



September 28, 2023

Synod on Synodality Set to Open on October 4

~ by Gerard O'Connell for AMERICA Magazine

Bishop Luis de San Martín, OSA, the undersecretary of the synod's general secretariat, presenting the final list of names at a Vatican press briefing, said the synod will have 365 members, "like the number of days in a year"; that includes 364 members with the right to vote, plus Pope Francis, who is president of the synod. Among the full members are 54 women.



During the month-long ecclesial events (October 4 – 29) members will focus on five modules as outlined in the working document (*instrumentum laboris*), which was first published on June 20. The five modules are: "toward a synodal church," communion, mission, participation and a synthesis document.

Most of the work will be done in 35 small groups, with 10 or 11 members in each group plus a facilitator, divided according to language and using the methodology of "conversation in the Spirit," characterized by "shared prayer with a view to communal discernment." There will also be plenary session, at which the small groups will report back to the assembly.

There will be five official language groups at the synod, but a pre-synod survey revealed that English will be the most-spoken language, followed by Italian. Documents will be produced in English and Italian.

When asked if synod discussions will be "under the pontifical secret," meaning that participants are required to maintain confidentiality regarding their deliberations, Paolo Ruffini, the prefect of the Dicastery for Communications, said it is not exactly precise to speak of pontifical secret; it is more correct to speak of "confidentiality" or "reserve," as is appropriate for an ecclesial event, a spiritual event, that involves conversation in the Spirit. To read the entire account, please click [here](#)

End of Summer Updates from CIS-NYC

As we enter the Fall season, CIS-NYC is reminiscing about the many exciting activities we held throughout the summer! We hosted events to educate our community members about their rights, brought clients together to build community and solidarity, and continued to provide vital services to immigrants throughout NYC.



July at CIS-NYC



On July 21st CIS-NYC held a **family trip to a water park** in West Berlin, New Jersey. Fifteen families with a total of 53 people had the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful day at the pools. Our goal was to bring families together and to offer them the chance to enjoy themselves without the stress of everyday life.

The following week, we held a **volunteer appreciation barbeque** outside of our office to acknowledge the incredible work of our Food Pantry volunteers. Without them we wouldn't be able to provide healthy food to hundreds of families each week!



Volunteers make the world go round!

August at CIS-NYC

In August we were able to provide some of our families with **tickets to see the New York Giants** play! We also held a **celebration for our Justice for Immigrants** members where we played games, shared food, and said goodbye to our wonderful intern, Gabi, before she headed back to college.

Later in August we held our **Angel Fund Scholarship award ceremony**. We were very proud to award scholarships to 10 impressive students this year. Recipients and staff enjoyed getting to know each other and celebrating this great achievement! We look forward to supporting each of these students throughout their studies and seeing their growth this year.

On August 25th we were able to collaborate with our partners at Sant'Egidio to host a **legal workshop** for their French-speaking clients, most of whom recently arrived in the US.



A legal workshop for French speaking clients was held with Sant'Egidio.

September at CIS-NYC

In September, our Justice for Immigrants Program partnered with the Hamilton Grange Library to host a **resume building workshop** for our members.



Receiving an award from NYS Senator Robert Jackson (2nd r.) on behalf of Cabrini Immigrant Services-NYC are Javier Ramirez -Baron (l) and Sr. Antonina Avitabile, MSC (r.)

Finally, last week we were honored to host **New York State Senator Robert Jackson** and his team at our office. Senator Jackson presented CIS-NYC with an award of \$17,500 to support the vital work of our Immigration Legal Services Program.

Thank you to our donors, volunteers, and collaborators, without whom we would not have been able to hold these (and so many more!) wonderful events this summer. ~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, CIS-NYC



Cabrini of Westchester Celebrates CNA Apprentices

“Let us never consider ourselves finished, nurses.
We must be learning all of our lives.”
~ Florence Nightengale



Seen at the celebration are (l-r) Nohra Gaitan-Quinones – Labor Management Consultant, 1199 National Benefit Fund; Simone Smith - Vice President of Human Resources, Cabrini of Westchester; Apprentices: Arline Veus, Elizandare Brutus Belizare, Roodine Seide, Mavis Dankwaa; and Crysta Jones - Assistant Director, The Ossining Center-WCC.

On Friday, September 1st, Cabrini of Westchester celebrated a second group of Nursing Assistant Apprentices as they completed five weeks of training to become Certified Nursing

Assistants! In February 2023, we began partnering with the 1199 National Benefit Fund to bring a Nursing Assistant Apprentice Program to Cabrini. This allowed us to bring on eleven additional staff members that received training through a grant initiated by the 1199 National Benefit Fund who contracted with Westchester Community College. All of the eleven staff remain employed full time and all but one are now certified nursing assistants in New York State. The remaining Nursing Assistant Apprentice who has not yet passed the CNA exam will have up to three chances to pass.

The second group of ten began their training in June 2023, and seven now remain employed on a full-time basis. They will take the nursing assistant exam this month. This addition to our workforce has helped tremendously to ensure we have the staff necessary to care for our resident population. The success of this collaboration with 1199 and Westchester Community College has allowed us to achieve staffing goals and we are currently offering training to a third group of Nursing Assistant Apprentices. This third group began on September 11th as we welcomed sixteen new staff members to Cabrini of Westchester. A fourth group is anticipated to start in late October. There are also plans to include clients of Cabrini Immigrant Services in the fourth class!

Many thanks to 1199 SEIU, 1199 National Benefit Fund and SUNY Westchester Community College for being wonderful partners and for making this Cabrini CNA Apprenticeship Program possible. ~ submitted by Susan Herceg, Director of Development and P.R.



Proudly holding their certificates are from left: Arline Veus, Elizandare Brutus Belizare, Roodine Seide, and Mavis Dankwaa.

Warm Congratulations and Best Wishes!

A reminder ...

October 2nd is Mother Cabrini Day in Colorado

Come and celebrate Cabrini Day with us! On Monday, October 2nd, 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.



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.

Alumni Weekend at Cabrini University

The rainy weather didn't dampen the spirits of the hundreds of Cabrini College/University alumni who returned to campus this past weekend. The weekend had an energetic kick-off at the Philadelphia Phillies game with alumni tailgating at the



ballpark. Back on campus on Saturday, sports games, food trucks, tours of the Mansion were on tap followed by a dinner and dance party on Saturday evening in the historic Woodcrest Mansion.

On Sunday, the reunion continued with a special Mass in the Bruckmann Chapel of St. Joseph. Fr. Richard Jasper, '96 was the celebrant. He delivered an uplifting and inspirational homily saying that although our hearts are deeply saddened by the closing of our beloved alma mater, each of us as alumni have been touched by Mother Cabrini's 'education of the heart' and that we are called to go out into the world to bring the good news of God's love and compassion to all those we encounter. He exhorted us to be BOLD, as Mother Cabrini was.

The weekend festivities continued with a special showing of the film CABRINI which is scheduled to make its debut in March 2024. Mr. Eustace Wolfington, the force behind the production of the movie, delivered remarks on the genesis of the film to the alumni and their



Photo above: Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC '66 (l.) catches up with Cabrini Boggiani Lepis '61. Cabrini was the first person to receive a Cabrini College diploma at the inaugural four-year commencement in 1961.



Photo left: Alumnae friends from many classes gathered in the Mansion for dinner and dancing.

families, faculty and friends. Following the movie, campus

guests were invited to visit the Cabriniana Room in the Holy Spirit Library to view the many artifacts and ephemera of St. Cabrini. *Story continues on next page.*



Thanks to the tireless work of the University staff and services, the weekend was a most welcome time of friendship, shared memories, laughter, tears, and gratitude for all that has been. To access a copy of Fr. Rich's homily, please click [here](#)

Cabrini of Westchester C.A.R.E.s for Residents

Cabrini of Westchester is proud to share that “The C.A.R.E. Channel” (Continuous Ambient Relaxation Environment) is now available to all residents for their viewing and listening pleasure! The C.A.R.E. Channel is television programming that combines peaceful scenes of nature with beautiful music. By tuning in to channel 54 on their in-room televisions, the residents can be swept away by the soothing landscapes, panoramas, and vistas as well as the original, instrumental music that has cross-generational and cross-cultural appeal.



Cabrini of Westchester resident Justin Vaccaro really enjoys watching the C.A.R.E. Channel.

The C.A.R.E. Channel has been shown to be a highly effective therapeutic tool that significantly contributes to improved satisfaction and patient outcomes, and helps create a healing environment for patients, families, and staff.

“I love to watch the C.A.R.E Channel,” says resident, Justin Vaccaro. “It is so relaxing and peaceful. The beautiful scenery and music makes me feel great and I’m so happy that Cabrini offers this for all residents.” *Story continues on next page.*

Fr. Ron Galt, Vice President of Pastoral Care and Mission shares, “We hope the C.A.R.E. Channel will be a blessing for our residents in offering them an opportunity to experience moments of peace and relaxation as they reflect on the visual beauty of God’s creation to the background of delightful music.”

~ submitted by Susan Herveg, Director of Development and Public Relations, Cabrini of Westchester



The CLM Corner

As an occasional feature, the CLM Corner brings news of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries in the Guadalupe Province.

Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs) are women and men who desire to live out their Christian Baptismal commitment as a special call from God, in order to grow spiritually, to witness Gospel values, and to be agents of transformation in the world. CLMs hear and respond to their call by committing themselves to embrace and give witness to the love of the Heart of Jesus, according to the living legacy and spirit of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.



Photo above: CLMs will often attend seminars and other formative programs both in person and via Zoom. Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC (l.) recently did a workshop for the CLMs.



Photo left: Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC (2nd r. top) also provided a time of formation for the CLMs.

We are blessed to have 17 CLMs in the Guadalupe Province. Our CLMs live in California, Colorado, Guatemala, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Nicaragua, Pennsylvania and Washington State. We all strive to bring the love of the Sacred Heart to all those we meet. ~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director

For information on the CLMs, please contact Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director:

cabrinilaymissionariesgp@gmail.com

An Interesting Historical Footnote...

Countess Spottiswood Mackin, Mother Cabrini and the MSCs in Paris

~ by Dr. Maria Patricia Williams

125 years ago, on 29th September 1898, Mother Cabrini established the first MSC house in France. It was a short walk from the Arc de Triomphe at 20, Rue Dumont d'Urville, Paris. It was not possible to establish a school in France due to anti-clerical legislation, so Mother Cabrini opened a residence for ladies to gain a foothold and raise funds for an Italian orphanage. The first resident was an American, the Countess Sarah Maria Aloisa Spottiswood Mackin (1850 – 1923).

She was a wealthy widow. Her father had been Mayor of St. Louis, MO, and her late husband, James Mackin, State Treasurer of New York. From a Protestant family, she had been educated by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth at a Nazareth Academy, Kentucky. She became a Catholic in Rome in 1895. Pope Leo XIII gave her the title of Countess for her charity work for the Church.

The Countess was introduced to Mother Cabrini by Monsignor Montagnioni, the secretary at the Papal Nunciature in Paris. He brought her to collect two letters that Mother Cabrini had brought for her from Rome, a blessing from Pope Leo XIII and one from Cardinal Parocchi, Secretary of the Holy Office, asking the Countess to assist the Sisters. She had an

extensive network of contacts. Mother Cabrini wrote in her 1898 *Travel Letter* that she 'used all her efforts to bring us into contact with persons who could help us'.

She found other boarders, persuaded a rich Italian to donate 50 Lire, and organized a fund-raising concert. In 1921, in her memories of Mother Cabrini, found in the The Cabriniana Collection, the Countess wrote:

'Madame Cabrini interested all of Paris Society' and as a result 'under the presidency of HRH the Infanta Eulalie of Spain and my presidency it was easy to organize concerts and fetes that were very successful.'



The Countess Spottiswood Mackin

Mother Cabrini was impressed by her organization of the first concert:

‘She, the Countess Spottiswood, arranged the affair so well by reason of her excellent and energetic personality and her beautiful disposition, that one would imagine she is capable of putting a whole country into movement when it is a question of assisting those whom the Holy Father favors.’

By 1899, there was enough funding to open the orphanage for daughters of Italian families, requested by Cardinal Richard de Vergne, Archbishop of Paris. It opened at 149, Rue Perronet in Neuilly-sur-Marne, approximately 13 Kilometres (8 miles) from the center of Paris.



For reservations and event details

Please contact:

Ellen Cunningham

212-228-8608

ecunningham@cabrinifdn.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.](#)



MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE
GALA 2023

Friday, November 17th at 5:30 pm

PINNACLE CLUB
AT THE GRAND HYATT DENVER

CHAPEL DEDICATION

Saturday, November 18th at 4:00 pm

AT MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE

MotherCabriniShrine.org

Prayer Requests

Sr. Regina Palamara, MSC

Please keep Sr. Regina Palamara, MSC in your prayers. Sr. Regina was recently in the hospital but is now at home recovering. Sr. Regina has wonderful caregivers and is on the mend. We are certain that she would appreciate our prayerful accompaniment.

We also have a change of address for Sr. Regina Palamara, MSC:

**730 N. Whitnall
High #111
Burbank, CA 91505**

Kindly make a note of the change.

An Autumn Prayer

God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn.

We thank you...

for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy,

for the coloring of trees that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist,

for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches,

for the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls,

for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children,

for the fall harvest that brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land,

for this change of seasons that reveals the circle of life.

God of all seasons, as you transform the earth, transform us by your Spirit.

Amen. — *Rev. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.*

