



July 13, 2023

Happy 173rd Birthday, Mother Cabrini! July 15, 1850 - 2023

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini 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 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 – a mission 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.



Born in Sant'Angelo, Lodigiano into a modest family of farmers on July 15, 1850, Frances Cabrini came to know suffering at a young age, due to the fragility of her health, the deaths of several siblings, the strict teaching methods of her older sister Rosa, as well as innumerable other painful setbacks and disappointments. In fact, ardently desiring to consecrate herself to God in a convent led to the disappointment of being rejected several times due to her ill health. Also, the local priests looked upon her as the person to entrust with responsibilities in the diocesan and parish institutions and did not want to lose her as a pastoral asset.

She worked as a teacher in Vidardo followed by a devastating six-year experience in the House of Providence.

Then, in 1880, the Bishop of Lodi, Msgr. Domenico Gelmini, seeing the impossibility of changing the situation at the House of Providence, released Frances from her obligation there and exhorted her to fulfill her missionary dreams, saying to her, *"I know you want to be a missionary. I do not know of 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 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 – *now Saint* - Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, Bishop of Piacenza. He invited her to devote herself to Italian immigrants who left for the Americas in search of fortune and who were living in desperate conditions, especially in North America.



Mother Cabrini, Foundress

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 to no periods of inactivity. The groundbreaking activity in favor of the Italian immigrants prompted her to establish schools and orphanages, educational centers and reception centers, hospitals and dispensaries.



Traveling from one part of the world to the other, always with a suitcase ready, made grow in the heart of Mother Cabrini and her Missionaries, the ability to find God in all countries, in all cultures and in all social situations, developing, at the same time. The ability to read events in a Christian way, anchoring all the differences within the project of God, to unify them in the sole desire: to make known God’s saving love, because in this love one finds the fullness of life.

~excerpts from Free Yourself and Put on Wings, Sr. Maria Barbagallo, MSC



Happy Birthday, Mother Cabrini, we celebrate you and give great thanks for your life, your love of God, and your untiring service to humanity.

Following Title 42's Demise, Sisters and Church Regroup to Better Help Migrants at the Border

~ by Rhina Guidos, Global Sisters Report

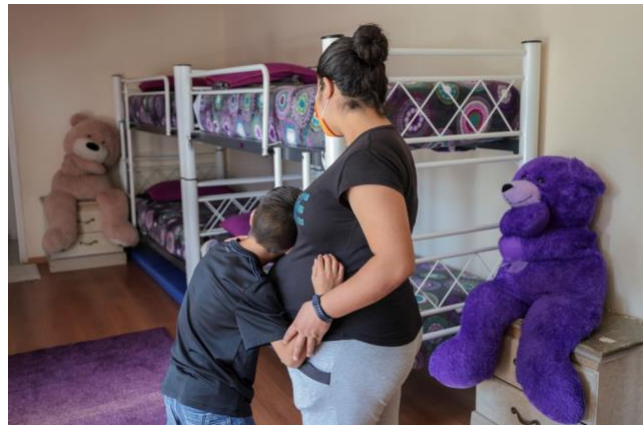
U.S. authorities have been content, of late [touting](#) the latest statistics showing lower numbers of migrants entering the country at the southern border. Instead of increasing, as some had predicted following the end of a Trump-era health rule, unlawful entries between ports of entry along the U.S. southern border [decreased 25%](#) from what they were a year ago, U.S. Border Patrol said on June 20.

After the projected migrant crisis on the U.S. side failed to materialize, members of the Catholic Church, including many sisters, are reviewing the numbers to better assess how to help migrants and to talk about what they have learned and how to go forward post-Title 42.

The numbers may have decreased on the U.S. side, but in the border town of Piedras Negras, Mexico, "the number of migrants who have arrived and who keep arriving have increased" after Title 42, Franciscan Sr. Isabel Turcios said in a June 22 Zoom webinar to mark World Refugee Day.

"We're in a difficult situation on the border," she said during the presentation. "We're facing a big task."

Before Title 42, sisters at the Piedras Negras shelter put together lists they shared with authorities on the U.S. side, singling out some families who might qualify for asylum, as well as adults or children with special needs in their shelters. Many of them were able to enter the U.S. But when Title 42 expired and authorities pushed the use of the CBP One app to apply for asylum, "reality changed," Turcios said.



A young woman from Michoacan who, due to violence, had to leave everything behind. She is sheltering in Tijuana, Mexico while waiting to an asylum application hearing in the United States.

"It's like the lottery," said Patrick Giuliani, policy analyst with El Paso's nonprofit [Hope Border Institute](#), who participated in the webinar. "There are people who secure a date [to book appointments to seek asylum in the U.S.] in a matter of days and others never get a date. You have people with sick children waiting for a chance (to enter the U.S)."

In El Paso, as in other parts of the country, Catholic sisters have continued to pray for migrants and for their legal woes as other barriers have been erected to keep them out, Turcios said. All the while, many sisters continue to oversee work of shelters so that travelers have food, clothing, water, and sometimes a word of comfort or legal advice. But it's getting tougher to help them keep their spirits up given the rapid changes and the difficulties faced by those stuck on the Mexico side, she added.



El Paso Bishop Mark Seitz speaks with one of the Servants of the Sacred Heart who assists migrants at a shelter in the diocese. Catholic sisters have been the backbone of the diocese's response, said Seitz.

The sisters' work at the border with migrants at the El Paso diocese has been invaluable, said Bishop Mark Seitz in Spanish during a May 15 prayer service at the city's Cathedral of St. Patrick.

"I've always said the work of women religious with immigrants has been the backbone of our response," Seitz, chairman of the [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration Committee](#), told Global Sisters Report. **"They have been so well-attuned to the needs, so loving to those who are suffering, and they are willing to give of themselves so generously that**

they have been irreplaceable in terms of our response. Our people here are generous and willing to help, but the sisters bring an ability to lead and organize. I'm grateful."

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

The Update – Publication Schedule

The Update will publish next week on July 20th.

This will be the final edition of the summer.

The Update will be on vacation during the month of August and will resume publication on Thursday, September 7th. During this time, due to technology settings with our email provider, each Thursday, you will receive an email with "Test" in the subject line. No response is necessary.

Prayer requests are always welcome and will be published on Thursdays as they are received. Kindly send all prayer requests to:

Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org

Time to Play Ball!



JOIN US!

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and

Cabrini Mission Foundation

invite you to the 2nd annual baseball event at
Staten Island's FerryHawks Stadium.

**SPECIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY TO BE SHOWN
AFTER THE GAME**

Date: Saturday, August 5th, 2023

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Staten Island University Hospital
Community Park,
75 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301
(Easy to get to by ferry, car, train or bus)

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON

Prayer Requests

Denise Santivasi

Prayers are requested for Denise (Dee) Santivasi, the sister-in-law of Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC, who is recuperating from surgery for a brain aneurysm. Dee and her family would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

In Loving Memory

Joseph Falcone, Sr.

With sadness, we note the passing of Joseph Falcone, Sr. on July 6. In 2003, Joseph, along with his late wife, Angie, who passed away in 2021, established an endowed scholarship at Cabrini University in memory of their daughter, Felicia, Class of 1991. Felicia died in 2000. The scholarship was established with the support of many Falcone family members and friends, in addition to alumni, faculty and staff of Cabrini. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Prayer to St. Cabrini

Almighty and Eternal Father, Giver of all Gifts, show us thy mercy, and grant, we beseech thee, through the merits of thy faithful servant,

St. Frances X. Cabrini, that all who invoke her intercession may obtain what they desire according to the good pleasure of thy holy will.

St. Cabrini, intercede for us that the favor we now ask may be granted.

Amen

