



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

THE UPDATE

December 1, 2022

A Woman for Our Times

by Ron Polaniecki, Chicago

(reprinted with permission of StreetWise Magazine, Chicago)

Recently a new sculpture of St. Frances Xavier (“Mother”) Cabrini (1850-1917) was unveiled in the courtyard of Holy Name Cathedral, located at State and Superior Streets.

“The occasion, in part, was the conclusion of a ‘jubilee year’ celebrating the 75th anniversary of Cabrini’s canonization (she is the first American citizen saint). And, in part, it is to recognize a Chicago-based woman who was indefatigable in her service to immigrants at the turn of the century,” says the Rev. Greg Sakowicz, rector of Holy Name Cathedral.

Her relevance is obvious in these times of immigration challenges. And her historic importance is confirmed by her inclusion in such works as *Chicago and the American Century*, *The 100 Most Significant Chicagoans of the Twentieth Century* by Richard F. Ciccone, and her listing in the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, N.Y.

As remarkable as Mother Cabrini was, in her own realm, so, too, is co-sculptor, Lou Cella. Rotblatt Amrany Studio of Fine Art, Highwood, Ill., is his arena.

While Cella’s name is not well known, his works are. They include the sculptures of baseball legends Harry Caray, Ernie Banks, Billy Williams and Ron Santo outside of



The statue of Mother Cabrini at the Holy Name Cathedral was made possible by a donation from Dr. Carol Christiansen, a longtime friend and benefactor of the Missionary Sisters.

Wrigley Field. And Carlton Fisk, Frank Thomas and Paul Konerko at Guarantee Rate Field, plus numerous other famous sports heroes.

While Cella acknowledges that he never before sculpted a saint, he said he felt connections to Cabrini. He noted that he was raised Catholic, is a Chicagoan, and is part Italian. Further, he adds, his mother-in-law was an immigrant from Mexico.

Each subject is unique, Cella said. In this case, the goal was to depict Mother Cabrini reaching out from her heart (hence one hand is on her heart) with a deep concern for all people.

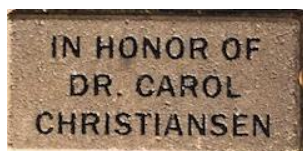
“The attention to details and personal touches, which is the hallmark of our studio work, is apparent in the fabric of the habit, her cross and ring,” Cella continues. “Also, she is stepping through violets, which were her favorite flower.”

Co-sculptor Jessica LoPresti, also an artist at the renowned Rotblatt Amrany studio, was, like Cella, new to saints. Like Cella, LoPresti is a Chicagoan, of Italian heritage on her father’s side and raised a Catholic.

A behind the scenes tidbit: LoPresti modeled a habit that was similar to what Cabrini wore. “This helped us to capture the pose, the folds of the fabric, the delicate checkered pattern of the veil and other details.”



A bas relief of Mother Cabrini by Jessica LoPresti is displayed inside the Holy Name Cathedral.



The statue was made possible by a donation from Dr. Carol Christiansen, a former nurse for many years at Columbus Hospital, as well as a missionary in service overseas.



LoPresti adds, “Cabrini’s message is relevant to our current society, which could benefit from having more compassion and care for others.”

To read the complete account please click [here](#)

~ with gratitude to Mr. Ron Polaniecki for sharing this account with the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community. Thanks to Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC for sharing additional photos of the statue at night and Dr. Christiansen’s dedication.

Supreme Court Examines Biden's Immigration Enforcement Policy

~ by Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Supreme Court justices on November 29 examined a Biden administration policy that place the arrest and deportation of some unauthorized immigrants over others.



Migrants at a camp near the banks of the Rio Bravo in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, make a large banner in the likeness of the US flag on October 30, 2022. (CNS photo/Jose Luis Gonzalez, Reuters)

immigrants can be singled out for deportation.

In oral arguments that lasted more than two hours, the court seemed divided over the challenge to the administration's policy that put a priority on deporting immigrants who pose a threat to national security, public safety or border security.

The policy has been challenged by Texas and Louisiana officials who claim federal law does not provide the options for enforcing which

The case focused on a 2021 memo from Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas outlining priorities for the arrest, detention and deportation of immigrants.

In June, a Texas-based federal judge blocked this policy. The following month the Supreme Court in a 5-4 vote rejected the Biden's administration's request to restore the policy, but agreed to hear oral arguments about it. On November 29, several justices seemed ready to side with the two states arguing their legal right to challenge the administration's policy.

A few of the justices repeatedly emphasized that federal immigration law says that some immigrants "shall" be taken into custody or deported, indicating that the administration didn't have the option to pick and choose who they would focus on.

“Shall means shall,” Chief Justice John Roberts said. “Shouldn’t we just say what the law is?” he asked, but he also acknowledged the administration’s argument that Congress had not allocated necessary funds for the government to remove every noncitizen.

Kate Melloy Goettel, Director of Litigation for the American Immigration Council, said in a statement that this case gave the Supreme Court the “best opportunity in years to affirm the federal government’s well-established authority to set its own enforcement priorities and choose who it targets for deportation – and who it doesn’t.”

She also noted that the country’s immigration system “works better when federal officials decide when to prioritize immigration enforcement.”

“States like Texas have repeatedly sought to make our immigration system harsher and more inhumane by overturning federal immigration authority in a manner inconsistent with our immigration laws and years of court precedent,” she added.

She urged the court to “reject Texas’ ill-conceived argument that immigration laws impose affirmative obligations on ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to carry out arrests against their considered judgment.”

A decision in *United States v. Texas* is expected next June.



*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>

Regional Representatives Meet Pope Francis Discuss ‘Continental Phase’ of Synod

~ by Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN NEWS – While some people want to “reform” the Catholic Church and others want “to put the brakes on the synod process,” those involved in preparing the continental phase of the synod process want “to mend” the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Pope, said Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg, relator general of the synod.

The meeting at the Vatican was meant to help finalize plans for the regional gatherings called to reflect on the “Document of the Continental Phase,” a document released in late October and echoing the themes that emerged from all the national syntheses of synod listening sessions and the contributions of religious orders, Catholic movements, Vatican dicasteries and nuncios from around the world.



Participants in the continental phase will be asked to discuss what in the document “resonates” with them or what they believe is mission, said Xaviere Missionary Sr. Nathalie Becquart, one of the synod undersecretaries.

Vatican News, reporting on the meeting on November 28, said representatives discussed some of the challenges the process already has raised, including “the small minority of people who have participated so far; the challenge facing the Church regarding how she carries out her mission; the prevalence of personal piety rather than community-building practices and ritual; (and) the vast amount of information, proposals and suggestions that makes synthesizing or coming to conclusions difficult.”

In addition, Vatican News said, some participants saw “the need for a definition of ‘inclusive’ regarding how the voices and views of non-Catholics and former Catholics is envisioned.

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

Cabrini High Students Always Thinking of Others



Cabrini High School juniors from left: Aubrey Tucker, Lauren Shields, Curstin Perez and Olivia Montecino helped the Cabrini Catholic Relief Services Club raise funds for hurricane relief in Florida in last month's "Cents for Change" drive. They raised more than \$250.

~ submitted by Madeline LeBlanc, CHS



CHS students share messages of hope and inspiration.

In the spirit of Mother Cabrini's mission to serve those in need, Mr. Liberto's religion classes conducted a service project focusing on the Rebuild Center at St. Joseph Church in New Orleans. Students created hand-made inspirational cards to hand out during their visit to the Rebuild Center. Upon their return to the classroom, the students were prompted to write a reflective essay about their experience throughout the project. The purpose of the Rebuild Center is to provide a safe environment, resources and opportunities for collaboration among Catholic and other faith-based organizations in the City of New Orleans to serve those in need.

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!

From the Guadalupe Province Vocations Team...

NRVC Convocation brings together nearly 200 in Spokane, WA

Nearly 200 people took part in the November 3-6 National Religious Vocations Conference convocation in Spokane, WA. They represented every member area, including Canada, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, and the United Kingdom.

The NRVC expresses special gratitude to attendees, invited guests, presenters, and [sponsors](#) for taking part in keynote presentations, Conversations on the Edge with partners in ministry, the Conversation Roundtable, and the awards banquet honoring Miguel Naranjo and the Catholic Legal and Immigration



Photo above: The theme of the 2022 NRVC Convocation was Call Beyond Borders. Sr. Belinda Monahan, OSB and Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD, NRVC Board Executive Committee members served as emcees for the Convocation.

Photo right: The music for the liturgies during the Convocation was glorious. Volunteers from many religious congregations comprised the choir and the musicians.



Sr. Mindy Welding, IHM, Chair of the NRVC Board welcomes Convocation keynote presenter Fr. VanThanh Nguyen, SVD.

Network, and four outstanding NRVC members. During the Convocation, participants donated \$1,991 to [Transitions](#), to assist women and children facing poverty and homelessness in the Diocese of Spokane.

If you would like to suggest a theme for the next convocation—to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 31 to November 3, 2024—please contact a [National Board](#) member, as the board will choose a theme at its spring meeting.



Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 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 Mass readings for the 2nd Sunday of Advent have a common thread running through each one. In the first reading from Isaiah, we read that the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the young lion shall browse together. The 2nd reading from Romans prays that the God of endurance and encouragement will grant us to think in harmony with one another, so that with one voice we may glorify our God.

We live in a world that seems to have more hate than love, countries are at war with each other, mass shootings, etc. etc. Our readings show us that we can live together. Who could believe that a wolf would be with a lamb, a leopard shall be near a child? But, it can happen! It is up to all of us. Our Psalm response is, “Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.” When we live in harmony, there is justice. When there is justice, there is peace.

Reflection: As I look into my heart, is there anything that takes away my peace? What is it? Can I change my thoughts, etc.?

Am I able to live in harmony with others? With nature? With myself?

The Gospel tells us to ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.’ As we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, let us be mindful of the love, peace and justice that will be born anew this Christmas Day. May our hearts and minds also be born anew that day. ~ Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director

Prayer Requests

Penny Gonzalez

Prayers are asked for Penny Gonzalez, a good friend of the MSCs who is in serious condition suffering from complications following surgery. Let us accompany her with our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Cameron Scholvin

Amber Gentile, a faculty member at Cabrini University, asks for prayers for her brother, Cameron Scholvin, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

In Loving Memory

Frank Emmerich, Sr.

The Cabrinian community joins Cabrini University in extending condolences to alumnus, former trustee and Board Chair, Frank Emmerich, Jr. ('92) and his wife, Angie Corbo ('90) upon the passing of Frank's father on November 27th. Please keep the Emmerich family in your prayers at this difficult time.

