



July 15, 2021

Today is the 171st Birthday of Our Beloved Patroness of Immigrants

Maria Francesca Cabrini was born July 15, 1850, in Sant' Angelo Lodigiano, a small town on the plains of Lombardy some twenty miles south of Milan. Two months premature, she was, at birth and throughout her life, of delicate health. Maria Francesca was the tenth child born to Agostino and Stella Cabrini.

Her Early Years

Her family played an important role in the formation of her personality. The loving atmosphere of the home developed in her an affectionate nature and strong self-identity. In later years, Mother Cabrini showed great concern for family life as she tenderly reached out to immigrant parents in their homes. She opened schools for their sons and daughters in which she applied a pedagogy of love. She provided specific medical assistance to young children and reserved for them a special place in her heart and in her works, establishing, when circumstances necessitated, orphanages where they came to know that although deprived of one or both parents, they had a new home where they were loved.



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Francesca's father had his livelihood on the land. The young Francesca, who was raised close to the soil, became familiar with the region's fruits and flowers and she learned early to value nature. Throughout her life she would be acutely sensitive to cloud formations, birds, and the variegated hues and aromas of harvest.

This daughter of a relatively prosperous farmer was astute in recognizing potential sources of water on land considered to be arid. In 1890, Mother Cabrini purchased property from the Jesuits in West Park, New York, to house orphaned girls in the immigrant ghettos of New York City. The apparent lack of an adequate water supply was remedied when she personally inspected the grounds and indicated where a well should be dug. The effort was successful and still provides an adequate water supply for the property. A similar incident occurred a few years later. Mother Cabrini wanted to build a summer home for her orphan children in the mountains above Denver, but there seemed to be no water on or nearby the premises in Golden, Colorado. On a visit to the mountain locale she pointed to a large red rock and directed that it be moved. As soon as this was done, a bubbling spring gushed forth. All these years later, this same spring is still furnishing water to the site. The farmer's daughter may have used a divining rod or her intuition to locate water on the properties or, as some say, these discoveries may have been small "miracles."

A Saint for All People

As a testament to her life's work, an award, given in 1952 posthumously, by The American Committee on Italian Migration to the Italian Immigrant of the Century, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini reads, "Mother of the Immigrant, Servant of the Poor, Consoler of the Sick, Guardian of the Orphan, Teacher of the Little Ones, Friend of the Laborer, Daughter of Italy, Citizen of the United States, Messenger of Peace, Handmaid of the Sacred Heart, who, in her humble hidden life of prayer, work and sacrifice for mankind has merited the Crown of Sainthood in the Eternal City of God."

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



Her Spirituality

In the spirituality of Mother Cabrini, her source was the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and her missionary spirit was the trickle with which she fed her tireless apostolic activity.

Even the life of wandering and constant travel had quite an influence on the missionary spirituality of St. Cabrini.

Traveling continuously leaves one with the basic feeling one has no permanent abode in this world (Heb.13:14). This feeling makes the impermanence of life evident in everything, facilitating in a certain way, one's detachment from people, things and even from one's own ideas. At the same time, it demands a kind of heroism because one is called to live one's responsibilities intensely and inwardly in situations that are temporary.

Traveling from one part of the world to the other, always with a suitcase ready, made grow in the heart of Mother Cabrini and her Missionaries, the ability to find God in all countries, in all cultures and in all social situations, anchoring all the differences within the project of God to make known God's saving Love, because in this love one finds the fullness of life.

The provisional nature of the pilgrim also leads to a sense of precariousness that causes the need to depend on and trust in God. Mother Cabrini always traveled with "*her crusade*", a collection of relics of missionary saints to whom she entrusted her foundations. But, many times she found herself in the disadvantaged condition of those who don't know where they will be sleeping, or what they would find to eat, or to whom they can turn when appointments made were not respected.

Through the presence of God in her heart, she gained strength and found His will in those circumstances when she experienced provident help.

The instability of her resources and the situation linked to the precariousness of her health, the fears of her traveling companions, the manifold disappointments, her confidence in the Heart of Jesus became absolute, and it changed all the uncertainty into missionary audacity. Because of that she could speak of the wonders of God. ~ *Free Yourself and Put on Wings*, Sr. Maria Barbagallo, MSC

On her natal day and always, we honor and give thanks for the extraordinary life and faith of our patroness and guide, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Dear Cabrini family,

As we enter the second half of the year, Justice for Immigrants would like to give you an update on what our program has accomplished with the hope that you will reel in some of the joy we have experienced with our events, as well as keeping you posted on upcoming activities.

1. We celebrated a win when the Fund for Excluded Workers was passed! This program will provide financial aid to New York workers who were excluded from Federal financial supplements. The applications are scheduled to open in August and we are preparing to support our community in accessing this resource.
2. We had our first in-person events as eleven of our members graduated from JFI Leadership training. The training included political education and community organizing 101.
3. Staff also partook in the JFI leadership training!
4. We've had workshops on financial literacy, nutrition, education, emergency rental assistance and more!
5. We are getting creative with our PAPELES workshop series, where participants explore creative writing, storytelling and film.



For more information contact Zelene – Community Organizer
917-742-0533

We also have some exciting and informative events coming up. We hope you'll join us!

1. Our next workshop will be on **Wednesday July 21st at 6:30pm on FB/Live**, and will provide the latest updates on immigration legislation.
2. We are organizing a contingent to attend the "Immigrants are essential" rally on July 23 at noon, to urge Congress to include a path to legalization for DACA, TPS, and DED holders, farmworkers, and other essential workers in the next COVID relief package. [Register here](#) and join us!

Keep an eye out for our upcoming Nutrition and Fund for Excluded Workers workshops in August!

Sincerely, Zelene Suchilt, Community Organizer

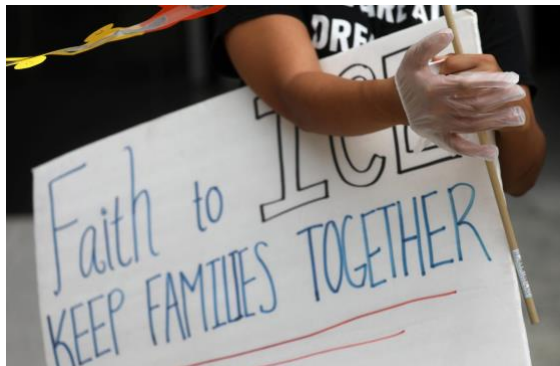
ICE Announces Reversal of Policy

~ by Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the agency involved in deportations and other immigration-related detention proceedings, announced on July 9 it would not detain, arrest or take into custody pregnant or nursing migrants for violating immigration laws except in exceptional circumstances.

This includes women who have given birth with a year, the agency said, adding it was doing so “in recognition of the time needed for infant development and parental bonding.”

“ICE is committed to safeguarding the integrity of our immigration system and preserving the health and safety of pregnant, postpartum and nursing individuals,” said Tae D. Johnson, acting ICE director. “This reflects our commitment to treat all individuals with respect and dignity while still enforcing our nation’s laws.” To read the full account, please click [here](#)



Catholic Charities Pushing to End Immigration Backlog for Abused, Neglected Minors

~ by Lucy Grindon, National Catholic Reporter

Four Catholic Charities branches and three Catholic legal organizations have signed onto a letter urging top U.S. immigration officials to address the concerns of Special Immigrant Juvenile, or SIJ status holders who remain at risk of deportation despite their eligibility to apply for green cards.



Special Immigrant Juvenile status was created by Congress in 1990 to help young people who have been abused, abandoned or neglected by one or both of their parents, said Anthony Enriquez, who directs the Unaccompanied Minors Program within the Catholic Charities of New York’s Immigrant and Refugee Services office. The status, which must be determined by a family court, is also sometimes granted to orphans.

Those with Special Immigrant Juvenile status are eligible to apply for green cards, but because Congress classifies SIJ-based green cards as employment-based immigrant visas, these green cards are subject to country caps on employment-based immigrant visas. (This

is in spite of the fact that many children who hold SIJ status are not nearly old enough to work.) Because of these caps and the backlog they have created, SIJ status holders now have to wait years before they can submit their green card applications.

“Clearly, Congress intended this to be a fast-acting immigration benefit for exceptionally vulnerable young people, and unfortunately, because a large number of young people have come from difficult circumstances, there are a large number of people...whose suffering is prolonged. Besides facing the threat of deportation, SIJ status holders cannot work legally, receive federal student financial aid or get married, despite being eligible to become U.S. lawful permanent residents,” said Enriquez.

“This work is so important because we’re really working with young people who have come from the most difficult of circumstances. When young people qualify for special immigration status, they’ve been deprived of that parent-child connection: they’ve often had to parent themselves,” said Enriquez.

“They have shown a strength of character and resiliency that many of us will never have to exhibit in our lives because we have been blessed to have a family that cares for us,” Enriquez said of his team’s clients. “We really believe that young immigrants are the future of our communities and of our country, and if we can have a small part in helping make that future better then it’s an honor and a privilege to do so. To read the complete article, please click [here](#)



Sending Postcards of Hope



Gathered around the table as they inscribed affirming and inspirational messages are from left: Nancy Costello, Guadalupe Province Communications Office; Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC; Karol Brewer, Co-Chair, Immigration Commission; and Sr. Grace Waters, MSC.

sending postcards to refugee children. Communities of the Missionary Sisters along with their lay collaborators have spent time with pens, markers, crayons and stickers decorating postcards with messages of hope, comfort and love that will be sent to and distributed by the Jesuit Refugee Service to a refugee child overseas.

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) works in more than 55 countries worldwide, having helped over 677,000 refugees and other forcibly displaced persons.

~ the Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission



In collaboration with MSC-sponsored ministries, the Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission is spearheading a project of writing and

A Garden of Tranquility



Resident Maria Cellante enjoys tending to one of the raised flower beds assisted by Therapeutic Recreation Therapist Maria Samuels.

from the grant, a drip irrigation system for all planting areas was installed, durable but stylish furniture was purchased and beautiful perennials were added to the landscape. Another highlight of the garden are the garden beds that residents can utilize to plant flowers and tend to them while they are enjoying a breath of fresh air, a ray of sunshine and the melodious sounds of birds flying overhead. (Continued on next page.)

On June 30, 2021, St. Cabrini Nursing Home held a blessing ceremony to mark the completed renovation of the therapeutic dementia garden. This renovation was made possible thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the Field Hall Foundation. The grant was originally awarded in July of 2019 but renovations were halted in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the therapeutic recreation dementia garden is aimed at improving the quality of life for residents with Alzheimer's/dementia who live at the nursing home or who utilize the dementia unit for respite. Due to safety reasons, most of the residents on this particular unit rarely get to go outside freely and unencumbered. Studies have shown that gardens designed for residents with dementia are an effective, non-pharmalogical intervention that reduces dementia symptoms, improves quality of life, enhances family interactions with loved ones and increases family and staff satisfaction.

With
the
funds



From left: Cabrini of Westchester trustees Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC; Sr. Catherine Garry, MSC attend the blessing of the Memory Garden with Field Hall Foundation CEO John Ahearn and Cabrini of Westchester President and CEO Patricia Krasnausky.



From left: Donna Haskel, Administrative Services Manager, Field Hall Foundation; Patricia Krasnausky, President and CEO of Cabrini of Westchester; Bonita Burke, Vice-President of Operations and Administrator, Cabrini of Westchester; John Ahearn, CEO Field Foundation; Patti Horvath, Program Officer, Field Foundation; and Roseanne Nardone, CFO, Field Foundation attend the garden blessing.



During the blessing ceremony, Cabrini of Westchester's Vice-President of Operations and Administrator Bonita Burke stated:

"Cabrini is honored to have been the recipient of the \$20,000 grant from the Field Hall Foundation. The funds are so appreciated, and have enhanced the lives of the residents living with Alzheimer's or dementia. The update to the garden is especially significant for the residents after experiencing feelings of isolation, anxiety and depression that were heightened due to the Covid-19 virus this past year. We are extremely grateful to have the support of the Field Hall Foundation."

~ submitted by Susan Herceg, Cabrini of Westchester



The CLM Corner

This is an occasional feature where we highlight the Cabrini Lay Missionaries and their ministries.

Victoria Ortiz Perez

My name is Victoria Ortiz Perez. I am originally from Chiquimula. I have been living in Guatemala for the last 13 years.

I work on my own account. I belong to the parish of The Rosary. I participate in group and family prayers. I also participate in prayers with the Cabrini Sisters.

I met Sister Juanita, a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, when I arrived in Guatemala. She invited me to prepare to make a commitment as a Cabrini Lay Missionary. After a time of preparation, I finally made my initial commitment on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I am so thankful to God, the Cabrini sisters and the Cabrini Lay Missionaries.

May the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary accompany you with its love and mercy.

~ submitted by: Victoria Ortiz Perez



Victoria Ortiz Perez

Weekly Update – Publication Notice

The Update will be published on July 22 and 29.
The Update goes on vacation during the month of August.
Publication will resume on Thursday, September 9.

Prayer requests are always welcome and will be published on Thursdays as they are received.

Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org

A Pilgrimage Down Memory Lane

There were six of us in all, each a part of the Cabrinian family, each determined to make this pilgrimage back to the Brooklyn roots of our youth. And so it was that last Saturday, with a spring in our step and prayerful intentions in mind, we exited the F train at Carroll Street in Brooklyn and began our journey back in time.

We were focused on visiting 580 Henry Street, the old convent, where a few of us spent many happy, fun filled



Retracing familiar steps in a beloved Brooklyn neighborhood that holds so many memories are from left: Michael O'Leary, a friend of Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC; Anne Schwelm, Cabrini University Library Director; Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC; Marianne McGowan, CLM; and Marianne's daughter, Kate.



The newly dedicated statue of Mother Cabrini at Sacred Hearts and St. Stephens Parish in Brooklyn, NY.

years teaching and serving the immigrants in this Italian community. We stood in front of 580 Henry Street, a beautiful brownstone, and looked up at the four floors above us and remembered. The first floor was the chapel; second floor the community room; third and fourth floors were the bedrooms. We laughed at how often we climbed the winding stairs and marveled at how some of the bedrooms had a perfect view of the Statue of Liberty. We wondered how all twenty-two Sisters could possibly squeeze into the small chapel.

On we trudged to our local parish, Sacred Hearts and St. Stephens, on the corner of Summit and Hicks Streets. "Wow", we said in unison. "The church looks the same." Statues of saints lined the sides of the church and red, votive candles flickered where fervent parishioners prayed that a special grace be granted to them. The windows were stained glass, one of them of Mother Cabrini in a place of honor toward the front of the church. This Italian community of Carroll Gardens has a special devotion to Mother Cabrini who walked these same streets, meeting and greeting newly arrived Italian immigrants, decades ago. We could almost feel Mother's presence.

In addition to the treasures inside the church, we were fortunate to be able to admire the newly dedicated statue of Mother Cabrini, sitting right outside. Mother is with two young children, a boy and a girl and she seems content in their presence. We placed some flowers at Mother's feet, took pictures and spent a moment or two in silent prayer before we moved on.

This time we moved on down Henry Street toward Sackett Street, hoping to find a place to sit in the shade and eat something refreshing. Even walking these few blocks was a trip down memory lane. So many of the old brownstones looked the same, but in between these buildings we could spot some new construction that appeared very modern, almost out of place. And surprisingly, the streets were quiet for a Saturday afternoon.



Finally, we spotted an eatery, just what we were looking for. Farmacy is an old-fashioned ice cream parlor on the corner of Henry and Sackett Streets. We had to sit outside because sections inside were closed off because of Covid restrictions. Nonetheless, the outside was delightfully cool and a perfect spot for enjoying hot dogs and ice cream sundaes topped with whipped cream and a cherry. “Ah”, we said.

The hours flew by and we each had a long trip home. So, off we went heading back toward the Carroll Street subway station and the F train. We admired the lovely brownstones and colorful gardens. And the stoops! Where else can you find stoops like these? We agreed, Carroll Gardens is a special place.

As we said good-bye to one another, Sister Christine Marie, Anne, Marilyn, Michael, Kate and I, we agreed that the day was perfect and we planned to make this pilgrimage a yearly tradition.

~submitted by Marianne McGowan, CLM

A SPOTLIGHT on the Canonization



A video about the Canonization of Mother Cabrini is on display along with framed photo reproductions of the ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica.

A dresser, linens, and personal belongings. Housed in temporary space, the “pop up” will only be open through the end of the summer. Both exhibits have been popular with the public and are drawing attention from the press.

~submitted by Julia Attaway, Executive Director

Here are links to articles that appeared in Catholic New York:
To view the article in English, please click [here](#)
To view the article en Espanol please click [here](#)

Last week for the 75th anniversary of the canonization the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in Upper Manhattan launched two new exhibits. One, on the canonization, features mementos of Mother Cabrini's death, beatification, and canonization, along with enlarged and framed reproductions of photos originally taken on July 7, 1946 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The original photos are part of the collection at Cabrini University's Holy Spirit Library.

The second exhibit is a “pop up” museum of items used by Mother Cabrini when she visited West Park, NY. These include a bed, a



Furnishings and personal belongings of Mother Cabrini are featured in a “pop up” exhibit at the Shrine.

LOVE in ACTION

The Cabrinian Outreach for Immigrants

Please Save the Dates

Announcing a new webinar series on immigration sponsored by The National Shrine of St. Cabrini in Chicago in collaboration with the Cabrini Retreat Center, Des Plaines, IL. This fall we will be exploring how LOVE for immigrants finds its expression in the everyday services provided by our Cabrini Immigrant Services in Dobbs Ferry, NY and New York City.

Please join us for this important and informative sequel to our Winter 2021 webinars. Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, September 29th – Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY – 11:00 am EDT/10:00 am CDT/9:00 am MDT/ 8:00 am PDT.

Wednesday, October 27th - Cabrini Immigrant Services – NYC - 11:00 am EDT/10:00 am CDT/9:00 am MDT/ 8:00 am PDT.

Wednesday, December 1st – Storytelling as Immigrant Outreach - 11:00 am EDT/10:00 am CDT/9:00 am MDT/ 8:00 am PDT.

More information will be forthcoming in the future.

Prayer Requests With Grateful Hearts

Pope Francis

We are grateful for the continuing recovery of Pope Francis following his surgery last week. Please pray that his recuperation will proceed uneventfully and he will regain full health.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

On this, the anniversary of her birth, we give thanks for the “authentic greatness of this saint and the marvels the Heart of Jesus accomplished in her”. ~ Sr. Maria Barbagallo, MSC

