



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

THE UPDATE

November 10, 2022

## The Feast Day of the Patroness of Immigrants ~ St. Frances Xavier Cabrini November 13, 2022



### Mother Cabrini and Today's Migrants

*The “era of migrations” we live in has seen an unprecedented number of forcibly displaced people. Extreme poverty, persisting wars and violence, drastic climate change and natural disasters, produce millions of asylum seekers and migrants.*

**Image above:** In 2012, the Society of the Citizens of Pozzallo partnered with Groundswell, NYC to create a mural honoring Mother Francesca Cabrini.

**H**ow to answer the plight of asylum seekers, refugees, destitute migrants, internally displaced people, can be learned from the example of the saints of the migrants, special persons of vast horizons, exceptional generosity and creative insights. From the inspiration of the Gospel, such saints derived the motivation and the courage to act.

**T**he methodology of the saints of migrants, such as St. John Neumann of Philadelphia, USA; St. Mary MacKillop of Australia; recently canonized St. Giovanni Batista Scalabrini, Piacenza, Italy; and of course, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, who

dedicated their lives and talents to their human and spiritual promotion is a useful and effective lesson for us.

In particular, Mother Cabrini has articulated a dynamic approach that remains valid in the changed sociopolitical context of today. It had not been a sudden decision that pushed Mother Cabrini to plunge into the care of migrants, but a process of awareness and empathy for the needy.



**The first step** was a lively sense of mission. Mother Cabrini wanted to share her experience of God's love with people in need. Analyzing the documents of the first years of activity of Mother Cabrini, one becomes quickly aware of a determined and practical personality in love with Jesus and deriving from this relationship, a creative and ready-for-action sense of mission.

**The second steps** were evidenced in the first efforts of Mother Cabrini directed to the human and spiritual promotion of "abandoned youth". Later, however, the plight of emigrants touched the hearts of the Sisters. The impulse to mission found a vast and urgent field of action. The education and formation of young women became a pioneering task.

**The third step** shows the wide horizon within which Mother Cabrini was enlarging, and at the same time, consolidating her commitment to the care of people on the move. She confirms this priority after her first direct experience with the immigrants in New York City where she had arrived in 1889.

Although constantly struggling to find the economic means to start and support the multiplicity of initiatives undertaken to meet as many needs of the migrants, Mother Cabrini never stopped developing the outreach of her Institute.

As she looked at the future of immigrant communities in New Orleans, Denver, Seattle, Chicago, Mother Cabrini advocated a progressive integration into the host society. She wanted good Christians and also good citizens.



**The fourth step** – Mother Cabrini adopted a winning strategy, personal contact with the immigrants, a human relationship that inspired trust and love. Thus Mother and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart visited immigrant families in their miserable tenements and cared for their children. It was not a managerial or bureaucratic approach but, rather, a captivating successful style that touched the hearts.

Finally, **the fifth step**, Mother Cabrini did not back down from reminding public officials of their responsibility to contribute to the services she had started and to choose policies that would ease the problems of the immigrants.



As we observe her Feast Day, the relevance of Mother Cabrini's example and of her method endures, and applies in contemporary societies that under the impact of new arrivals, are becoming increasingly pluralistic and demand mutual

comprehension, and a genuine sense of welcome and of integration. Native-born and immigrants can build a common future of peace and reciprocal enrichment if there are women and men who have a maternal heart like Mother Cabrini that is all-embracing in its compassion and evangelical love. ~ *Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, CS, 100 Years of Cabrini Mission*

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**In the days leading up to the Feast Day on Sunday, November 13th, please join with the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community in praying the Mother Cabrini Novena.**

**To access the novena, please click [here](#)**

*May you have a joyous Feast Day!*





# ***“The goodness of the Heart of Jesus is immense and infinite in mercy.”***

*~ St. Frances Xavier Cabrini*



“The Significance of the Sacred Heart of Jesus” was our special seminar with Sister Bernadette Anello, MSC for the two weeks - September 26<sup>th</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a blessing to have her illuminate the spirituality of our Institute. Praying the Sacred Heart Novena made our classes so very meaningful. Sister Patricia Spillane’s booklet has comprehensive concepts of the Heart of Jesus; please be sure to use it for your upcoming novena next year. You will absolutely love the various attributes of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and meditate on them all.

Our prayers and discussion were intentionally focused on all the aspects of Jesus’s heart. Helping us to have a fuller understanding, Sister Bernadette included some noteworthy



Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC (2<sup>nd</sup> l.) presented a seminar on Sacred Heart Spirituality for MSC Candidate Bezunesh Tadiso (l.) MSC Novices Sr. Evon Somirla (2<sup>nd</sup> r.) and Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti.

writings and meaningful resources. We read Segundo Galilea’s writings, our Constitutions, Mother Cabrini’s writings, and shared our lived experiences. These magnificent resources made our two-week session unique and remarkable.

An understanding of how the theology and devotion of the Sacred Heart was a strong response to the needs of the times during the life of Francesca Cabrini, helped us to better appreciate the focus our Foundress had for our missionary congregation.. We could see why the God Who loves us would appear to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque to emphasize His great desire to draw one and all into His Heart of Love.



Sr. Genet Henok, MSC (2<sup>nd</sup> r.) joins the group for a lesson on the Sacred Heart.

The apparition of the Sacred Heart to Margaret Mary bears one simple message to all: His Heart burns with love for all humanity,

excluding no one. He loves us, and He deeply desires our love in return. In the crucifixion, His Heart was literally pierced out of love for us. And, far too often, the humanity He created and saved has responded with ingratitude and indifference. In turning to His Heart, we constantly receive and return that love, and we implore His mercy for ourselves and for those who are far from him.

We are so grateful to Sister Bernadette for sharing her wisdom with us, and to the Formation Team for creating this opportunity for Sacred Heart Theology and Spirituality. We hope that reading this short reflection gives you insight into what we have experienced.



~ MSC Novices: Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti, Sr. Evon Somirla, and MSC Candidate: Bezunesh Tadiso

## Remembering Our Dearly Departed



During the month of November we are reminded to pray for the repose of the souls of our departed family and friends.

The Missionary Sisters at the Sacred Heart Convent in New York City put together this lovely display in remembrance of their departed loved ones who were remembered at Mass.

~ submitted by Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC

# St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine, NYC



Just in time for the Feast Day... On this week's episode of Journeys of Hope, come along with Angela Sealana and her guest **Julia Attaway – Executive Director of Cabrini Shrine in New York City**, and take a spiritual pilgrimage to St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine in New York City! Explore the Shrine overlooking the

Hudson River in northern Manhattan, hear about the life of this American saint, and more!

Tune in on ... [pilgrimcenterofhope.org](http://pilgrimcenterofhope.org)

To listen to the spiritual pilgrimage, please click here:

<https://pilgrimcenterofhope.org/shrine-of-st-frances-xavier-cabrini-new-york-ny>

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## This is National Vocation Awareness Week – November 6 - 12



National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW) is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promote vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

Observance of Vocation Awareness Week began in 1976 when the U.S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for the celebration. It was later moved to Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in January. In 2014, after extensive consultation, the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations moved the observance of National Vocation Awareness Week to November to engage Catholic schools and colleges more effectively in this effort. Here are some interesting resource links:

[Fifty Fun Facts about Religious Life handout](#)

[Brochure on Religious Life Today](#)

[Infographic on Recent Vocations to Religious Life](#)

[Infographic on the Characteristics of Recent Entrants to Religious Life](#)

[Abundant Hope Handout](#)

[NRVC Abundant Hope Video Series](#)

[Responsibilities of Community Members for Vocation Ministry Handout](#)



# Cabrini Mission Foundation

## Spirit of Christmas



Celebrate the Christmas spirit, the birth of Jesus Christ, and sing a few yuletide carols with our Sisters this holiday season!

Please join the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Cabrini Mission Foundation Board of Trustees for the *Spirit of Christmas* party on Thursday, December 15th at Fine & Rare in New York City. Enjoy food, drinks, Christmas music, and more with our dedicated Sisters and lay collaborators.

Please see below for more details, and a PDF version of the full invitation can be downloaded [here](#). Visit our website to purchase your ticket/sponsorships or click [here](#) to be redirected to the page. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ellen Cunningham: [ecunningham@cabrinifdn.org](mailto:ecunningham@cabrinifdn.org) or 212-228-8608.

We look forward to seeing you there!

# Prayer Requests

## ***Identical Infant twins Kayden and Savannah***

Judy Hester, a friend of Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC, is requesting prayers for her great grandchildren, twins Kayden and Savannah, who were born on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both babies have contracted the RVC virus and are currently quite ill. Please pray to the guardian angels to watch over these tiny ones and restore them to health.

## ***Missionary Sisters, Cabrini Lay Missionaries, Lay Collaborators, benefactors and friends***

On the Feast Day, we invite Mother Cabrini's blessing upon all those in the Institute as we seek to faithfully carry on her charism and mission amidst the many challenges of our global community today. May she continue to inspire, guide and journey with us.



## ***Prayer for Veterans***

As we observe Veterans Day in the United States tomorrow, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 God will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our heritage, and the safety of all.

# With Grateful Hearts

## ***U.S. Midterm Elections***



We give thanks that the midterm elections in the United States were conducted largely without voter intimidation and without violence at the polls, and without widespread accusations of voter fraud.

We give thanks that citizens embraced their freedom to vote – by mail and in person - despite claims that elections could be rigged. We give thanks that people participated in their democracy and made their voices heard. We pray



that going forward, all will retain the hard-earned right to vote; that truth will prevail among all elected officials, and that the common good will be served...one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## In Loving Memory

### *All Souls*

During the month of November, we are called to remember those who have died, particularly those friends, colleagues and loved ones who have passed away in the past year. We pray for their joyful reunion with you, Lord, their loving creator.

### *John Damiano, Sr.*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Damiano Sr., father-in-law of Cabrini University alum Debbie Larkins Damiano. Prayers for comfort and peace for the family as they prepare for the funeral on Monday.

### *Ellen Jackson*

The Cabrini University community asks that you join with them in praying for the repose of the soul of Ellen Jackson, the former director of the University's Children's School. Ellen, a retired and beloved member of the University community, passed away on October 24. Ellen's gentle and wise spirit touched many hearts throughout her years at the University, especially the little ones among us. She could often be seen on campus with her guitar, school children following her like ducklings, ready to lead them in a happy song. She will be deeply missed. A memorial Mass will be held on campus in the near future.

