



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

THE UPDATE

November 12, 2020

The Feast Day of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini First American CITIZEN Saint

November 13, 2020

Complex personality factors combined to make Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini an outstanding woman of her era. Without doubt she possessed that intangible element known as charisma. Only a charismatic personality could have attracted so many followers and captivated the attention of both the powerful and lowly of this world.

Cabrini was a modern woman. Her interests were extensive. She certainly did not adapt readily to the role expected of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century women religious. She was an entrepreneur and world traveler, keenly aware of the currents of thought in the world of her time. Cabrini foresaw the twentieth century as one of revolution and tailored her philosophy of education, healthcare, and social service to accentuate the intrinsic value and dignity of each human being touched by her Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Frances Cabrini became an American citizen. Quite possibly, she may have taken the decision to become a naturalized citizen to secure the extensive property holdings of the Institute of the Missionary Sisters and to be able to cross national boundaries with greater facility.

Her struggles presage those we experience in this century. To wit, in 1915, when Mother Cabrini decided to expand her works in Seattle with the purchase of the Perry Hotel, which she planned to transform into a foundling home, a violent controversy broke out. Allied against Cabrini were neighbors, bankers, and jealous spectators, who did not want Italian sisters to purchase the building. Clearly, the primary objection to Cabrini's purchase of the Perry Hotel was prejudice and discrimination based on her gender, her religion, national origin, and her mission: she had come to minister to Italian immigrants who at the time were the most detested group in society. A memoir of the Missionary Sisters in Seattle records: "Businessmen eager for profit, financiers and bankers agreed that the Perry would make a good



speculative investment and couldn't bear to see such an elegant building transformed into a foundling home – by a sister – and this one an Italian.” Never mind that Mother Cabrini had become a naturalized citizen in Seattle six years prior.

In spite of the antagonism, Mother Cabrini was always one to continue her course. She obtained the bill of sale for the Perry Hotel on April 16, 1915. Then the onslaught of all parties began anew. John L. Corrigan, a Seattle attorney, noted that Cabrini “never faltered or wavered in carrying out her plans and she overcame obstacles that would have disheartened the bravest of human hearts with a supreme confidence that edified and inspired everyone who came in contact with her.”

~ from *Mother Cabrini, Italian Immigrant of the Century*, by Sr. Mary Louise Sullivan, MSC, PhD



Dear friends of the Guadalupe Province,

On behalf of the Guadalupe Province, I extend to all of you a very Happy Feast of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. We celebrate her life, purpose and mission. We also celebrate on November 14th the 140th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute (Community) of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

If Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini were alive today, she would urge us into action on behalf of so many of our brothers and sisters who are suffering due to the current pandemic; the political, social, health care and economic crises; various natural disasters (most recently Hurricane Eta); and the loss of so many lives.

The document “On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering” offers the following reflection:

**“... suffering is present in the world in order to release love,
in order to give birth to works of love towards our neighbor,
in order to transform the whole of human civilization
into a “civilization of love”.**

Pope Francis in his recent encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” urges us to “be neighbor” to all those we encounter, especially those who are most in need. For Mother Cabrini, “caring for others was fundamental to her sense of mission.” She was neighbor through her practical, down-to-earth, and concrete acts of love. Let us recognize the invitation of this time in history to practice love, to be a neighbor, to foster healing and peace and to be the hands and heart of Jesus today.

May you and all your loved ones be safe. We hold you in our prayers.

United in the loving heart of Jesus,

Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC

Provincial, Guadalupe Province

In the Spirit of Mother Cabrini, Agency Serving Immigrants Endures

~ Chris Herlinger, *Global Sisters Report*

This article was published today on the *Global Sisters Report* website:

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org>

New York: On the last Tuesday of October, a line of about 60 people, orderly and quiet, wrapped around the block that houses the social service agency [Cabrini Immigrant Services of New York City](#) and neighboring St. Teresa's Church, waiting for the weekly food pantry to open.



Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC, (l.) greets those waiting in line for the food pantry to open. (GSR photo/Chris Herlinger)

At the head of the line stood Sr. Yolanda Flores attentively checking IDs, patiently answering questions and making sure that things ran smoothly. They nearly always do, even with an increased demand for food in the midst of a difficult time in the neighborhood.

Flores, a Nicaraguan-born member of the [Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#) and Cabrini Immigrant Services' family program coordinator, helps organize the Tuesday morning distribution from

one of the largest weekly food pantries in this part of Manhattan, anchored in the Chinatown area. Though the food pantry is among its most visible programs, the agency also provides legal services and education, cultural and family programming.

Pre-pandemic, the weekly pantry would provide food for about 200 – 300 people; now, the numbers have roughly doubled.

"The *pandemia* has been a real challenge," Flores said during a short break during the morning's activities which began at about 7:30 a.m. By about 10 a.m. or so, the food packages were nearly cleared out; the demand often outstrips what is available.

That is a source of frustration, Flores said, but it is not surprising. Most of those receiving packages – which on this day included a frozen chicken, milk, tea, rice, beans,



Many of those who receive the food pantry distribution are from the Chinatown neighborhoods. (GSR photo/Chris Herlinger)

potatoes and other vegetables – are elderly neighborhood residents, nearly all Asian, who themselves may not be working but have younger family members who have lost jobs during the economic downturn. “No work, no jobs,” said Flores.



CIS-NYC Executive Director Javier Ramirez Baron (l.) and Sr. Yolanda Flores, CIS-NYC family program coordinator. (GSR photo/Chris Herlinger)

Cabrini had to adjust and retool during the pandemic. Cabrini’s executive director, Javier Ramirez Baron, said that the staff and the agency’s clients have weathered a challenging moment well. “It’s a huge change, but, it’s worked great,” said Ramirez who estimates that the agency has assisted more than 50,000 people since it was founded in 1999.

He said clients, staff and volunteers have all adapted, switching many programs – legal services, individual counseling, community workshops and even Zumba exercise classes - onto platforms like Zoom and Facebook.

“Sometimes, in a moment of crisis, you have to discover ways to be creative,” said Ramirez, who is originally from Colombia.

With Missionary Sisters working and volunteering at the agency, and with the agency a sponsored congregational ministry, ties to the congregation continue. The focus of that agency’s mission remains assisting immigrants in the New York City metropolitan area, including 800 families who regularly receive food packages.

While efforts to continue support to the immigrant community are ongoing, Ramirez said that the pandemic came at a tumultuous time: In the last four years, immigrants in the United States have faced cultural and political headwinds, with the Trump administration instituting tougher immigration policies that have [made life more difficult](#) for those seeking to enter the country legally.



Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC and Margarita Tlaseca Vides regularly volunteer at the food pantry. (GSR photo/Chris Herlinger)

Sr. Flores and other Missionary Sisters who have worked with Cabrini Immigrant Services through the years are mindful and proud of the legacy bestowed on them and their congregation. “The dignity and respect of the other person is so important to us,” Flores said. “So is welcoming. That’s one of the legacies she passed on to us.”

Certainly, a feeling of hope and love were on display during the recent Tuesday morning food distribution. Things bustled, with food packages carefully put out and then distributed outside. Missionary Sister Antonina Avitabile was there, working in tandem with fellow volunteers Heather Lee and Margarita Tlaseca Vides and food pantry manager Jo Lee.

Here, you hear a number of different languages – English, Mandarin, Spanish, French – and it not too hard to imagine that Mother Cabrini would be proud of the work. “It’s a blessing to see us working together, all different nationalities,” Avitabile said. “Here, we all lend a hand together.”

To read the entire article click [here](#)

Celebrating Cabrini Weeks in Australia



At Cabrini Australia we are proud to celebrate our heritage with two weeks of honouring the life and legacy of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and the ten founding Cabrini Sisters who came to Australia in 1948 to run and grow Cabrini Hospital.

In only our second Mass of the year due to the pandemic, Archbishop Peter D. Comensoli will declare 13th November a day of Observance for St Frances Cabrini in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.



Cabrini Health CEO Sue Williams (L.) and CHO Louise O'Connor stand by a Cabrini Weeks display that features a pair of Mother Cabrini's shoes.

A foyer display in our four campuses presents Mother Cabrini's belongings with a beautiful quote from a staff member about how they draw inspiration from holding Mother's belongings which were kindly donated to us from the Chicago Museum.

Every day for 15 days we place a reflection card on the breakfast tray of all our patients and residents, with Mother Cabrini's words and comments from staff on [the ways in which] our mission and heritage inspires them today.

Sr. Sharon Casey MSC, who has been on mission in Australia for 12 years, delivered a personal and inspiring video reminding us to be

rooted in Mother Cabrini's love for Jesus expressed through our Cabrini ethic of care.

To view Sr. Sharon's video, click [here](#)

The video message from Chief Executive Sue Williams was inspired by the book we commissioned "St Frances Cabrini: A Passionate Life." Sue said Mother Cabrini was a true visionary who was well ahead of her time and we have a responsibility to carry on her legacy, and Sue likened our response to the COVID pandemic to that of the Sisters in New Orleans during the yellow fever pandemic.

To view Ms. Williams' Feast Celebration message, click [here](#)



A nightgown of Mother Cabrini's is in the spotlight in this Cabrini Week display. Viewing such precious artifacts of our patroness evokes feelings of reverence, reflection and quiet awe.

Our Cabrini Australia mission is to spread Mother Cabrini's love for all expressed through our commitment to care about, not just to care for, those in our hospitals, nursing home and in the community.

~ submitted by Julie Fleming, Cabrini Health, Australia



During the Feast Day observances, messages such as these are being placed on the breakfast trays of patients and residents at Cabrini Health:

Mother Cabrini's first missionary voyage took much faith and courage for her to board the boat as she had a terrible fear of the water. Yet, she offered strength and comfort to her sisters during a particularly violent storm when they feared for their lives. "Courage, daughters, now is the time to show you are true missionaries."
~ St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

"With COVID-19 we were asked to care for the most vulnerable COVID-positive aged care residents. Entering Cabrini Hopetoun I felt trepidation and uncertainty heading toward the unknown. What I witnessed was a team banding together caring for those who need it most - without hesitation, overcoming fear with extraordinary compassion. All we had was that very moment to make a difference. It was a revelation that I was actually living the mission of the Cabrini Sisters." ~ Mark G, Nurse Manager



‘Cabrini’

Like its namesake, a film against all odds

~ by Rev. Alexander Santora/for the Jersey Journal



The feature length film will simply be called “Cabrini.”

Before completing the script, executive producer J. Eustace Wolfington and screenwriter Rod Barr read 22 books on the life of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and spent time in the Vatican archives. They discovered that Mother Cabrini personally lobbied Pope Leo XIII to found her own missionary order of women religious independent of any priest, a first. When Pope Leo saw her coming he would simply [exclaim] “Cabrini,” according to Wolfington. And that’s how the film got its title.

The hard part followed. Some \$30 million needed to be raised and now with a completed script, casting can begin in March 2021.

“I would like to get across her leadership, organizational and entrepreneurial skills,” Wolfington said.

Mother Cabrini and six sisters arrived in New York City on March 31, 1889 and were turned down by Archbishop Corrigan for financial assistance and were told to return to Italy. Cabrini was also prohibited from raising funds outside the Italian community which was poor. She was shrewd enough to go to the press, which exposed the plight of the Italian immigrants to be pathetic, with many orphan children living in subhuman conditions. Then [donations] poured in and she founded orphanages, schools and hospitals.

“She had a way with people to get them on board with her vision,” said Monsignor Paul Bochicchio, now a senior priest at St. Francis Church in Hoboken, NJ, and who serves on the film’s committee.

The film will have a possible release date later next year on her November 13 feast day or in 2022. To read the complete article, please click [here](#)

~ The Update thanks Brian Enry, Cabrini University, for making us aware of the film’s production

*With love and prayers,
the Missionary Sisters
celebrate
the 50th Anniversary of Religious Life
of
Sr. Juana Zoraida Mendoza, MSC
We wish you every blessing, Sr. Juana!*



Voices for the Voiceless



Cabrini student Bridget O'Neil addresses her peers on the issues surrounding human trafficking during the Human Trafficking Awareness Walk on Cabrini Day.

We are very proud and grateful for the students of Cabrini University's ECG 200, Voices for the Voiceless class. They helped organize a **Human Trafficking Awareness walk at Cabrini University on November 10 (Cabrini Day)** and had "stations" where they

shared info on Human Trafficking. The students in this class have become abolitionists and we **know** they are going to continue to be voices for the voiceless!

~ The Barbara and John Jordan Center for Children of Trauma and Domestic Violence Education, Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition, and ECG 200 Voice for Voiceless-Anti-Human Trafficking Class

Some topics discussed:

What is Human

Trafficking?:

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, in which people are controlled and exploited for profit. Perpetrators use force, fraud, and/or coercion to manipulate and establish control over individuals.

Types of Trafficking:

Various forms of trafficking exist around the world, including forced labor, sex trafficking, child labor, forced marriage, and child soldiers.

Statistics:

In 2019, 11,500 situations of human trafficking were reported to the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline. These situations involved 22,326 individual survivors; nearly 4,384 traffickers and 1,912 suspicious businesses. Human trafficking is very much under reported. Shocking as these numbers are, they are likely only a fraction of the actual problem.

Impact:

Trafficked persons often have limited access to basic necessities such as safety, food, sleep, hygiene, and medical care.



L-R: Karol Brewer, Bridget O'Neil, Kait Cloud; Charlie Baynum, Tom DiVitorio, Joana Cainglet and Cindy Ross served as Walk resource persons & organizers.

Get Involved:

Learn everything you can about human trafficking and share that info with your friends, neighbors, family members; donate to organization's who help trafficked victims & volunteer for them:

Please place the National Human Trafficking Hotline # in your cell phone 1-888-3737-888 and report suspected cases. ~ submitted by Karol Brewer and Cindy Ross

LCWR Says It is Time to Reconcile and Heal

~ by Dan Stockman, *Global Sisters Report*

The leadership group representing about 80% of the 42,000 sisters in the United States pledges to work with the Biden administration to bring healing to a divided nation.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious issued a statement on November 9 congratulating President-elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris and promised to work with them.



“After a difficult election season, it is time for us to take up the twin tasks of reconciliation and healing. In these challenging times it is critically important that we break through that which divides us one from another, repair fractured relationships and reclaim our essential unity,” the statement says.

“The people of this pluralistic nation form a diverse community characterized by different beliefs, experiences, and interests. We know our differences can be our greatest strengths; our disagreements, opportunities to seek the truth. Our challenge is to embrace those differences and together seek the common good lest we rend the bonds that unite us.”

“Now is the time to make space in our hearts and our communities for the needs and concerns of all God’s people, the undocumented mother, the Midwest farmer, the unemployed steel-worker, the suburban business woman, and the children and elders consigned to live in poverty. It is a time to tear down walls, real or imagined, which divide us by gender, race, class, geography, lifestyle, ideology, political party, and religious belief and to make room in our body politic for all who have been disenfranchised and discarded. To read the entire statement please click [here](#)

St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine, NYC

St. Frances Cabrini Feast Day Celebrations The Patron Saint of Immigrants

FRI, SAT & SUN **November 13-15, 2020**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

12:00 **Feast Day Mass**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

12:00 **Italian Mass**

3:00pm **Filipino Mass**

5:30pm **Mass for Health
Care Workers**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

11:00am **English Mass**
Celebrant Bishop Gerald Walsh

3:00pm **Spanish Mass**



VIERNES, 13 DE NOVIEMBRE

12:00 **Misa de la fiesta**

SABADO, 14 DE NOVIEMBRE

12:00 **Misa en italiano**

3:00pm **Misa filipina**

5:30pm **Misa para trabajadores
de salud**

DOMINGO, 15 DE NOVIEMBRE

11:00am **Misa en inglés**
Celebrante Obispo Gerald Walsh

3:00pm **Misa en español**

Chapel Tours - Music - Veneration of St. Cabrini Relic
Visita de la Capilla - Musica - Veneración de la reliquia

All Masses live-streamed on [www.Facebook.com/CabriniShrineNYC](https://www.facebook.com/CabriniShrineNYC)



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SHRINE

701 Fort Washington Avenue New York, NY 10040
phone 212-923-3536 website: CabriniShrineNYC.org

To view a livestream of the Feast Day Mass:

<http://facebook.com/CabrinishrineNYC>



2520 N. Lakeview, Chicago IL 60614 773 360 5115 www.cabrinationalshrine.org

Online Film Event
Friday, November 13
Sunday, November 15

FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI: THE PEOPLE'S SAINT

a Lucia Mauro film



Please join us for a special online screening of Lucia Mauro's 50-minute documentary Frances X. Cabrini: The People's Saint, in honor of Mother Cabrini's Feast Day on **Friday, November 13 at 7 pm (CST)** and an encore presentation on **Sunday, November 15 at 2 pm (CST)**

Writer-Director Lucia Mauro will participate in a Q&A with Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC, Director of the National Shrine; composer Enzo DeRosa; and Gabriella Cabrini a descendant of St. Cabrini based in Italy.

Viewers can choose to watch the film in English, Italian, Spanish, Polish or French. Individual tickets are \$10.

For Nov. 13, RSVP [here](#) For Nov. 15, RSVP [here](#)

When you RSVP for either of the above dates, choose the National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini as your parish.



Christmas & Children will triumph over COVID-19

Sadly, Cabrini Immigrant Services-NYC cannot host our Annual Holiday Celebration this December. Undaunted, we have decided on a scaled-back and socially distanced gift distribution for our immigrant families.

This year the distribution is planned to be on Saturday, December 19th. Sr. Yolanda has set-up a gift registry for the children on Target's website which can be accessed at this link: tgt.gifts/cabrinichristmas

Toys will be sent directly to CIS so there is no need to visit the post office! **The deadline for ordering from Target is Saturday, December 10th.**

We are also grateful for gifts of cash to cover the incidental expenses of the distribution day. Monetary donations can be made at: bit.ly/donatecis

Thank you for helping CIS-NYC care for the immigrant children in our community!

~ submitted by Julia Mucci and Ella Nimmo



Help us bring a smile to a child's face!



Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC is currently accepting monetary donations, gift cards & new toys for our annual Christmas gift distribution!



Donate: bit.ly/donatecis
Purchase a gift:
tgt.gifts/cabrinichristmas

Save the Dates

for a Compelling Webinar Series on Immigration:

“Dreaming of a Single Human Family”

Sponsored by:
The National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini, Chicago, IL
In collaboration with
The Cabrini Retreat Center, Des Plaines, IL



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

9:00 am MST/10:00 am CST/11:00 am EST

**“Themes from the Life and Spirituality of Mother Cabrini.
Patroness of Immigrants”**

Presenters:

Nicholas Rademacher, PhD

Dr. Rademacher is professor and chair of Religious Studies at Cabrini University. His teaching and scholarship focus on historical and contemporary expressions of Catholicism in the United States. A published author of journals and books, he serves as Vice President of the American Catholic Historical Society and recently completed service on the historical commission for cause for canonization of Fr. William Atkinson, OSA. Dr. Rademacher can be reached via nr725@cabrini.edu

Michelle Sherman, MA

Michelle Sherman is the Campus Minister for Retreats at Villanova University. A former Cabrini Mission Corps missionary at Mother Cabrini H.S. in NYC, she is honored to contribute to this important Cabrini series. She holds a BA in Humanistic Studies from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN; a MA in Theology and Certification in Lay Ministry from Villanova University; and Certification in Spiritual Direction from the Cranaleith Spiritual Center. Ms. Sherman can be reached at michelle.sherman@villanova.edu

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

9:00 am MST/10:00 am CST/11:00 am EST

“The Center on Immigration: Challenges in Migration and a Cabrinian Response”

Presenter:

Abel Rodriguez, JD ('01)

Abel Rodriguez is Director of the Center on Immigration and Assistant Professor of Religion, Law and Social Justice at Cabrini University. His scholarship, teaching and advocacy focus on migrant justice. He is an expert and frequent presenter on immigration policy and the intersection of criminal and immigration law. Rodriguez earned a Juris Doctor at U. of Penn, a Masters of Theological Studies at Harvard, and a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies at Stanford, and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish at Cabrini College.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

9:00 am MST/10:00 am CST/11:00 am EST

**“Immigration from the Perspective of the Cabrinian Charism, on a local, national and international level.
Highlighting the focus of Cabrini University Wolfington Center”**

Presenter:

Raymond Ward, PhD

Ray Ward is the Director of the Wolfington Center at Cabrini University. He serves as an advisor to several student-run organizations and also teaches the Faith, Service and Advocacy and College Success Semina

Further details on the series will be provided in the upcoming weeks.
Please be sure to mark your calendars.

Prayer Requests

Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLM)

Tomorrow, on the Feast Day of Mother Cabrini, the Cabrini Lay Missionaries will gather virtually and will renew their commitments. We pray that they will be blessed and strengthened in their commitment to serve others through the charism of St. Frances X. Cabrini.

Sr. Stephanie Kabacinski, MSC

Please keep Sr. Stephanie in your prayers. She has returned home from the hospital. This coming week, Sr. Stephanie will be placed under hospice care. Please pray for her comfort and for her serenity at this time.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

On the Feast Day of their foundress, Frances Xavier Cabrini, we ask God to continue to shower his blessings upon the worldwide Institute of the Missionary Sisters and their faithful service on behalf of the human family. In your goodness, Lord, grant them many vocations.

In Loving Memory

Sr. Elena LoBrutto, MSC

The Missionary Sisters have received word on Wednesday, November 11th that dear Sr. Elena LoBrutto, MSC, 75 years of age, of the Sacred Heart Community of Codogno, passed away. We pray that the Lord will welcome our Sister in His Kingdom of Light and Peace.

Prayer to Mother Cabrini, Patron Saint of Immigrants

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini,
woman of God, disciple of Christ,
you offered the people you met the gifts of life and love
by responding to their physical, emotional
and spiritual needs in practical and creative ways.
Inspired by your confidence in God
and your compassion, love and sense of justice,
we ask you to accompany us as we work
to respond to the urgent needs of our sisters and brothers
fleeing their home countries in search of refuge and peace.
Teach us. Pray for us. Amen.

—Sr. Sharon Casey, MSC, Cabrini Health