



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

THE UPDATE

November 17, 2022

A Grace for Thanksgiving

Loving God, provider of our daily bread, we pause before this meal to give you thanks.

Let us focus our gratitude today on those foods that the well-fed too often take for granted and that the hungry suffer without - the staple crops of the world. Some are familiar to all of us, others are beloved by a few of us. All play a crucial part in feeding your people throughout the world.



We give you thanks for the cassava of Brazil, Western Africa, and the West Indies.

We give you thanks for the many grains, including the multitude varieties of rice, wheat, and corn upon which so many people rely and also sorghum, better known in many Asian countries.

We thank you for the versatile soybean, a staple in its own right within many regions and cultures, but also an immense aid to those who choose meatless diets.



We thank you for yams and sweet potatoes, so often confused with each other by people in this country but each of critical importance in their respective contexts.

We thank you for the plantains that nourish and delight so many in Western Africa and the Caribbean.

We thank you for the potatoes, originally cultivated in the Americas, beloved by many of European descent and also important to Asian and other cuisines.

May our celebration of these foods remind us of the ways we are interconnected as individuals and as cultures in a glorious tapestry of life.

May our awareness of our human family throughout the world whet our appetite for justice so that we may never rest easy while the vulnerable suffer from the lack of basic needs.

As you bless us through this shared meal with the gifts of the earth, bless also all those whose labors have contributed to what we now enjoy and bless all

those who will not have sufficient food today. May we find ways to be a blessing to them as well.



our Jesus who loves us.

We ask this in the name of

*~ This grace was composed and offered by **Marist Brother Brian Poulin** at the recent National Religious Vocations Conference in Spokane, Washington. We thank Brother Brian for his uplifting blessing.*

Immigration Reform Needed: NOW!

The United States needs comprehensive immigration reform! The last time the United States significantly changed its method for awarding visas was in 1965, when Congress passed the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This law changed the immigration system from one based on country-of-origin limits to one based on family reunification.

A majority of Americans agree that Congress should pass bipartisan legislation to permanently protect Dreamers and TPS holders so these people can continue to live, work and contribute to the only country they have called their home.



With the DACA program so vulnerable in the courts, the risks to Dreamers and particularly DACA recipients could not be more urgent. We are urging you to help push Congress to pass a bill now to protect Dreamers and other people who are undocumented. If DACA is halted in court, an estimated 1,000 DACA recipients could lose their deferred action status and work permits each week, causing severe harm in the healthcare, education, food production and service industries, all of which are experiencing shortages. Getting any deal will unquestionably demand compromise, such as extreme border security measures. There is a chance reforms on recapturing lost visas, improved case processing, and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act might also be included if a deal comes together.

Midterm elections have taken place so, **NOW**, is the time for action!

CALL: Your Senators and ask them to reform and modernize our immigration system. If you do not know your Senator's phone number, dial **202-224-3121** and a switchboard operator will help connect you directly to the correct office. Post on social media (Facebook, Twitter) asking your contacts to join in on the action!

Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission

Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC
Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC
Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC

Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC
Karol Brewer

Cabrinian Organizations Continue the Mission of the Patroness of Immigrants

On November 13, 2022, the Church celebrated the Feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Patron Saint of Immigrants, and at the end of her [jubilee year](#) in honor of the 75th anniversary of her canonization.



Two of the CLINIC's (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.) affiliate organizations bear the name of Mother Cabrini: [The St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance](#), which is part of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas and [Cabrini Immigrant Services](#) in New York City.

Cabrini Immigrant Services of New York City or CIS-NYC, remains close to the mission of Mother Cabrini in its location: after a recent office move, it is now located right in the building of the Mother Cabrini Shrine in the Washington Heights neighborhood.

Ella Nimmo, Director of Community Programs and Development, said that this location has allowed them an even closer relationship with the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who founded CIS and several of whom still work at Cabrini Immigrant Services. Donations from pilgrims visiting the Shrine sometimes go toward supporting CIS-NYC, and sometimes immigrants who are visiting the Shrine will happen upon their office and request help. The Shrine staff often refer immigrants in need to visit CIS. CIS offers a wide variety of services for the immigrant community, from legal services to social support programs.

Beyond the outward connections to Mother Cabrini – its name, its founding by the Sisters, its location, Nimmo say CIS-NYC carries on the spirit of Mother Cabrini's approach. "The Sisters often talk about Mother Cabrini having a sense of



urgency about her, a ‘scrappy’ way of being,” Nimmo said. “If there was a need, Mother Cabrini was going to find a way to meet it. She would get things done. We try to take that approach, as well.” Nimmo said that CIS-NYC is always rising to the challenge of new developments facing immigrant communities in New York City. The biggest challenge for them lately has been finding a way to meet the needs of the thousands of migrants who have been bused to the city from Texas.



Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC (r.) welcomes a new client to the CIS-NYC offices in Upper Manhattan.

“We have helped at least 120 families from the buses so far,” said Nimmo. “It’s difficult because they are arriving with nothing – no contacts, no cell phones even, few job prospects, and often, no pathway to legal residency. We are having to be creative in how we help them and demonstrate support and solidarity.”

“The last few years have been really difficult, what with the pandemic and political changes,” Nimmo continued. “Now we have these migrant families arriving on buses from the border. Creating a supportive space for them amid these challenges is sometimes the most we can do. But we do all we can; we look for any source of support that we can provide, as we imagine that Mother Cabrini would have done.” ~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, Cabrini Immigrant Services, NYC, from an article on *CLINIC website* To read the entire account, please click [here](#)

Cabrini High School Celebrates Mother Cabrini's Feast Day

In preparation for Mother Cabrini’s Feast Day, Cabrini High School hosted a wonderful celebration of the Eucharist where the 50-year graduates (Class of ‘72) joined us in honoring our foundress and received a special pin to commemorate their golden anniversary.

A reception was held following Mass in the lovely Esplanade Courtyard located on Cabrini’s campus. ~ submitted by Madeline LeBlanc



Congratulations 50th Year Graduates!



Welcoming New Immigrants

As you have likely heard, in recent months thousands of migrants have been bused to New York City from the Texas border by Governor Abbott as part of a dehumanizing political stunt. These individuals and families are arriving with no contacts, no money and little knowledge of how to navigate the city. As CIS-NYC our staff has been working hard to ensure these newly arrived immigrants are welcomed and supported. We have distributed metro cards, gift cards, clothing and food. In addition to providing case management, counseling, and legal consultations to all who show up at our door. Thank you to all the generous donors and partners who have supported these efforts. (You can still donate [here](#))

As we navigate this challenging situation, we also recognize that **this crisis is not new**. That is why we continue to advocate for legislative solutions on the local and federal level to ensure dignity and safety for all immigrants, regardless of whether they came here yesterday or two decades ago.

The Latest on DACA

After months of waiting, in early October, the Fifth Circuit of Appeals released their decision about the fate of the [DACA](#) program. They agreed with the original judgment on the case that DACA is unlawful and sent the case back to Judge Hanen, who made the initial ruling. Judge Hanen is [allowing the case](#) to remain open to renewals while he reconsiders the case. This means that the DACA program continues to be in limbo and the future of the program lies in the hands of a notoriously anti-immigrant judge.

With all the various challenges against DACA, it can be hard to keep track of where things stand. As of today, it is important to know that:

- DACA renewals for current DACA recipients remain open
- First time DACA applications are still not being processed by USCIS
- Advance Parole is still open for the current DACA recipients.

For questions about DACA, please call 212.791.4590 x100. For further information, reach out to Ella Nimmo at ellanimmo@cis-nyc.org. Join us in demanding that Congress take action and deliver real protections for DACA recipients and ALL immigrants. [Click here](#) to make a call or write a letter.

The following commentary appeared on the Catholic News Service website on Tuesday, November 15th.

Considering Immigration in Light of Justice

~ by Father Eugene Hemrick

The influx of immigrants is often portrayed as problematic. But is it so?

Recently, Bishop Giovanni Battista Scalabrini was declared a saint for founding the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo that enabled Italian immigrants to assimilate into American culture and enjoy its prosperity.

My grandfather was an Italian immigrant who benefitted from the work of St. Scalabrini and **St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**. The education he and my mother received was at the heart of their later success.

We must wonder what would happen if vacant office space in cities was converted into educational centers and corporations advertised for people to be “missionaries” to immigrants ground in the history and culture of the people they serve and possessing heartfelt duty to respond to their needs.

What if these educational centers taught American inculturation: how to shop, get a driver’s license, open a bank account, find employment. What if studies were conducted to learn of immigrant success stories?



A migrant and her daughter wait for humanitarian aid outside the offices of Catholic Charities in New York City on August 16, 2022, after being transported by via charter bus from Texas.
(CNS photo/David Delgado, Reuters)

What if there was the philosophy of enabling immigrants to better learn how to help themselves and giving them due credit for possessing talent. What if there was a routine practice of praising their music, cuisine and family values.

One of the tragedies of the influx of immigrants is labeling it tragic and a threat to our economy. Equally tragic is building walls that stigmatize immigrants as undesirable people and busing them as unwelcome vagrants.

These negative images that denigrate their humanity are unjust.

A first principle of justice states that justice consists in living one with another, and the just person has an obligation to deal with the other.

This responsibility is inherited from God who created us as social beings. Equally true, being responsible for one another is the basis of decency. Plato speaks of a debt, an obligation, owed to one another as the heart of justice. And yet, some feel immigration is negatively affecting our economic debt. How ironic to place an economic debt over a moral debt.

What if assisting immigrants is seen as a moral imperative, as an opportunity to repay God for our endowment of a blessed sense of responsibility for the other?



*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:
bit.ly/CISChristmas2022

You can also donate a toy here: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/cischristmas2022>

Storytelling Stars



Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY, held a Family STARS (StoryTelling, Art, Reading and Socialization) program. The goals of the STARS program is to increase the children's literacy and listening skills and also to instill a love of books and learning.



This little boy was proud to write his family story with his mom.

worked together to paste the pictures in the book and to also write captions or list the names of the family members under the pictures. The children and parents then shared their books with the group.

In addition, everyone received a copy of the book Where Are You From. Our hope is that they will share both books with their family and friends. It was such a beautiful experience for all involved.

~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli,
Director, Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY

This was the first time that we offered the program for the family. Dr. Wendy Mages, a professor from Mercy College and a trained storyteller, told the story, Where Are You From by Yamile Saied Mendez. After the story, Dr. Mages, shared her family story and spoke about where her family was from and where they settled in the US. The families then shared their stories.

Prior to the program, the parents were asked to bring in pictures of family, etc. from their home country. After sharing their individual stories, the parents assisted their children in creating their Family Story books using the pictures. The parents and children



The delight on the faces of these little girls as they look at the books they created with their mom is heartwarming.

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 or 212-228-8608.

We look forward to seeing you there!

A New York Trip for the Feast Day



Enjoying a visit to the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine in NYC are from left: Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti, MSC novice, Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, Sr. Grace Waters, MSC, Ms. Mary Shrader and Ms. Linda Shikitino.

On Saturday, November 12th, in anticipation of the Feast Day, travelers from Cabrini University headed north to New York for a visit at the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine for Mass and a tour. There, they were pleased to meet up with Sr. Grace Waters, MSC and MSC novice Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti. Heading further up the Hudson, the group stopped for an enjoyable lunch at Sam's Restaurant in Dobbs Ferry and then on to visit with many of the Missionary Sisters in residence at St. Cabrini Nursing Home.

As Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, who organized the trip, said, "It was the perfect day. Perfect in every way."

The Update – Publication Schedule

- Because of the Thanksgiving holiday in the USA next Thursday, there will be no Update on November 24th.
- Due to scheduling in the Province Communications Office, The Update will be published on Thursday, December 1st, 8th and on **Tuesday**, December 13th.
 - The Update will resume on January 5, 2023.

Prayer requests are welcome at any time: cabrininews@mothercabrini.org

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

Each week, during the season of Advent, one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries will offer a reflection. This week's reflection is by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director.



The last few years have certainly challenged us in many ways. We continue to deal with COVID-19, there are so many nations at war, innocent lives are being taken, etc. etc. As we turn to our faith, the first Sunday of Advent calls us to focus on hope. I'm sure our lists of hopes are very long. Are we able to calm our minds and hearts so we can focus on *one* of our hopes this season? As we await the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, what is your hope?

This Advent, can you calm your body and soul to spend some time with the Lord? Look at the empty manger, what is the Christ-child telling your heart? Maybe that is our hope, to spend more time with the Lord or to be less anxious, especially during this time of the year. What do you hope for?

As the Psalm Response tells us, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Pray, listen and hope in the Lord.

~ Lorraine Campanelli, CLM

Prayer Requests

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, we gather this Thanksgiving to humbly thank You for all that You have given us this past year – not just for the meal we may share, but for those with whom we share our meal.

Thank you for life and laughter, for health and happiness, for relationships and memories. Thank you, too, for the lessons learned and the tears we've cried because of Your ability to grow us through them. Thank You for Your comfort and Your presence, in light of good days and bad. Thank You for what we have now, for what you have blessed us with yesterday, and for what You will continue to give tomorrow.

Let us never take anything for granted, but to always be grateful for every good and perfect gift that comes from You. May we have hearts full of thanksgiving not only today but every day of our lives. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Amen. ~ *adapted from a prayer by Cindy McMenamin*

To the Missionary Sisters, Cabrini Lay Missionaries,
partners in mission, benefactors, and friends,
We are praying that God's mercy, grace and love fill your hearts
this Thanksgiving.

Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, Provincial
and the Provincial Council,
Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC
Sr. Xochilt Calero, MSC
Sr. María Elena Plata, MSC

