



April 25, 2024

## This is Earth Week...

# Saving the Earth Requires New Perspectives

~ by Heidi Schlumpf for EarthBeat, National Catholic Reporter

Elizabeth Johnson has spent her entire life – or at least her decades-long theological career – trying to get people to think differently about God. Her award-winning 1992 book *She Who Is* is credited for bringing attention to the need for feminine images of the Divine. Johnson is a Sister of St. Joseph and one of the most prominent theologians in the United States.

Now Johnson is again broadening her view of God, in the hopes that it will help Christians see their connection to nature and the need to save it. She has written a new book, *Come, Have Breakfast: Meditations on God and the Earth* which explores God as a lover of the Earth who is in relationship with creation.

Her new book's title refers to Jesus' words to the disciples during a post-Resurrection appearance near [the end of John's Gospel](#). It reminded Johnson that Jesus enjoyed material things and was often taking care of people's material needs, like feeding them.

A God intimately involved in the material world has implications for how we treat it, Johnson said.



Taking care of creation is not just “one more issue” that can be seen as extrinsic to our own being, she said. Instead, it involves our understanding of God, of ourselves as made in the image and likeness of God, and of creation, which reflects the goodness of God.

Instead of a pyramid with humans near the top, Johnson sees a circle of kinship among the reality of creation. “We’re fundamentally interrelated with each other. So, when we care for the earth, we’re not ‘up here’ caring for creation ‘down there.’ We care for one another as members of the same community.”

She quotes Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* which affirms that “eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place.” To read the full article, please click [here](#)

# A Prayer for the Cabrini University Community from Our Neighbor, Eastern University

*Editor's note: In last week's edition of The Update, we carried the story of the "Chapel of Appreciation" held by Eastern University, the academic neighbor of Cabrini University. During that prayer service, this prayer was offered by Eastern's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kenton L. Sparks, MBA, PhD. It was so heartfelt we wanted to share the prayer with our Update subscribers.*

Father, we are reminded this morning of the words from Ecclesiastes, that there is "a time to mourn" and "a time to dance." But we feel just now that, somehow, we must find a way to mourn even as we dance, for there are reasons to do both today.

We celebrate decades of Cabrini's service to the church and world. Generations of students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, and board members have been deeply touched by Cabrini College and University. How could we not celebrate? But we also lament. We lament because recent events have so unfolded that the mission of Cabrini is now transitioning to a missional legacy.

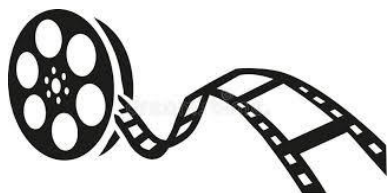
So, we are conflicted today. Be with us, Lord, in these moments together. Ensure us of your love, compassion, and concern for all of us.

We pray especially for students and employees whose studies and jobs have been disrupted. Grant them peace and care for them and make clear to us how we can best support them through this difficult part of their journey. We are troubled in our souls by their troubles.

We also have reasons to thank you, Lord.

- For the years of service and the ongoing legacy of Cabrini University
- For the Sisters who envisioned her, and gave her life from the beginnings through these long decades of institutional service
- For the thousands of people blessed – students, alumni, staff, faculty and friends, by the mission of Cabrini
- For the special institutional friendship that Eastern and Cabrini have shared over the years, especially during this last year as we have co-labored to make good on our shared mission in faith-based higher education
- We are thankful for the many faculty and employees at Cabrini who have secured new positions, quite a few of them here at Eastern University

Finally, we pray for the current Cabrini students. Many and diverse, each has had their own experience this year. As their journeys unfold now before us, we pray for them—and for all of us—that you would fulfill that good promise from Scripture, that "God works all things together for good, for those who love him and are called to his purpose." And may the result be that we together "Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with our God." In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.



## “Reel and Real”



Julia Attaway, (standing), St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine Executive Director, welcomed friends and neighbors to learn about the storyline details of the CABRINI movie.

On Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, a capacity crowd filled the retreat room at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in Upper Manhattan to hear Executive Director, Julia Attaway, give a talk on what was real in the Cabrini movie and what was "reel."

For many, it was their first time at the Shrine. The local Lutheran church sent a group, two women took the subway in from Brooklyn, and several curious neighbors came as well. It was a lively evening, and real fun.

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

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### One Minute Meditation

#### Being Born Anew

To grow spiritually we need the willingness to relinquish control and open ourselves to the mysterious unknown. We need patient attention; a willingness to slow down, listen, and look; a willingness to let go of our expectations, to accept the possibility that our efforts may not bear any fruit – or at least not in the way we have been hoping that they will. The idea that what we most deeply desire must ultimately reveal itself to us is not easy to accept. It suggests a relinquishment of control that most of us, if we are being honest, find difficult to practice. There is too much risk and vulnerability. In the Gospel tradition, it is described as becoming again like a child, or being born anew; learning to see with fresh eyes.

*~ Douglas E. Christie, Oneing*



*...From the CLM Corner*

## The CABRINI Film

### ~ A Catalyst for CLMs

The Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs) of the Guadalupe Province, met via Zoom to discuss the movie, *Cabrini*. Since the movie has opened, we have received many inquiries about the CLMs.

At our April CLM meeting, we invited the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart along with the men and women who have shown an interest in becoming CLMs, to talk about the movie. We had a very lively discussion! Everyone agreed that it was a very powerful movie. The movie piqued an interest to learn more about Mother Cabrini. Many found themselves asking, “What more can I do?”



Many of our CLMs and those who are interested in becoming CLMs were finding ways to collaborate with each other to help others in need. What a wonderful way to spread the love of Jesus. *Cabrini*, the movie, has certainly touched many hearts.

*~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CLM*

## Prayer Requests

### ***Prayers for a successful job interview***

Your prayers are requested for someone who is interviewing for a new position. Please pray for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that all will go well.

### ***Dawnell Sands***

As she is about to celebrate her birthday, please keep Dawnell Sands, the former campus minister at Cabrini High School, in your prayers. Dawnell is encountering some health challenges at this time and would be most grateful for the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community.