



February 1, 2024

Sr. Evarlyne Ndunge Ndeti to make First Profession of Vows

On Friday, February 2nd, on the World Day for Consecrated Life, Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti will make her first profession of vows at the Sacred Heart Convent in New York City.

Sr. Evarlyne shares her reflection on the eve of this blessed day:

“She becomes even more familiar with His life, His mission to all, and his very person. This period marks her formal introduction to religious life.”

~ MSC Constitutions pg. 77



Sr. Evarlyne with Serapia Ramos Lobo whom she met during her mission in Guatemala.

In these two years of my novitiate, I have become well-versed in the life of a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC). Spending time with the holy scriptures, church documents, our Constitutions and statutes, the writings of Mother Cabrini, and different spiritual books which I have found meaningful has broadened my knowledge of Jesus's life, mission, and his very person.

Engaging in both internal and external classes/workshops has exposed me to a better understanding of the MSCs' charism, and spirituality of our Foundress; the evangelical vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience; community living; and the mission of loving God and His people. Journeying with other novices

through the inter-congregational formation workshops has made it possible to learn from them. I have gained wisdom and created friends that I can talk with, pray for, and pray with as I continue embracing this beautiful life. I am forever grateful to Sister Genet Henok, MSC and the Formation Team for creating these meaningful opportunities.

The useful resources within the novitiate have brought the broader perspective of God and what it means to be His servant. This newly acquired knowledge has brought the fuller contemplation of how the Holy Spirit works in us all the time uniquely through our charism of *bearing the Love of Christ in the World*. Mother Cabrini's letters to her daughters have been useful. I have enjoyed reading them and I must admit that despite them being more than 100 years old, I still found some of them relevant today.

Living in the novitiate community has taught me to appreciate, respect, and love my community members. This lived experience has brought me a fuller awareness of the importance of having a good relationship with God and others. This has taken place within and outside of the novitiate. Following my prayer life fervently, both personal and communal prayers, have changed my way of self-surrendering to God and letting His will be done. I have benefited from the personal space which the novitiate offered to let God speak to me and let me grow in all dimensions.

This has contributed to letting go of the unnecessary things and letting God in my life. All the quiet evenings, monthly recollection, and annual retreats have meant a lot to me, and I am looking forward to continuing to enjoy these special moments.

Interacting with the young adults at the Church of Epiphany through the Alpha program has allowed me to share and become friends with all the participants. Sharing my own faith journey and listening to other people's stories has supported my spiritual growth. Praying for and with others both at the Epiphany and at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine has helped me to understand how important it is to be in union with others through prayer.

Cabrini's writings, especially *To the Ends of the Earth*, have broadened my knowledge about the diverse ways of being a true missionary. I am eternally grateful for the mission experiences I had in both Dobbs Ferry, NY and in Cabrini Guatemala. These two wonderful missions brought the understanding of the mission with an open mind and heart of learning, loving, and enjoying what I am called to do. Through my mission experiences, I found these attributes and that of being willing to learn from others. These three elements helped me in my two missions and in my novitiate journey as well. May God bless you, Sr. Evarlyne.



Evarlyne with Alta Costura members in Guatemala.



Who is St. Josephine Bakhita?

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869 and was kidnapped by slave traders and enslaved as a child. She was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles and was sold multiple times to different owners before being sold to an Italian diplomat that took her to Italy; here, she valiantly asserted her freedom with the help of the Cannossian Sisters of Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit.

Following her rescue, she was baptized, received other sacraments, and became a religious sister in 1896. She lived out the rest of her life as a Cannossian sister, sharing her empowering testimony of faith and inner strength.

Her enslavement during her childhood was put to good use by sharing her testimony with others and advocating for human freedom and dignity. In October of 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita, noting that in this saint, “we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation.”

On February 8th

*With encouragement from Pope Francis, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General designated **February 8th as an annual day of prayer and reflection against human trafficking.***

What **YOU** can do to raise awareness about human trafficking:

We are asking everyone in the Cabrini community to wear something **BLUE** (a scarf, shirt, hat, etc.) on February 8th.

Why **BLUE**?

BLUE is the international color of human trafficking awareness.

Be ready for someone to ask you why you are wearing **BLUE** and share information on the issues of human trafficking.

PLEASE join us in prayer on **Thursday, February 8** in honor of all current and past victims of human trafficking. We offer the prayer below that was written by our very own Sr. Veronica Piccone, MSC.



Prayer to End Human Trafficking

O Lord, you said you came: “to set the captives free.”

In our world, young men and women who are trafficked are modern day slaves.

Help these young people not to lose hope.

Give the grace for elected officials to grow in awareness of and to take active steps to eradicate this horror.

Teach them not to prosecute the victims of trafficking but to bring to justice those who perpetrate this crime.

Lord, give the grace of conversion to those who mistreat unfortunates for their own personal gain.

May demand decrease as people realize that prostitution is a crime against human dignity, forced upon these people, who are more victim than anything else.

May the awareness of this horrendous crime spread throughout the world and may many join the efforts to stop trafficking and help the victims begin anew, filled with hope.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PLACE [The National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) phone number in your cell phone. It is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls, texts, emails, and now, live chats from anywhere in the United States, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in more than 200 languages. The Trafficking Hotline’s mission is to connect human trafficking victims and survivors to critical support and services to get help and stay safe. The Trafficking Hotline offers round-the-clock access to a safe space to report tips, seek services, and ask for help.



Call 1-888-373-7888 | Text 233733 (Befree) | [Live Chat](#)

Education of the Heart: Cabrini Mission Foundation Launches Education Grant

Embracing Mother Cabrini's 'Education of the Heart' principle, the Cabrini Mission Foundation has launched its 2024 education grant for students across New York. The primary objectives of the grant are to support faith-based Catholic education in New York, provide financial assistance to students, and promote academic achievement and community engagement.



Through this initiative, the Cabrini Mission Foundation aims to empower students with the values and skills necessary to become compassionate leaders who positively impact their communities and the world at large.

Application details and can be found on the Cabrini Mission Foundation website. Students will need to complete the application form as well as write an essay, all submissions are reviewed internally. The schools of students selected to receive a grant will receive a check in the student's name that will be applied to their tuition bill for their current academic school year. ~ submitted by Caitlin Della Rocca, Cabrini Mission Foundation

For application information please visit:

<https://cabrinifoundation.org/what-we-do/empowering-new-york-school-children/>



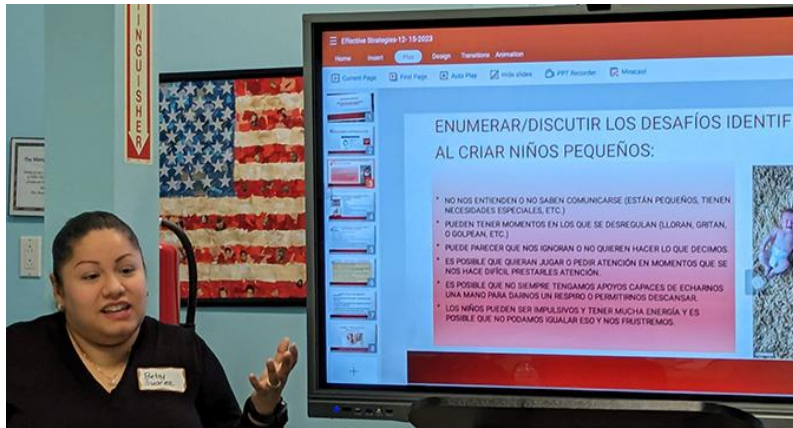
CABRINI

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has shared that students in 7th – 12th grades in the Archdiocesan schools will be attending the CABRINI movie at private screenings during the first two weeks of March.

Prior to seeing the movie, students will be researching the life of Mother Cabrini and her ministries and will engage in discussions about her life. Following the movie showing, they will take part in meaningful projects that embody her charism and mission. What a pro-active way in which to carry forth the Mother Cabrini's legacy!

To watch a trailer of the movie, please click [here](#)

CIS Hosts Parenting Workshop



Betsy Suarez, LMHC, speaks with CIS moms about parenting strategies with toddlers.

Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY, offered a workshop for parents of toddlers. Betsy Suarez, LMHC, presented: *“Effective Strategies: How to Get Your Children to Listen to You More Consistently.”*

Our clients from CIS as well as some of the asylum seekers from neighboring towns joined us for the

workshop. They discussed achievable goals when raising young children and different ways of achieving the goals. As a group, they discussed what worked with their child and what needed improvement. Betsy assured them to be patient with themselves. She reminded them that no one is an expert.

While the parents were attending the workshop, our social work intern kept the toddlers entertained with puzzles, coloring and different toys. It was very evident that toddlers have an enormous amount of energy! ~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS



Moms listen attentively to Betsy Suarez as she offers them tips for parenting toddlers.

Leadership Training for Advocacy



This month, twelve Justice for Immigrants (JFI) took part in national advocacy, visiting Washington, D.C. to support asylum laws.

In recent months, Cabriní Immigrant Services-NYC (CIS-NYC's) Justice for Immigrants Program (JFI) has been actively engaged in advocacy and community-building initiatives.

Six JFI members successfully completed a four-part leadership training program, where they worked to develop skills, such as sharing personal narratives for media engagement. Following the first workshop, our members went to a rally where three members were interviewed by local press and PBS on the topic of right-to-shelter laws.



Six JFI members recently completed a four-part leadership training program developing a variety of skills to better share the narratives for justice for immigrants.

The second workshop focused on government structures and legislative

influence, ending with a trip to Albany for the New York Immigration Coalition's member congress, where JFI members spoke with state senators and assembly members on issues like language access and housing vouchers. One of our members spoke at the press conference, giving her testimony on the importance of passing the Working Families Tax Credit.

This month JFI also took part in national advocacy, visiting Washington DC to support asylum laws with twelve of our members. *Account continues on following page.*

JFI members have shown their commitment to community involvement through their participation in membership meetings and workshops, including a writing workshop with Uptown Stories where members shared immigration stories with their children. Looking forward, JFI has plans for two visits to Albany this month to advocate for campaigns that are important to our membership. We are excited to share more of our experiences and photos! ~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, CIS-NYC

Catholic Migrant Shelter in Mexico offers Respite, Solidarity

~ by Julieta Valdez, National Catholic Reporter

The [Archdiocese of Monterrey](#), Mexico, founded [Casanicolás](#) in 2004. "Just as the Mexican government demands a just treatment of our emigrants in the United States, it should respect the rights of those who come from Central America," Msgr. Luis Eduardo Villarreal, then director of social ministry for the archdiocese, said at the time.



Migrant children play at an outdoor playground at Casanicolás in Guadalupe, Mexico. (Photo credit: Julieta Valdez)

[Casanicolás](#) provides shelter, medical and legal support to thousands of Central and South American migrants every year.

Casanicolás is an apostolate of the parish of Saint Frances Xavier. Casanicolás, named after St. Nicholas of Tolentine, includes 130 beds across three buildings, one for women and two for men.

Monsignor Luis Eduardo Villarreal, ordained 42 years ago, has been the parish priest of the [Church of San Francisco Xavier](#), a few blocks from Casanicolás.

“Our migrants arrive in Casanicolás worn out and traumatized by the mistreatment they receive in national territory. Here in Mexico is where the migrants suffer the

most on their journey. Extortion, kidnapping, robbery, beatings, threats...it's hell," Villarreal said.

The priest is also a professor at Universidad Libre de Derecho, a law school, where he teaches socioeconomic problems of Mexico and oversees an immigration law clinic.

"The migrant is a good person who contributes work, culture, and life projects to places where he or she arrives; the rest are myths and not realities," he said.

"Casanicolas' vision is to humanize human mobility," said [Philippe Stoesslé](#), professor-researcher of law and social sciences at the University of Monterrey.

Msgr. Luis Eduardo Villarreal listens during Epiphany Mass at Casanicolás on Jan. 7 as Carlos describes traveling through the Darien jungle between Colombia and Panama and traveling on the Mexican freight train known as "the beast" or "train of death." Carlos, his wife and their two toddlers came from Venezuela. *(Photo credit: Julieta Valdez)*



"I admire Monsignor Luis Eduardo. Having achieved so much, he is an extremely humble person. He is very close to his parishioners and the migrants at the shelter," he said.

"Villarreal has taught me a deep understanding of Christian mercy, which includes welcoming migrants, but also one that includes protection, security, warm human treatment, guidance and spiritual accompaniment, knowing the people by name and not just as numbers.

"He has a vision of mercy, empathy, infinite compassion and human rights. He is sensitive to the protection and promotion of human rights, which goes hand in hand with his Christian profile of guaranteeing dignity to all human beings," Stoesslé said.

From 2019 to 2023, Casanicolás has sheltered 4,000 to 7,700 migrants per year. Since 2021, the number of adults accompanied by minors has increased.

Villarreal told NCR that Casanicolás' fundamental purpose is theological.

"We want to give a response to the Gospel, because we believe in the project of the Gospel," he said. "A project of brotherhood and solidarity between one and other. And this shelter is a sign that it is possible that the last shall be the first."

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



WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 2, 2024

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day for women and men in consecrated life. This global celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

There are several ways to celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life. Invite sisters, brothers, and priests to publicly renew their vows at Mass; send cards of support to newer entrants; ask to visit a motherhouse to meet and pray with sisters, brothers, and priests; invite a vocation director to visit your classroom, Board meeting, or faith group to learn more about consecrated life. Send flowers, make a donation to a religious community, or invite someone to discern their vocation to consecrated life!

To learn more please visit NRVC, click [here](#)

Celebrate with Abundant Hope!



On this day, please pray for all women and men who have made their commitments to the consecrated life.

Prayer Requests

Mary Frances Brogan

Please pray for the recovery of Mary Frances Brogan, who fell at her home and has been hospitalized. She is the sister of Sr. Frances Brogan, MSC. May she recover quickly.

Sr. Veronica Piccone, MSC

Please keep Sr. Veronica in your prayers. She sustained a nasty fall and is now hospitalized. At this time, Sr. Veronica is not taking any phone calls as she is recuperating.

M.L. Sicoli, PhD

Dr. Candi Sicoli, Professor Emerita at Cabrini University, has requested the prayers of the Missionary Sisters for the ongoing health issues that she has been experiencing. Please pray for her strength and stamina. She would be most grateful.

Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC

Sr. Lucille continues in her rehabilitation program at St. Cabrini Nursing Home. We wish Sr. Lucille well and pray that each day is bringing her greater strength and healing.

With Grateful Hearts

Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti, MSC



With great thanks and joy, we celebrate the profession of first vows of Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti, on Friday, February 2nd at the Sacred Heart Convent in New York City. Sr. Evarlyne, who hails from Kenya, is a 2021 graduate of Cabrini University majoring in social work. Please keep Evarlyne in your prayers on this special day. May God and Mother Cabrini guide her paths always.



With Grateful Hearts

Sr. Luciana Galdina de Sousa, MSC

On Sunday, the 21st of January, at the Parish of St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Paul the Apostle in Brazil, Sr. Luciana Galdina de Sousa, MSC made her perpetual profession, making the total commitment of her life to God and the Church in the congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred



Heart of Jesus. They were beautiful moments, full of joy. The worldwide Cabrinian community gives thanks for her life in the service to God's people.

To learn more: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?id=100069263166596&story_fbid=666783002307133

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

On the World Day for Consecrated Life, we pray for our Missionary Sisters that they may continue to be inspired by the Sacred Heart of Jesus and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation. May they seek to live their baptismal promises more intensely and have the grace to persevere in their commitment to the Lord as they serve with open hearts and willing spirits. We give heartfelt thanks for their dedicated service to God's people.

