



## “We are Pilgrims on a Journey...”



Sr. Therese Merandi, MSC (r.) warmly welcomes the pilgrims from Cabrini Health Australia and the Cabrini Mission Foundation in New York City to Codogno.

Staff members from Cabrini Health in Australia led by Julie Fleming, Director of Mission and Identity, just completed a pilgrimage to Codogno, Italy to walk in the footsteps of Mother Cabrini. They were joined by Cabrini Mission Foundation (CMF) Board Member Dave DeCerbo and his wife, Linda, and CMF Executive Director Christopher LaBianco.

Sr. Therese Merandi, MSC and Sr. Maria Barbagallo, MSC accompanied the group during their stay in Codogno.

### In their own words:

#### Julie Fleming, Cabrini Health shares:

*“How many people are blessed enough to literally walk in the footsteps of a saint?”*

*“The whole pilgrim experience has been deeply moving; learning details of*

*Mother Cabrini’s life and her faith in the Sacred Heart of Jesus plus the passionate storytelling by*



While in the home of Mother Cabrini, Sr. Therese Merandi (foreground) shares stories about the life of the Cabrini family.

*Sr. Therese Merandi, MSC has been inspiring and has brought to life the Cabrini charism in a vibrant way.*

*Meeting the senior Missionary Sisters who have given so much of their life to service of others is so humbling. We feel a deeper and more familial connection with Saint Frances Cabrini and know that we will become better torchbearers of her charism in our ministries.*

**Jenny Nicholson, Cabrini Health, Australia:**

*I did not expect to be overcome by the profound impact this immersion experience would have on me. To walk on the very floorboards, St. Frances Cabrini walked on in her home; to be in the rooms where she listened to the stories told by her father; where she slept, ate and prayed. All these things I had only read of.*

*The passion of those who continue the work of St. Frances, living their life through her, in her spirit, living out the gift of our charism. The incredible stories of Sr. Maria Barbagallo, the passion, fervour and spirit of Sr. Therese and Allesandra Bergamaschi. To receive the blessings of the many Sisters of the Codogno Spirituality Centre every day...we are blessed in God's love to be here.*

**Miranda Coombs, Cabrini Health, Australia**

*I have been moved by the stories of the sisters and Mother Cabrini, delivered with so much illumination and conviction. But above all else, I have been moved by their openness to love. I have been moved with love, to be open to love and more giving of love. I have felt so much love for my family, for my friends and fellow pilgrims who are also on this journey.*



Spending time in conversation with the senior Missionary Sisters while in Codogno was a highlight for those on the pilgrimage. The opportunity to hear about the Sisters' lives of service to others was inspiring.



## Christopher LaBianco, Cabrini Mission Foundation

*"It has been a profound experience to walk in the footsteps of Mother Cabrini as part of a Codogno pilgrimage with my fellow Guadalupe Province lay leaders from Australia. I have had the opportunity to bear witness to Mother Cabrini's birthplace, schools she attended and taught at, places of worship, and missionary institutions she opened. Mother Cabrini's story has always inspired me — her resilience, perseverance, business acumen. Today, history has taught me so much more about her suffering, her love, her leadership, and her strategic approach and mission focus. I am grateful to have participated, and look forward to the opportunity to further the mission in my daily life."*



**Photo above:** Sr. Maria Eliane Azeveda da Silva, MSC, (r.) General Superior, pauses for a photo with Sr. Therese Merandi while visiting with the pilgrims.

**Photo below:** Sr. Therese Merandi (l.) and Sr. Maria Barbagallo (r.) shared many insightful details about Mother Cabrini and her spirituality.



**Photo above:** The pilgrims expressed joy and awe at being able to visit the Cabrini home and tread on the floorboards that Mother Cabrini herself walked upon.

## *A Journey of the Heart*



# As the Synod Approaches, Pope Francis Draws on Latin American Experience

~ by Aleja Hertzler McCain for National Catholic Reporter

As the first gathering of Pope Francis' highly anticipated Synod of Bishops is set to begin on Oct. 4, Latin American and U.S. Latino theologians are recognizing influences from the Pope's Latin American roots in the theology and methodology behind this first-of-its-kind two-part synod process.



With this synod gathering, Francis has introduced groundbreaking changes to the synod format, most notably adding laypeople, including women, as full voting members of the assembly [for the first time](#).

The working document for the synod, known formally as the *instrumentum laboris* and [released](#) June 20, also debuted a new change, featuring many open-ended questions for synod members to consider during the Oct. 4-29 assembly, instead of being simply a draft of the synod's final document, which had been the previous format.

Maria Clara Lucchetti Bingemer, a theology professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, was invited with other Brazilian theologians to advise the bishops outside of their sessions. She remembers that, although no one at the time suspected Bergoglio would become pope, his "capacity of leadership" as chair of the committee drafting the final document was evident.

Bingemer said Bergoglio kept a tight rein on the drafting process for the document, making sure the text contained "all the important things" exactly "as it was planned." The [final version](#), which took a see-judge-act model in looking at the current needs of the church and wider world, was widely praised.

Hosffman Ospino, associate professor of Hispanic ministry and religious education at Boston College, said that, in this synod, Francis is lifting up a model of "situated collegiality," a type of [collegiality](#) where the ministry of bishops is "grounded in the

geographically specific community of baptized people that they serve, the particular church, not just the fact that they are ordained." Collegiality is a term that had previously been used only to refer to the relationship between the pope and the various bishops of the world, as they govern the church.

Jesuit Fr. Allan Figueroa Deck, a distinguished scholar in pastoral theology and Latino studies at Loyola Marymount University, said that Francis' ideas about reform had been "percolating" in Latin America for over 50 years.

"There's a long period of formation or gestation, whatever you want to call it, of the vision of renewal based on the spirit of Vatican II that was developed in Latin America, and it was the only place in the world in the Catholic world where that vision was as fully developed. The high point now of this process in my view is the synodal pathway that Pope Francis is proposing," said Deck.

In addition to the Latin American influence on the synod, Deck also said that U.S. Latinos had developed "the synodal vision" in the U.S. Catholic Church "more than any other group" through five Encuentros, or national consultative processes of U.S. Hispanic Catholics.



"What a synodal approach to being church, what it means is inviting everybody to come in, listening to everybody, and having ways to process what you hear," Deck said, explaining that this synodal process has been at the heart of the Encuentros, which also emphasized the "evangelizing and mission character of the church" and "going out to those on the margins."

Francis' willingness to experiment in the current synod is indicative of the level of "spiritual freedom and trust in the Holy Spirit" in the relatively young church in Latin America, Ospino said.

His groundbreaking decision to allow women delegates to vote in this synod can be also understood in light of Francis' Latin American roots.

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



## October 2<sup>nd</sup> is Mother Cabrini Day in Colorado

Have you been to Mother Cabrini Shrine lately? Come and celebrate Cabrini Day with us! On Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have a special Cabrini Day Mass at 12 noon in our newly renovated chapel. This is a great opportunity to attend Mass, walk the steps, visit our gift shop, light a candle in the grotto chapel, and spend some time on the beautiful grounds that honor Mother Cabrini and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Mother Cabrini dedicated her life to helping the poor, the sick, immigrants, and those in most need. Her story is rich with determination and grit and an unshakable faith in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Cabrini Day is about her story, and we are eager for people to continue to learn of it and be inspired by her life and all that she accomplished.

In March of 2020, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed into law HB 1031 establishing Frances Xavier Cabrini Day as a Colorado State Holiday. It is the first paid holiday in the nation that recognizes a woman, and is observed on the first Monday in October.

### Chapel Dedication

With great joy and gratitude, we will celebrate the rededication of our chapel following the remodel and renovations that have taken place over the last ten months.



The chapel will be rededicated on Saturday, November 18 at 4:00 p.m. Fr. John Lager, OFM Cap. has been granted a special mandate to perform the rededication since neither Archbishop Aquila or Bishop Rodriguez are available.

We look forward to a wonderful week of celebrations starting with the Feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini on November 13, the Gala on November 17, and the chapel dedication on November 18<sup>th</sup>. ~ email notice from Mother Cabrini Shrine

# Bringing Snap! Crackle! and Pop! to Cabrini Immigrant Services

The Resident Council at St. Cabrini Nursing Home, wanted to reach out to the children from Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY. They held a Mission in Action fundraiser. They invited the residents, family, friends and staff to donate cereal during the month of August. They also added that they wanted ‘sweet cereal’ for our Cabrini Kids. Quickly the bins filled up in the lobby as different types of cereal were donated.



On Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, some of our Cabrini Kids and their Moms went to the nursing home to pick up their cereal. You can only

imagine the look on the faces of the children when they saw nearly 150 boxes of cereal! They were thrilled to be able to go and pick out whatever boxes they wanted. One of the children, who is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade said, “I’ve waited my whole life to taste Captain Crunch.” Another child said, “I’ve never seen so many boxes of cereal. I can’t believe I can pick whatever cereal I want.” One child said that she would give her brother the Honey Nut Cheerios, but she would take the Trix, Captain Crunch and the Fruit Loops.

I don’t know who was smiling more, the children, the parents, or the residents. The parents were so grateful to receive the gift of cereal. We all know how expensive cereal is, especially the ‘sweet ones.’

On behalf of the children and the families at CIS, I want to thank the Resident Council for all they do to help support CIS. The Cereal Drive was a huge success!

Truly, we saw the Cabrini Mission in action. God bless you for putting smiles on so many faces.

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



Mmmm, this youngster can’t wait to taste that yummy cereal, because, “Trix are for kids!” as the slogan goes. Look at all these BIG smiles!!



# Consecration to Jesus through Mary



On Saturday, September 9 a group of 24 adults completed the Consecration to Jesus through Mary at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in NYC. The participants, who

ranged in age from teens to grandparents, had met for nearly a year in preparation to make this commitment. It was a beautiful and moving Mass. The instruction was led in Spanish by missionaries from Bonds of Marian Love.

*~ submitted by Julia Attaway, Executive Director, St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine, NYC*

## Change of Phone Number

Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti, MSC novice has a new phone number:

**640-240-4220**

Kindly make a note in your directory.  
Thank you!



Save  
The Date



MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE  
GALA 2023

*Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm*

PINNACLE CLUB  
AT THE GRAND HYATT DENVER

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CHAPEL DEDICATION

*Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm*

AT MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE

MotherCabriniShrine.org

Gala

Registration is Open

**Friday, November 17, 2023**

Pinnacle Club at the Grand Hyatt  
5:30 p.m.

Visit our Gala Website for tickets and table sponsorship opportunities.

## Prayer Requests

### ***Anita Catalanotto***

Prayers are requested for Anita Catalanotto, Assistant Bursar in the Billing Office, Cabrini University. Anita will have knee replacement surgery on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Let us pray for a successful surgery and a smooth, easy recovery.

## With a Grateful Heart

Prayers of thanksgiving are offered for the good outcome of recent medical tests. Let us offer thanks for the precious gift of robust health.

## In Loving Memory

### ***Charles Kilonzo Mwololo***

Please join in praying for the repose of the soul of Charles Kilonzo Mwololo, the brother-in-law of Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti, MSC novice, who passed away unexpectedly on September 12<sup>th</sup>. He leaves behind his wife, Elizabeth, and their three sons, Samuel, Caniel and Joshua. Please pray for this family as they grieve the sudden loss of their husband and father.



