



January 18, 2024

## How Pope Francis Has Changed the Mission for Catholic Colleges and Universities

~ by Massimo Faggioli, PhD - *An opinion piece, appearing in the National Catholic Reporter*

*The following are excerpts from an address given last week by Massimo Faggioli, PhD, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University, during a conference at the University of San Diego. The text appeared in the National Catholic Report where it was reprinted with permission.*

The Catholic Church created and still runs a worldwide network of colleges and universities. In good measure, Catholicism has been identified, from the Middle Ages to today, also with the value of education and of higher education – and in modern times even more for the role the church has played and plays in the history of migration and the need to help members of a religious, social, and ethnic minority become accepted and integrated in their new countries.



Pope Francis delivers an address at the Catholic University of Portugal in Lisbon in 2023.

From this point of view, the relationship between the Pope and Catholic colleges and universities gives us important indications on the trajectories of Catholicism, as long as we keep in mind that there is *one pope* in *one Vatican* and, on the other side, a great diversity between different kinds of Catholic colleges and universities – different in size and endowments, bylaws and statutes, theological orientations, positions within

different kinds of relationship between church and state and between Catholic university system and public or state university system.

Francis invites Catholic colleges and universities to be part of a cultural and social process of transformation, “as a sign of a greater responsibility in relation to today’s problems, the needs of the poorest, and care for the environment” and “to generate space for real research, debates that generate alternatives for today’s problems,” as he said to the Catholic University of Portugal in 2017.

Within the overarching theme of an outward-looking university at the service of a fractured world, there are more specific issues that Pope Francis has addressed.

**One of them is the role of Catholic colleges and universities in refugee and migrant education, as he mentioned in [a September 2022 address](#).**

Francis sees the mission of Catholic colleges and universities as part of the mission of the Church, in a particular way. As he said [in his Feb. 25, 2023, speech](#) to the Pontifical Universities in Rome.

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Francis has made clear that the papacy – at least his papacy, except in some isolated cases – has moved away from a confrontational approach with Catholic university leadership and has given more freedom, which is also a consequence of the rise of lay leadership.

What is not clear today is how Catholic colleges and universities still see themselves with an ecclesial role, cooperating in building the Catholic tradition.

Higher education plays a role in Francis’ message to transform the world, but, universities are not the immediate and natural interlocutors of the pope. In this sense, Francis’ papacy has captured with great depth the value of the crossroads in front of which we find ourselves.

Certainly, a deeper reception of Francis’ message is needed in our institutions, at all levels – faculty, administrators, alumni, and donors. This reception would help correct some misperceptions on the ecclesial and cultural challenges facing Catholic higher education in the world of today. But this would also transform in profound and unexpected ways the future of Catholic colleges and universities.

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

# CABRINI of WESTCHESTER

## Among the Very Best!



Cabrini of Westchester is proud to be recognized by Newsweek as part of its *America's Best Nursing Homes 2024* list. The award is presented by Newsweek in partnership with Statista Inc., a statistics portal and industry-ranking provider.

The list comprises the nation's leading skilled nursing facilities in those 25 states that have the highest number of facilities according to the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The ratings aim to provide families with a clearer

view of the quality of care provided by nursing homes. A total of 750 top facilities in 25 states were ranked, including 58 of the over 610 nursing homes in New York State.

This comprehensive evaluation is based on five data sources: performance data, a national online survey that included thousands of peer recommendations, management of COVID-19, resident satisfaction, and accreditations.

“For fifty years, Cabrini of Westchester has provided high-quality, compassionate eldercare to countless individuals,” said Patricia Krasnauskay, President and CEO. “Our inclusion on the 2024 Best Nursing Home’s list is a testament to the hard work

and dedication that Cabrini’s team provides to the residents each and every day and we are honored to be recognized.

~ submitted by Susan Herceg,  
Dir. of Development and PR,  
Cabrini of Westchester



Warm congratulations and appreciation  
for everyone  
at Cabrini of Westchester!



The CLMs Guadalupe Province/  
La Provincia de Guadalupe MLCs  
Invite you to join us in a prayer service for  
Te invitamos a unirte a nosotros en un servicio de  
oración por

Ecuador and Nicaragua  
Friday, January 19th / Viernes, 19 de Enero  
7:00 PM (EST)  
6:00 PM (Guatemala)

Zoom link:

<https://cabrini-edu.zoom.us/j/5997708742>



## Prayer Requests

### *Prayers for a friend*

Prayers are requested for a friend whose brother is going into hospice care. His sister is flying cross-country to be with him during his last days. Pray for comfort and serenity for this gentleman and for travel mercies as his sister flies to be with him.

### *Special Intention*

A member of the Cabrini community has requested our prayers and invokes the guidance of the Holy Spirit with regard to future plans. Please keep this person in your prayers.

## In Loving Memory

### *Nicole Giacche*

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Nicole Giacche, who passed away on Thursday, January 11th. Nicole received her Master's Degree from Cabrini University. Nicole is a good friend of Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC. She fought a very brave fight during a long illness and is now resting in the arms of our Lord. Please keep Nicole's mom, Mrs. Irma, and her brothers in your prayers.

