

Peace on Earth



O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of people throughout the world this peace which they seek so desperately and which you alone can give.

Help them to know one another. Help them to live as sisters and brothers, children of the same Father.

Reveal to them your beauty, holiness, and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love.

And, Gracious Lord, this Christmas, please give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

~ adapted from a prayer by Pope John XXIII

CLMs Honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

On Saturday, December 9th, the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs) of the Guadalupe Province, held an Advent prayer service. It was a time to come together in faith and pray that our hearts will be ready to receive the Christ-child. The theme of our prayer was faith. We focused on Mary, our Blessed Mother and Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Missionary Sisters and Cabrini Lay Missionaries joined in an Advent prayer service via Zoom that honored Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC, gave a beautiful reflection on the way Mary said “yes” to God. She spoke about how that required great faith on her part. Sister went on to share how her own faith has empowered her to say “yes” to God. As part of her reflection, Sr. Lucille invited each of us to share the ways that faith has helped us to say "yes" to God.

Digna Merchan, CLM, shared her devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. She also shared a very meaningful video with us.

We wanted to include prayers of peace for our world. Srs. Genet, Abaynesh and Abebech sang, ‘Peace for the World Song’ in Amharic, their native language. We ended with everyone singing, ‘Let There Be Peace on Earth’ in their native languages.



A special thank you to Susan Pierson who prepared the prayer service in both English and Spanish. ~ submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, CLM

A Very Busy December at CIS-NYC

On Friday, December 1st, we had a busy day at CIS-NYC. In the morning, we collaborated with volunteers at Kearney, (a global management consulting firm) to host a career development workshop for some of our Angel Fund Scholarship recipients and other young clients. The group learned about career planning, how to build a resume, and how to prepare for an interview. They were able to engage with and learn from an inspiring group of professionals from Kearney. Our students left motivated to pursue their dream careers!

On Friday, we also hosted a legal clinic in collaboration with Saint Michael's Church in Brooklyn. At the clinic we were able to assist 17 individuals with applying for Temporary Protected Status, a program which allows migrants whose



CIS-NYC collaborating with St. Michael's Church for individuals applying for Temporary Protected Status.

home countries are unsafe the right to live and work in the United States for a temporary, but extendable, period of time. In recent months, our legal team has been working hard to ensure all of our clients who are eligible for this status are able to apply.



Photo above and right: Justice for Immigrants member is interviewed by PBS as they all march to City Hall.



On December 5th, members of Justice for Immigrants at CIS-NYC marched in solidarity to City Hall alongside various organizations advocating for New York's Right to Shelter law. Our members shared their experiences and perspectives with a PBS reporter. It was a powerful display of unity and advocacy, and a collective voice demanding justice and shelter for all in our community. If you would like to join us in defending New York's Right to Shelter policy, you can sign this petition: <https://p2a.co/axh2luo>

CIS-NYC account continues on next page.



At the Justice for Immigrants leadership development training, participants utilized crafting to share their personal narratives.

On Saturday, December 9th we held the first session of our leadership development training, where Justice for Immigrants members did a deep dive into community organizing and storytelling. Participants delved into the art of crafting and sharing personal narratives, equipping themselves with powerful tools for advocacy. Together,

we learned how to foster a community-driven approach to amplify voices and create meaningful change. The following week, participants put their learning into action as they mobilized for a

moving action to advocate for the Unemployment Bridge Program. This legislation would create an unemployment benefit program for excluded workers, such as undocumented immigrants.



Photo above: After the Justice for Immigrants leadership training, participants put their new skills to good use as they advocated for the Unemployment Bridge Program.

Photo below: The Social Services Program group lunch.

Lastly, on December 10th we had the opportunity to celebrate our wonderful Food Pantry volunteers with a festive volunteer appreciation lunch! Our Food Pantry would not be able to serve hundreds of families each week without the support of our volunteers.



~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, CIS-NYC

Ho! Ho! Ho! – Here Comes Santa!



It's hard to tell who is more excited about the arrival of Santa...the young or the young at heart. Everyone is smiling. Everyone loves jolly Santa!

St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY, certainly has the 'Spirit of the Season.' Every floor and every unit are decorated for Christmas. There is a lot of excitement amongst the residents and the staff.

Kristen McCauley, the Director of Therapeutic

Recreation, knew that there was one more thing that would bring great joy to the residents this season. Kristen invited the toddlers from Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS) and their parents to go to the nursing home to meet Santa Claus.

On December 11th, the Rose Room was filled with residents eagerly awaiting the children's arrival. The children were anxiously awaiting Santa's arrival! Needless to say, the room was filled with great excitement.

The children entertained the residents with different Christmas songs. Right in the middle of Feliz Navidad, a special visitor appeared at the door! The children were so shocked to see Santa Claus!

Santa, a/k/a Al Lovell, nurse manager for 3 South, was magnificent. He read the story, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas to the children. He had special gifts for all the children who assured him that they were good all year.

While having hot chocolate and cupcakes, the children visited with the residents and had some photo-ops with Santa. The residents left having smiles as big as the children. They all agreed that there is nothing like children to make the season bright.

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



The CIS Santa, aka, Al Lovell, brings everyone Christmas cheer.

Welcoming the Advent Season with Blessings



On Wednesday, December 6th, the residents and staff of Cabrini of Westchester braved the cold weather at a brief prayer service for the blessing of the outdoor nativity scene. While the prayer service took



Cabrini of Westchester residents and students extend their hands in a blessing for the Advent season.

place in the lobby, several individuals donned their hats and coats to witness Fr. Ron Galt, Vice President of Pastoral Care and Mission, sprinkle the beautiful crèche with holy water officially beginning the Advent Season.



Fr. Ron Galt blesses the manger scene on the front lawn of Cabrini of Westchester. The manger will serve as an outward sign of our faith to all who pass by Cabrini of Westchester.

Before processing with the Baby Jesus outside to the manger, Fr. Ron asked all present to extend their hands in prayer as he prayed the blessing. He then shared, “The display of the nativity scene is a very public sign that we are a Cabrini family rooted in faith. Anyone that drives by our grounds will see this as a sign of who we are. We gather in a spirit of blessing, hope and anticipation of the season of Christmas with light and the promise of good faith.

~ submitted by Susan Hecceg, Cabrini of Westchester

Advent Retreats at the New York Shrine

Saturday, Dec 2 was a busy day of retreats at St Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York City. In the morning we had a Spanish-language Advent retreat followed by Mass and confessions. In the afternoon Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC, led a group of 14 through a powerful reflection on hope. "This was outstanding!" participant Greg Gartner exclaimed.

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

The Advent wreath on display at the St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine in New York City.



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine

A poster for a musical event. The top half features a glowing, starburst-like celestial image with a bright yellow center and radiating orange and red light. Below the image, the title "Celestial Song & Ambient Soundscapes" is written in a large, elegant, gold-colored serif font. Underneath the title, in a smaller, white sans-serif font, is the subtitle "Reflections on Mother Cabrini, Mary, and The Nativity". To the left, the text "Featuring" is followed by "ELECTRIC DIAMOND" and "and RUTH CUNNINGHAM" in a bold, white sans-serif font. To the right, there is a QR code with the text "SCAN HERE" above it and "FOR TICKETS" below it. At the bottom, the date and time "Friday, Dec 15 AT 7PM" are written in a large, white serif font, and the location "St Frances Cabrini Shrine | 701 Fort Washington Ave, NYC" is written in a smaller, white sans-serif font below it. The entire poster is framed by a thin gold border.

Once again, this year, during the season of Advent we are pleased to share that each week, one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries is offering a reflection. The Third Sunday of Advent's reflection is by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023



Third Sunday *of* Advent

I can't believe we are already at the 3rd Sunday of Advent. It seems like the time to prepare is going by so quickly.

The Psalm response at Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent is from Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54. It is the beautiful prayer of the Magnificat. Our response between each verse is: 'My soul rejoices in my God.' There is one line that I would like to focus on, 'The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is God's name.'

This Advent, I have tried to count my blessings instead of my sorrows. Why? Because the Almighty, our Lord and God, has truly done so many great things in my life. God is good, God loves me, God takes care of me. My life is not perfect but through my faith, I know that God is with me. God promises each of us that our Lord will always be with us.

It is through that faith, that trust that I can say, "My soul does rejoice in God, my Savior."

~ Lorraine Campanelli, CLM



The Fourth Sunday of Advent's reflection is by Melanie Paccillo, CLM.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023



Fourth Sunday of Advent

We've all heard the old Yiddish proverb, "We plan, God laughs," though I prefer the Woody Allen variation, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him about your plans."

I'm sure Mary had some plans, none of which involved becoming a major player in the salvation of the world. It's safe to assume she had a complete idea for how her life would go, starting with her soon to be marriage to Joseph. Instead - bam! - angel Gabriel right in her living room. Thankfully, for all of us, Mary said yes to God's unexpected invitation to His will. We have Emmanuel - God with us - because of Mary's willingness to hear and respond to the word of God.

Our own lives are filled with curveballs from Heaven - and invitations to say yes like Mary did. So this season, let's not get frustrated if our plans fall apart. Let's see every unexpected thing as an opportunity and recognize God's will is whatever He puts in front of us today.

Happy Christmas, Cabrini Family, and may 2024 be filled with countless blessings.

~ Melanie Paccillo, CLM

THE UPDATE Publication Notice

**This is the final edition of The Update for 2023.
The Update will resume on Thursday, January 4th, 2024.**

**We wish our Update readers tidings of great joy
and good news in the new year!**

Merry Christmas!

Prayer Requests

A Prayer for Peace

This year, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, sadly, our world is besieged by war, violence, and hatred. As an antidote to this suffering, we fervently pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. In this season of love we pray your blessings upon all people. May the innocence of the Christ Child soften our hearts so that we may see the Divine in one another.

Andrea Budniak

Your prayers are asked for Andrea Budniak, a cousin of Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC, who is experiencing health issues. She would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

Cabrini University community member

A member of the Cabrini University community has requested prayers for a special intention for her family.

Billy Dowd

Prayers are requested for Billy Dowd, a good friend of Ellen Cunningham in the Cabrini Mission Foundation office. Billy is a recent recipient of a new kidney to which his body is having difficulty acclimating. Prayers from the Cabrini Community would be greatly appreciated.

Nicole Giacche

Please pray for Nicole Giacche, a Cabrini University alumna who is very ill, and is in need of our prayers. Let us keep Nicole in our hearts.



In Loving Memory

Keith Scammahorn

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Keith Scammahorn, a good friend of Elizabeth McNerlin Collins, Cabrini (College) University Class of 1971. Keith passed away on December 11th after a long illness. Please hold Keith's wife, Lynne, and their family in your prayers at this sad time.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe gives witness to the miracle that the ordinary can be extraordinary. During the season of Advent, Our Lady of Guadalupe points to our limitless God, one that does not fit within our human limitations. We are invited to hold on to the message of hope shared by Our Lady of Guadalupe. This Advent, try living the virtues of Advent: hope, peace, joy and love. Like Juan Diego, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe propels us to proclaim the greatness of God and the salvation of Jesus.



May our spirit rejoice in God our savior now and forever.

¡Y Que Viva Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe!

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of our MSC Province.

May she watch over us and guide us.



“On this day of joy, we are all called to contemplate the Child Jesus, who gives hope once again to every person on the face of the earth. By his grace, let us with our voices and our actions give witness to solidarity and peace.

Merry Christmas to all!”

~Pope Francis

Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC and the Provincial Council

wish everyone in the Cabrinian Community

all the graces and blessings of this happy season.

Merry Christmas!