

*Star of Wonder,
Star of Night*



Gracious God,

We turn to you in wonder and praise as we celebrate Christmas.

Remind us during this sacred season of our collective story.

May our roots extend deep into the soil of faith and
spread outward to share the Good News of Christ's coming.

Focus our attention so that we may remain attuned to the
sights, sounds and celebrations of the season.

May the presence of Christ be at the forefront
of our thoughts and actions as we enact each Christmas ritual.

Fill us with hope in the continuous birthing of Christ in our world.

May we never lose sight of the promise of the Kingdom of peace
and compassion that is both present and yet to be.

With gratitude in our hearts we pray. Amen.



United in Prayer

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of the Christ-child. As we prepare for Christmas Day, the Church has us not only reflect on the child but also on the Mother of our Lord. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe falls during Advent. How appropriate to stop and think of our Blessed Mother. This Feast Day is even more special because it is the name of our Cabrini Province. What better way is there to take time and reflect? Prayer.



Zoom enabled MSCs and CLMs to pray together for Advent and Our Lady of Guadalupe observances.

The Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs) and many of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart (MSCs), joined together via Zoom to remember the Third Sunday of Advent and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The prayer service was in

both Spanish and English. Songs, scripture, prayers and reflections were shared throughout the prayer service.

As St. Matthew (18:20) reminds us, “Where two or more are gathered in my name, there am I with them.” We are grateful for our time together as we shared a gift that keeps on giving, the gift of prayer. ~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director

Having a Holly Jolly Christmas!!



These lads are obviously enjoying the Holiday Party and appear to be comparing notes on what goodies Santa has brought.

What can be more joyous than seeing the excitement of children during the Christmas season? Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY was able to share the joy with our Cabrini Kids who participate in our Afterschool Homework Program. A special Holiday Party was held on December 12th. At the party, Deborah Mosley, a trained storyteller, told a very special story about a snowman who gave and gave. After the story, pizza and punch were served.

The Kids were getting anxious as they were waiting to see if Santa made a stop at CIS. When they saw their gifts, their eyes widened, their smiles went from ear to ear and the laughing and excitement just

spread.

A special thank you to Bonita Burke, Administrator of St. Cabrini Nursing Home, for having the Giving Tree and allowing us to give our Cabrini Kids a very special holiday season. Thank you to all Santa's helpers who participated in the Giving Tree. May God bless everyone for all their generosity.

~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS, Dobbs Ferry, NY



Christmas is all about smiles and surprises!



From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Promotion Team...

Finding Strength to Uphold the Dream of Religious Life

~ by Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, HORIZON, Fall 2022

I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with my weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong. ~ 2 Cor. 12:9-10

A Sacred Responsibility

Vocation ministers have been entrusted with the sacred responsibility of discerning with women and men their own calling as they desire to fulfill their deepest longing for God. They come to us because they find something lacking in their lives; they yearn for something more, and they wonder whether that something more is life as a religious sister, brother or priest. They lay before us their histories, hopes, dreams, joys, sinfulness and wounds, and they invite us to wonder and to discern with them. This is no easy task – in fact, it is quite humbling, because we too have our own histories and our own vulnerabilities and sinfulness that prompt us to question our own worthiness of this ministry.

I vividly recall an experience of speaking to a particular religious community of men, when one of their religious came up to me at the end of the day and asked me, “How do you do it?” “How do you do what?” I asked. “How can you speak of the virtue of religious life and talk about new candidates when so much is working against us?” Without giving it much thought, I simply said, “Because I believe in it.”



I have often said that one of our primary tasks as vocation directors is to keep the dream of religious life alive, not just for those who follow us, but for the church, for those in our institutes, the people we encounter, and those to whom we minister. We are entrusted with the responsibility of preserving a valuable and holy legacy that is constitutive to the life of the church. As vocation ministers, we strive for what could be, for what is meant to be, while being fully aware of the humanity that is contained in this life. The weakness of this humanity, however, does not prevent us from being empowered to speak of the dream and to witness it with integrity and conviction. Our faith produces perseverance. Our faith enables powerlessness to become our strength. We must never assume, however, that this power and strength is of our own accord. St. Paul reminds us that it is the power of Christ that rests upon us. It is Christ who holds the hands of us all.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

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



The fourth and final Sunday of Advent 2022 will be here on December 18th. The last candle will be lit on the Advent wreath. The fourth week invites us to reflect on *peace*, the *peace* that only our Lord can give.

Have we attained more *peace* in our hearts during the Advent season?

The Mass readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent tell us about how the birth of Jesus came about. In Matthew 1:18 we read, “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. The Gospel reading (Mathew 1:18-24), tells us the story leading up to the birth of Jesus. We learn about Joseph’s confusion about Mary’s pregnancy. I’m sure he didn’t have peace in his heart at the time. But, his faith allowed him to believe in the message of the angel and he trusted that God would be with him throughout the journey. Perhaps it was that trust that eventually gave St. Joseph the *peace* in his heart, the *peace* that only the Lord can give.

In Matthew 1:22-23, we are reminded about what the prophet Isaiah foretold, “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they shall call him Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” We know the Christmas story, we know that Jesus will be born on Christmas Day. Our Responsorial Psalm tells us to ‘Let the Lord enter, He is the King of glory.’ We are assured that God is with us. Perhaps this week, we can focus on letting the Lord enter our hearts in a deeper way. Let our hearts be overwhelmed with the *peace* that only God can give. ~Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director

A Reflection for Christmas

As we have journeyed through Advent one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries has offered a reflection. For Christmas, the reflection is by Susan Pierson, CLM.

I have always loved Christmas.

I celebrate the coming of Jesus and marvel each year as the story of His birth is recounted through Bible readings, story, and songs. I imagine his mother Mary, father Joseph and the tiny, newborn baby, surrounded by animals in the stable as the angels sang to the shepherds of his coming. If I had been there, watching my sheep by night, I would have rushed off with the other shepherds, to worship Jesus and kneel before Him.



One of my favorite Christmas songs is The Little Drummer Boy. The boy in the song had no extravagant gift to offer the baby Jesus, so he played a special song for him on his drum. The words of the song remind me that each of us is called to honor our Lord by offering the gifts of our time and talents and most of all, our Love to each other, not only during the Christmas season but throughout the year.

As I drive home from work during the dark evenings before Christmas, I find joy in the lights I pass along my way. I think of Jesus, who truly is the light of the world. I am grateful for any opportunity to reflect His love and His light, especially through joining with the Missionary Sisters and Lay Missionaries in whatever work I am called to do. Christmas is a time for giving and for sharing with those around us, including those who are the most vulnerable, the poor, the homeless, the sick, the elderly, the lost and lonely.

When I was very small, I learned these simple lines:
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him?
Give Him my heart.



The words still resonate with me as I prepare for Christmas and carry the love of Jesus in my heart. *With love, Susan Pierson*

Prayer Requests In Loving Memory

Robert Pape

We are sad to share the recent passing of Robert Pape, the husband of Delphine Sbarboro Pape, Cabrini (College) Class of 1961. Together with her late brother, Charles, Delphine created an endowed scholarship fund at Cabrini many years ago to honor Delphine's parents. Let us pray for the Pape and Sbarbaro Families at this sad time.

Tim Seaman

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing this morning of Tim Seaman, the beloved husband of JoAnn Seaman, the Director of Development at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO. Tim was the loving father of Molly and Hannah and devoted grandfather of two granddaughters.

Tim's soul is now with you, Lord. Please keep this Cabrinian family in your thoughts and prayers. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time.

Prayers and condolences can be sent to:

**Mrs. JoAnn Seaman
9650 W. 82nd Place
Arvada, Colorado 80005**



A little child, a shining star,
A stable rude, the door ajar.
Yet in that place, so crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all the world was born.

~ Anonymous

*May his light shine brightly during this
Christmas season.*

*May God's blessings be with you always.
Merry Christmas!*

Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, Provincial
Sr. Maria Elena Plata, Sr. Antonina Avitabile
Sr. Xochilt Calero