



November 11, 2021

## The Feast Day of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini *Patroness of Immigrants*

November 13, 2021

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, proclaimed a saint in 1946 and Patron Saint of Immigrants in 1950, is best known for her extraordinary apostolic activity in the United States and South America in the service of Italian emigrants to whom she was sent in 1889 by Pope Leo XIII. Her apostolic mysticism matured in the light of two great sources: the spirituality of the Sacred Heart and her missionary life – which forced her to travel continuously, crossing the ocean over 24 times, traveling widely by train, carriage, on horseback, and even on foot, all with the sole purpose of bringing the consolation of God's love to the most lonely, marginalized and desperate people.

In 1880, the Bishop of Lodi, Monsignor Domenico Gelmini exhorted her to fulfill her missionary dreams, saying to her, *"I know you want to be a missionary. I do not know any missionary institutes. You shall found one."* Frances simply replied, *"I'll look for a House."* Thus she became the Foundress of the Institute of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, and from that moment on was called "Mother Cabrini".

In this way her missionary adventure began, entirely oriented toward preparing for the missions of China that she had desired since childhood, but the rapid development of her institute and foundations, the fame of her abilities, and the impressive number of young women who asked to join her Institute attracted the attention of Monsignor Giovanni Battista



Scalabrini. He invited her to devote herself to Italian immigrants who left of the Americas in search of good fortune and who were living in desperate conditions, especially in North America.

Mother Cabrini waited for the illumination of the Holy Spirit before accepting, and, above all, she sought in herself the valid reasons that could have made her consider such a radical change to her

missionary course. It took Pope Leo XIII, with whom she had established a deep filial relationship, to make her definitively decide to relinquish her long-cherished dream of missionary work in China.

Her adventure through the Americas and in Europe, underwent no periods of inactivity. The groundbreaking activity in favor of the Italian immigrants prompted her to establish schools and orphanages, educational centers, hospitals and dispensaries. All of these facilities were necessary because of the miserable condition of so many abandoned, uneducated children, sick immigrants who could barely make themselves understood in the public hospitals, families divided by the necessity of work, and entire neighborhoods, victims of organized crimes, so many people, marginalized by prejudice and poverty.

Her work also extended to mines, prisons, cotton plantations and railroad yards – all places where she and her sisters came to the aid of the Italians enslaved by the need to earn a meager living and often overwhelmed by the difficulties of existence.

She fought for them, for their dignity, and for the reconstitution of a cultural identity of which they were ashamed. But, above all, she was fighting so that they would not abandon the Catholic faith. She wanted religious education to be a source of comfort, human and Christian growth, strength to move forward in life, and help for the immigrants to integrate with dignity into the new culture without losing their own.

The Christian synthesis that Mother Cabrini achieved between the overwhelming apostolic activity and contemplation is the basis of her spirituality.

When understood in this way, Mother Cabrini takes on all the richness and depth of spirituality which continually adapts to the requirements of the missionary life, overcoming even valid personal concerns in favor of an active, preventive and curative repair of the difficulties weighing on humanity.

*~ from Free Yourself and Put on Wings, A Journey of Cabrinian Spirituality, by Sr. Maria Barbagallo, MSC*



Statue of Mother Cabrini in Battery Park, New York

**The Feast Day of Mother Cabrini  
is  
Saturday, November 13**

Please join in praying the novena to  
Mother Cabrini.

Please click [here](#) to access the novena.



# A Dad and Daughter Cabrini Connection



Miss Maggie Colfer as Mother Cabrini.

Cabrini University's head lacrosse coach, Steve Colfer, was the recipient of a special honor when he was inducted into the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the US Lacrosse Hall of Fame on September 19. In 2019, Steve coached Cabrini's men's lacrosse team to winning the National Championship. We are proud of Steve and all that he has done for Cabrini.



Maggie and proud dad, Steve Colfer.

Recently, Steve and his wife, Lauren, were both surprised and delighted when Maggie, their 1<sup>st</sup> grader, announced that she wanted to be "Mother Cabrini" in her school's

parade of saints. Maggie is very familiar with Cabrini University and is often seen on campus when athletic events take place. Perhaps someday she may choose Cabrini again and be a student on our beautiful campus.

~ submitted by Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC



## Sharing Mother Cabrini's Story

Recently, Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC the Director of the National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini in Chicago was interviewed for ItalyUSA Magazine on the life and ministries of Mother Cabrini.

To read the interview, please click [here](#)

Thank you, Sr. Bridget, for your interesting insights on Mother.



## We Have a New Citizen!



Fatbardha Mertenika  
Our new citizen

Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY is thrilled to announce that we have a new US citizen! Fatbardha Mertenika, who is from Albania, passed her US Citizenship exam. Jim Sanders, her tutor at CIS, has worked with her. Due to COVID-19, they had to meet virtually. They were very faithful to their weekly - and sometimes more often - meetings on Zoom or Facetime.

Mrs. Mertenika worked very hard preparing for the exam and her hard work has paid off. We at CIS, along with her family, wish to congratulate Fatbardha on her accomplishment. She is looking forward to taking her oath of citizenship. ~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS-Dobbs Ferry, NY



Jim Sanders  
Bardha's CIS tutor



*From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Promotion Team...*

## November 7 – 13<sup>th</sup> is National Vocation Awareness Week

"National Vocation Awareness Week is being celebrated in the United States this week, November 7-13, 2021. Please ask Our Lord to inspire more women and men to follow a call to the priesthood and consecrated life. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of vocation."

### The Attraction to Religious Life

~ HORIZON, *the Journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference*

For nearly two thousand years, people have sought a distinct way to lay down their lives for Christ and the church through consecrated life. Their motivations are usually layered, with the full rationale for an entrance not always apparent to even the person involved. NRVC asked **newer members** of religious institutes to directly name what attracted them, selecting from several choices.

#### Desire for Spiritual Depth

The top three choices essentially have to do with a desire for spiritual depth: (spirituality, charism, mission) and community and ministry are close behind. Most of the survey respondents were under age 40, but a fair number were over 40, sometimes by many years, so the survey does not strictly reflect the thinking of young adults in religious life, although it approximates it.

To come at this complex question about attraction in another way, the 2020 study also asked religious who had been in an institute for 15 years or less to simply talk about their attraction during focus groups. When left on their own to explain their personal attraction to consecrated life, respondents repeatedly told stories about their discernment that brought up these concepts:

- Joy of members
- Positive relationships among members
- Witness of members
- Meaningfulness of consecrated life
- Community life (eating, praying, recreating, ministering together)
- Shared ministry
- Totality of consecrated life-commitment
- Sense of belonging and feeling at home and at peace with the community
- Charism that resonated with them

Other themes not directly about attraction also arose as people tried to answer the attraction question.

- Impact of particular encounters with people both in and out of religious life
- Slowness of their own vocational understanding
- Emptiness of career and material achievements and the desire for "something more"
- Importance of spiritual direction and/or serious, regular prayer

#### Attraction to Religious Life

*Given a series of answers to choose from in a 2020 NRVC survey, religious who have been in consecrated life for 15 years or less selected these reasons for entering a religious institute:*

Spirituality – 95%  
Charism – 94%  
Mission – 93%  
Prayer Life – 93%  
Community Life – 92%  
Example of members – 90%  
Welcome – 88%  
Ministries – 84%  
Founder's story – 72%  
Cultural diversity – 36%

WALK A MILE  
WALK TO LEARN ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS  
AND HOW WE CAN HELP

# WHY WE WALK

It's time we open our eyes and see the victims of the sex trade, domestic servitude, and forced labor who've been in the shadows for far too long.

The purpose of the event is to shine a spotlight on the 27 million men, women, and children who are still trapped in slavery today.

It's happening right here in our community. Come out and learn more about the signs and how to help end trafficking in your zip code.

**JOIN US Use QRcode to Register**



**Monday November 15, 2021**

Walk starts at 3:00 P.M. in front of Grace Hall

Please remember to wear a mask

**Donations of hotel size toiletries: soap, shampoo, toothpaste etc.**

**We will also be accepting donations of gift cards to support the Cabrini Closet**

This walk is sponsored by ECC 200 Anti-Human Trafficking Class, the Cabrini Closet

Contact Karol Brewer at 610-902-1038 or [cabriniformation@mothercabrini.org](mailto:cabriniformation@mothercabrini.org)

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# LOVE in Action

A Spotlight on the Cabrinian Outreach for Immigrants

Please Mark Your Calendars

Please join us in December for the third and final webinar in this series on immigration. Sponsored by:

**The National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini, Chicago, IL  
in collaboration with  
Cabrini Retreat Center, Des Plaines, IL**

**WEDNESDAY, December 1, 2021  
11:00 am EDT/ 10:00 am CDT/ 9:00 am MDT/8:00 am PDT**

**The Art of Storytelling – Uniting Immigrants and Elders  
Cabrini Immigrant Services-Dobbs Ferry and St. Cabrini Nursing Home**

Depression, anxiety and isolation are becoming more prevalent especially during COVID. Immigrants and nursing home residents are also experiencing these feelings. This webinar, which brings together immigrants and elders, will demonstrate how through storytelling and discussion, there has been an improvement in their quality of life. Participants will listen to a storyteller present a story and participate in a discussion about the book.

Presenters:



**Lorraine Campanelli, MS, MSW**

Lorraine Campanelli is the Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY. She holds a BS in Elementary Education; a MS in Education (Reading Specialist) and a Master of Social Work. She has postgraduate certificates in spiritual direction, health care management, and health care ministry leadership. She has taught on elementary and college levels. She serves on advisory boards for social work schools and on various community boards. She is also a field supervisor for social work interns.



**Deborah Mosley, MA**

Deborah Mosley is a certified dietitian-nutritionist and trained storyteller. She has worked for the NYS Department Health, Division of Nutrition, Public Health Nutritionist, Chronic Disease Prevention and Adult Health. She volunteers as a storyteller in schools in Westchester County, NY. She is currently involved in adult literacy and the STARS (StoryTelling, Art, Reading and Socialization) for Kids program as well as the Expressive Arts: Improving the Well-Being of Adult Immigrants and Elderly Nursing Home Residents at Cabrini Immigrant Services in Dobbs Ferry, NY.

**Please note: If you are unable to join the webinars at the scheduled times, they will be recorded and the link will be available in The Update, [www.cabrinationalshrine.org](http://www.cabrinationalshrine.org) and on the National Shrine page of the [www.mothercabrini.org](http://www.mothercabrini.org) – Click [here](#)**

**Missed the previous LOVE in Action webinars?**

**To view a recording of the webinar on Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY, please click [here](#)**

**To view a recording of the webinar on Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC, please click [here](#)**



## The Feast of St. Frances Cabrini – St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine November 13 & 14

### **Saturday, November 13**

Mass in English at 9:30am

Mass in Italian at noon

Filipino Mass at 3pm

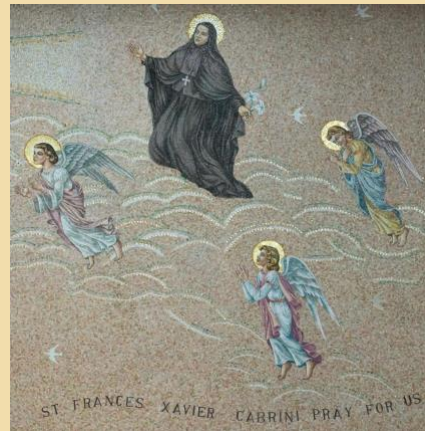
### **Sunday, November 14**

Mass in English at 11am

with Bishop Gerald Walsh

Mass in Spanish at 3pm

with Bishop Josu Iriondo



Celebrate with us! This year marks the 75th anniversary of Mother Cabrini's canonization. We've marked the occasion with a special exhibit of items from the beatification and canonization ceremonies. Come learn more about how and why Frances Xavier Cabrini became the first U.S. citizen in history to be entered into the catalog of saints.

## Prayer Requests

### *Prayer for Veterans*

Dear Lord, today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us.

## In Loving Memory

### *Christine Germano*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christine Germano, the aunt and godmother of Cabrini (College) University alumna Robin Larkins. Ms. Germano passed away on November 8<sup>th</sup> in Pennsylvania. Please pray for Robin's family at this sad time.

### The Update – Publication Notice

Please note that due to the Thanksgiving holiday in the USA, The Update **will not** be published on Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Our Thanksgiving edition will be next week on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Missionary Sisters and Cabrini friends are invited to submit prayers expressing what it is you especially give thanks for this year. We will publish these prayers on Our Grateful Hearts prayer page. Kindly submit your prayers to [cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org](mailto:cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org) no later than noon on Wednesday, 11.17.