC for sharing Sr. Patricia's writings with the Sisters and Update readers



A Loving Friendship

When Mother Cabrini opened a new house, she always [placed in it] a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In London we remember Sister Mary Gough, MSC pointing out the statue that Mother Cabrini brought to the first English MSC house in Brockley, in 1902. Today it stands on the staircase of the Woodville Hall convent, Honor Oak.

In 1918, four sisters from the first London community, remembered Mother Cabrini standing before the statue. They were Mothers Domenica Bianchi, Maria di Gesù (Ajani), Tommasina Didoni and Fede Mandelli. They observed Mother Cabrini's loving friendship with the Sacred Heart as she stood before the statue which symbolized His love.

'The venerable Mother Foundress had erected a small altar with a beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart and it was a pleasure to see the Dearest Mother stop and have a friendly word with the Heart of Jesus every time she went out, she commended to Him everything she was going to deal with and put all her confidence in him.'

(Annotazione sulla Fondazione di questa casa di Londra, p. C.)

The Sisters also noted that although sixteen years had passed these scenes had made a great impression *'we cherish this statue of the Sacred Heart with great devotion as the one before Whom the foundress conversed as she would with her family'*.



The Missionary Sisters took the Sacred Heart statue to Honor Oak when they moved in 1910. It can be seen behind some pupils in a photo taken in front of Woodville Hall circa 1913.

~ by Maria Williams, with many thanks to Sister Giuditta Pala MSC, General Archive, Rome.

From the Province Vocations Promotion Team...

Over the past month we have brought you insights from the National Religious Vocations Conference (NRVC) 2020 Study of Recent Vocations to Religious Life. As a follow up to that study, this week, we continue with the series written by Carol Schuck Scheiber, the editor of HORIZON, the journal of the NRVC on best practices for new membership.

Best Practices for Encouraging New Membership

2. Be all in: lead, fund, staff, and support

Because vocation ministry is about planting seeds that take time to grow, it can be hard to feel gratified by “results,” and members can sometimes shy away from the ministry. Sometimes members are uncertain how to relate to a younger generation, or they prefer to avoid the possibility of an invitation being rejected by not extending one. Whatever hesitations exist, it is crucial to take the ministry seriously, to be “all in.” For maximum effectiveness vocation ministry needs someone – or some group of committed members – to give it focused, ongoing time and attention. This allows the ministry to be adequately staffed and properly funded to realistically pay for the costs involved. Vocation ministers need training in ethics, communications, assessment, sexuality, etc. – all are topics of professional workshops offered by the NRVC.

These days it often is a sacrifice to dedicate talented members to a ministry that will cost the community the loss of a paycheck or stipend. Still, appointing gifted members to do vocation ministry is a sacrifice that institutes *are* making for the sake of youth, for the sake of nurturing religious vocations and for the sake of the institute’s future. Vocation directors and leaders need to work closely together to set strategies and goals that make sense for their community and to build the critical internal support for and communication about the ministry.



3. Go out – and invite in

Certainly many communities are welcoming middle-aged adults, and those new members are precious parts of their communities. However, the 2018 synod on youth held in Rome clearly showed how much young people want the vocational guidance that is part and parcel of vocation ministry. The NRVC’s 2020 study confirmed that newer members who joined in their 20s and 30s are usually in communities with big age gaps, but they very much want to be in their communities. Newer members report very high satisfaction with their lives as religious.

When newer members met in 13 focus groups around the country, they acknowledged that community life without age peers can be challenging, but the large majority expressed love for their way of life in spite of the difficulties. Thus, there are two strong reasons to go and to young people and invite them in: they want vocational guidance, and communities must keep inviting or they create a limited future for themselves. Going out to the young means learning where they are in one’s corner of the world and building relationships with them.

Prayer Requests

Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs)

As we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart let us offer a prayer for the Cabrini Lay Missionaries as they renew their commitment to ministry and service in the Cabrinian charism:

*Loving Father, we humbly pray to you for our beloved Cabrini Lay Missionaries.
May our prayers reach their hearts that they may feel our love and our appreciation.*

*May our prayers reach their hearts that they continue with your zeal
the mission with which you have entrusted to them.*

May their presence in their communities be a reminder of your presence among us.

Amen.

~ adapted from the Missionary Society of St. Columban



Lenin Canales and Sara de Canales

Your prayers are asked for Lenin, the nephew of Sr Emperatriz Canales Espinoza, MSC, and his wife, Sara, who are ill with COVID-19. Let us pray that they will respond well to treatment and will recover fully.

Helen Dolos

Kindly unite in prayer for Helen Dolos, a nurse, who is currently hospitalized with COVID-19. May she be healed from this illness soon and regain her health.

Jo Handren

Prayers are requested for Jo Handren, a 92 year-young lady who is recuperating from a broken hip. May she regain full mobility. Jo is a relation of Cabrini (College) University alumna Maria Valente Breeser '73 and her husband, Bob.

Sr. Stephanie Kabacinski, MSC

Please remember Sr. Stephanie in your prayers. She had surgery on Monday to repair a broken hip that she sustained in a fall on this past Saturday. Sr. Stephanie will be missioned at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY to complete her recovery.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



As we observe the Feast Day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus tomorrow, we invite all Cabrinian colleagues, friends and collaborators to offer special prayers and blessings for the Missionary Sisters as they renew their sacred vows.

Heavenly Father, in Your wisdom, You have called these women to a life of consecration.

*Give them, Lord, the grace of joy and perseverance in their holy vocation
that by their lives they may provide a sign of your Kingdom
for the Church and the entire world.*

Bless them in a special way on this Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Grant that many will be inspired by their example, courage and faith.

This we ask through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

~ adapted from a prayer on USCCB website

Señor Plata

Please continue your prayers for the father of Sr. Maria Elena Plata, MSC and the brother of Sr. Antonia Plata, MSC. Your prayerful accompaniment would mean a great deal to the family.

Sr. Roselle Santavasi, MSC

We are grateful that Sr. Roselle who underwent hip replacement surgery on Tuesday is home and doing well. She would be grateful for our prayers and mindfulness as she recovers.

Sr. Concepcion Vallecillo, MSC ~ Family

Sr. Concepcion asks prayers for her mother who is recuperating from surgery and for her family members, her sisters Francis and Ruth, her brother Pedro and his wife, Senobia and the granddaughter of Ruth, Judith and her niece, Lorna. Please hold this family in your prayers.

In Loving Memory

Infant Hesler Mateo Osorio Esquite

Please unite in prayer for infant Hesler, who was born on June 9, 2020 and went home to God on June 14th. Hesler Mateo is the nephew of Sr. Sonnia Osorio, MSC.

Let us pray for baby Hesler Mateo and his family, especially his parents, at this time.

Gennaro Ortiz

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Gennaro Ortiz, who suffered a major stroke this past week and passed away on June 13th. He is the uncle of Sergio Campos, husband of Dee Campos. Let us hold his wife, Nilda, and his family in our prayers.

Ann Saunders

We ask your prayers for Ann Saunders, who went home to God after a lengthy illness. She is the Aunt of Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC. Please pray for the Olmstead Family at this sad time.

Dolores “Dori” Throne

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dolores “Dori” Throne the sister of Cabrini University trustee Bob Jara. Mrs. Throne passed away on June 10th. Kindly keep the Throne and Jara Families in your prayers. May she rest in God’s eternal light.



~collage by
Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC