



January 4, 2024

Pope Francis Begins 2024 Highlighting the Role of Women in the Church

~ Gerard O'Connell for AMERICA



Pope Francis accepts gifts on January 1 from children representing the Magi.

Pope Francis opened the new year by highlighting in his homily the feast of Mary, Mother of God, the central role women have played in salvation history and that they still have for bringing peace to the world of the 21st century.

Addressing a congregation of seven thousand Catholics from all continents gathered in St. Peter's Basilica, Francis spoke about the role God gave to women in the history of the world, and the important role women have to play today in both the church and society.

He began by reminding them, "God becomes man, and he does so through a women, Mary. She is the means chosen by God. She stands at the very heart of the mystery of time. It pleased God to turn history around through her, the woman."

Pope Francis said, "The church needs Mary in order to recover her own feminine face" which, he said, means making "space for women and [being] 'generative' through a pastoral ministry marked by concern and care, patience and maternal courage." His words echoed the increasingly pressing call that has come from Catholics around the world through the synods on the family, the Amazon, and the ongoing Synod on Synodality, asking church leadership to [open up greater spaces and roles of responsibility](#) for women in the church of the 21st century.

He continued, "Every society needs to accept the gift that is women in order to find peace, to emerge from the spiral of violence and hatred, and once more, see things with genuinely human eyes and hearts," he said. To read the entire account please click [here](#)

A New Year! A New U.S. Citizen!

Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), in Dobbs Ferry, NY is so proud to announce that we have a new citizen! Marlene deCamacho, from Colombia, passed her Naturalization exam on December 11th.

Marlene worked with her CIS tutor, Philip Papa. She studied very hard and it all paid off. She improved her English, her reading and writing skills and studied the 100 US Civics questions.



Marlene deCamacho from Colombia will be sworn in later this month as a U.S. Citizen. Philip Papa served as her CIS tutor. Congratulations, Marlene!

Congratulations Marlene! We are so proud that you were able to achieve your goal of becoming a U.S. Citizen. We look forward to hearing about your swearing-in ceremony in January. ~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY

Prayer Requests

Prayers for Nicaragua

In your prayers, please remember the people of Nicaragua and the unrest unfolding there.

Special Intention

A member of the Cabrinian Community has asked our prayers for a very special intention. Please accompany this person with your prayers.

