



MISSIONARY SISTERS
of the SACRED HEART of JESUS
Bringing Christ's love to the world

THE UPDATE

May 23, 2024

Cabrini University Honors its Legacy

They arrived on campus by the hundreds – Missionary Sisters, alumni, administrators, faculty and staff - present and former - along with their friends and family members to honor, to reminisce, to laugh, to shed tears, all in tribute to the 67-year legacy of their beloved Cabrini College/University.



Legacy Celebration

On Sunday, May 19th on the historic Radnor campus of Cabrini University, with its “cathedral of trees,” members of the campus community gathered to walk familiar paths, visit hallowed halls, and immerse themselves in shared memories of their “education of the heart”.

Referring to the Institute of the Missionary Sisters, Mother Cabrini once said, “there is room here for everyone: for every talent and inclination...” Cabrini

College/University has embodied Mother Cabrini’s words. This ‘holy ground’ has always been about the people who studied, taught, and spent their professional lives here. Students and alumni have often referred to the campus as a ‘second home’.

In a Legacy ceremony crafted to commemorate and uplift all that has been, Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, Provincial of the Guadalupe Province, offered the opening blessing by asking everyone, “**to remember, to celebrate and to believe.**”

Sr. Diane continued, “**we remember** the humble beginnings of Cabrini [College] and the many dreams. We remember Sr. Elizabeth Airo, MSC, who purchased this land and Mother Ursula, the Founding President of Cabrini College. **We celebrate** the dedication and commitment to excellence in the ‘education of the heart’ of every student who attended Cabrini. We celebrate the mission and charism of the MSCs that have been the



Sr. Christine Marie Baltas '66, former Dean of Students, proudly carried her class flag in the academic procession.

grounding foundation and inspiration for all that was done. We celebrate the graduates and the faculty and staff that walked with them.



Provincial Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC offers a blessing to open the Legacy ceremony.

“We believe that the countless seeds of God’s love and care that were sown in the hearts of everyone who forms part of this Cabrini University community have and will continue to bear fruit in the world to make the world a better place.

“We believe in the enduring legacy of Cabrini University because it is all about relationships and who we are and have become – and this does not end. No, it is alive within each one of us.”

During the program, Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC, Class of 1966 and President Emerita of Cabrini College,

offered her reflections on the College/University. She spoke of the dream of founding a college, that along with the Missionary Sisters, it was a shared dream of staff, coaches, trustees, benefactors, and faculty.



Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC, '66, President Emerita of Cabrini University, shares a reflection.

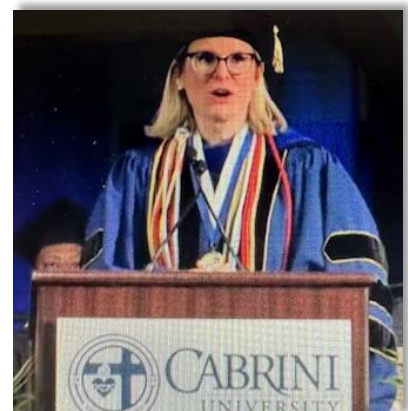
Sr. Eileen talked about commencements saying that they are about beginnings; a time to “live what you have learned. Live what you have been given. Live what you are becoming.”

She spoke about our times together, times, “when something touches us, we remember, recall, relive, reconnect.”

Sr. Eileen recalled of Frances Cabrini, that “she knew

from her own life experiences the dreadful paradox of having a human heart. That is why she had such a passion for educating hearts.”

Sr. Eileen continued, “Our Cabrini degree is about living out that educated heart. Wherever we are, doing whatever we are doing.”



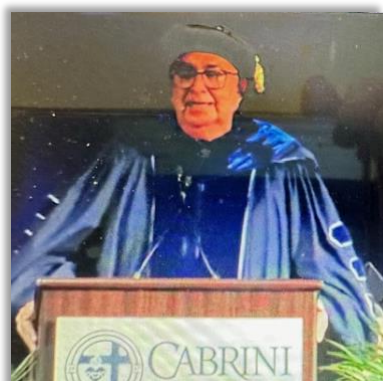
Dr. Michelle Filling-Brown, Academic Dean, led the ceremonial passing of Cabrini symbols.

Following Sr. Eileen’s reflection, she invited Dr. Michelle Filling-Brown, the Academic Dean, to begin the ceremonial passing of the Cabrini legacy to Fr. Peter Donahue, OSA, PhD, the President of Villanova University. Cabrini symbols such as the academic mace, matriculation books, the Charter of Core values, and a first-class relic of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini were formally presented to Fr. Peter.

Cabrini University Interim President Helen Drinan noted that in addition to the symbols physically presented that we also “entrust our beautiful campus to you, Fr. Peter. Everyone who visits comments on the beauty of our campus from the ‘cathedral of trees’ to the historic Woodcrest Mansion.”



Interim President Helen Drinan



Fr. Peter Donahue, OSA, PhD,
President of Villanova
University.

Ms. Drinan welcomed Fr. Peter to the podium for his remarks. He assured everyone that “the Cabrini spirit will live on at Villanova University, experienced through the lives of your alumni.”

Fr. Peter noted that both universities were “founded in service of immigrants” and that interestingly, in the chapel on Cabrini’s campus there is a stained-glass window of St. Augustine and on Villanova’s campus there is a stained-glass window of Mother Cabrini.

Fr. Peter said, “I promise to take this responsibility [of the Cabrini mission and charism] seriously.”

The celebration concluded with the singing of the Cabrini Alma Mater led by Kerrie Eileen Habicht ’24, the grandniece of Sr. Eileen Currie.



Legacy Celebration

Following the ceremony, those in attendance gathered at a festive reception and took time for photos and nostalgic visits to campus buildings on the beloved 112 rolling acres, with Cabrini forever in their hearts. ~ submitted by Nancy Gorevin Costello, '71

To view a recording of the live stream of the Legacy ceremony along with the accompanying videos please visit: cabrini.edu/legacy

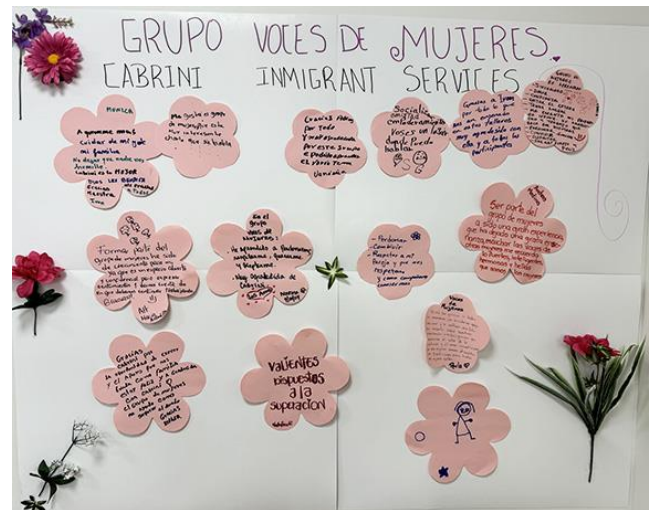
CIS-NYC: Well-Received Support Group Concludes



Participants of "Voces de Mujeres" "Voices of Women/Women's Voices" support group celebrate their time together discussing a wide variety of issues. The next cycle will begin in June.

The first cycle of Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC's 2024 support group "Voces de Mujeres" ended last week. We held 13 sessions where participants talked about forgiveness, self-care, grief, domestic violence, and healthy romantic relationships, among other topics.

Seventy-eight women attended at least 1 group, and 38 women attended at least 3 groups. Women shared that the group helped them in their healing process and to love and care for themselves. A client stated that "it helped me to trust myself and to recognize my strengths and to strengthen my weaknesses. I have learned a lot from the stories of my peers from the group." Another stated that she learned to "love [her]self, take care of [her]self, to give [her]self, time."



Reflections of Voces de Mujeres participants are displayed on a poster.

Thank you to our great group leaders Gloria Ivonne Moreno-Rodriguez, LCSW and Yaniris Ortiz. The next cycle will start in June. ~ submitted by Ella Nimmo, CIS-NYC

Cabrini Immigrant Services – NYC



To register: <https://cis-nyc.org/celebrate-25>

Please note: The deadline for sponsorships is May 31st!

Wall to Wall JOY!!!



Photo above: Every seat in the St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine was taken for the Via Luces procession and Mass.

Photo below: Priests from four parishes concelebrated the Mass.



On the evening of Friday, May 17, the four churches in northern Manhattan each held a Via Luces procession which met up at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine. The chapel was packed with wall-to-wall joy, with candles waving and thunderous singing at the Spanish-language Mass.

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



From the Guadalupe Province Vocations Team...

The Spring 2024 edition of the HORIZON Journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference focuses on Latino cultural patterns. In this week's Update and in ensuing week's segments, we bring you an article that spotlights the Latino culture as it pertains to vocational call.

'Must Knows' of Latino Culture

~ by Father Juan J. Molina and Deacon John Chitakure

Food

Although food usually brings people together, it can also divide them. If discerners live in the same house although most will be willing to eat American food, it's important to have the chance to prepare their own cultural dishes occasionally.

Vocation and formation ministers should ask the candidates about their preferred



foods instead of generalizing or assuming. For instance, not all Hispanics are Mexicans, so, they do not all enjoy tortillas, menudo, and tamales – nor do they all enjoy spicy food, for that matter. Also, not all Mexicans share the same cultural dishes and recipes. Even though Antonio and Jennifer - whom we met in previous week's segments – are both of Mexican descent, they may not like the same things. When a cultural dish is prepared, it is important for the vocation minister and others in the household to eat the meal if at all possible.

While the vocation minister should encourage Mexican, Dominican, or Brazilian dishes, the cultural context of the community also should be given serious consideration. Discerners should be reminded that, even though all cultures are equal though different, and that every food is the best to people who enjoy it, religious life has its own culture, one that should be learned and observed. It also helps to have guidelines governing the preparation of foods with an overpowering aroma. In fact, the best approach to food is to openly discuss it and together form guidelines about when and how to prepare it.



Spirituality and Festivals

Most Latinos are involved in popular religiosity. Devotions to the Virgin Mary are very popular, and the minister should not be surprised to hear candidates sharing that they were called to be a missionary to

the United States by Our Lady. The Mexican *Dia de los Muertos*, *Las Posadas* and *Dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe* may be important to our friends Antonio and Jennifer. Carnival and *Semana Santa* might be important to another. If a discernor is from Bolivia, the Virgin of Candelaria and the festival of Urkupuna in Quillacollo could be important. Holding and lifting hands during the Lord's prayer is another aspect of Latino popular religiosity.

It is good for vocation ministers to learn about and incorporate these devotions and celebrations into the life of an intercultural discernment community. Again, different Hispanics have different devotions. It is always helpful for a vocation minister to ask discernors about their devotions and holidays while at the same time teaching them the spiritual exercises important to the community. The vocation ministers should both learn from and guide the discernors in this regard.



Next week: Eye Contact and the Concept of Time

Enjoying the Update?

Don't want to miss a thing about
the Missionary Sisters and their
varied ministries?

If your email address is changing or
if you know someone who would enjoy learning more
about Mother Cabrini and the MSCs,
please send change of emails and
new subscribers and their emails to:

cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org

Prayer Requests

Cabrini High School and Cabrini University graduates

We congratulate and pray for all Cabrini graduates who, prepared by their “education of the heart,” that they live lives in service to others and thus, make a positive impact on others and the world.

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Please pray for renewed and deepened devotion to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament for all those participating in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as it passed through Manhattan this weekend.

Prayers for Direction

Members of the Cabrinian community have requested the prayers of the Missionary Sisters as they seek guidance on decisions impacting their future.

In Loving Memory

Sr. Lina Colombini, MSC

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are sad to announce the passing of our former Superior General, Sr. Lina Colombini, MSC, who went home to God on Tuesday, May 21st. May our dear Sr. Lina rest in the loving arms of Jesus knowing that our prayers accompany her.



Edith Robb Dixon

Edith Robb Dixon passed away on May 18 at the age of 91, following a brief and sudden illness. She was blessed to have lived a remarkable life with family and friends. Along with her husband, Fitz Eugene Dixon Jr. (d. 2006), she was active in the communities in which she lived - attending sports events and charity functions, working on Boards and volunteering. Among her many philanthropic engagements, Mrs. Dixon once served as the Board Chair of Cabrini College. She and her husband were major donors to the College/University, where the athletic facility – the Dixon Center - and the athletic field – Edith Robb Dixon Field, and the Widener Center were gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Dixon. The University has lost a long-standing benefactor and friend.

Memorial Day remembrance

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace.

~ Xavier University

Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC



With heavy hearts, the Missionary Sisters announce the passing of Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC on May 16th. Sr. Lucille embraced God's call, returning home after a life dedicated to service and caring for others.

Her commitment to service stands as an example for all. Having celebrated 61 years of religious life last August, Sr. Lucille's profound dedication included three decades as an educator, a decade as Director of the Cabrini Mission Corps, and five years as Provincial of the Stella Maris Province.

From 1998 to 2003, Sr. Lucille served as the Cabrini Mission Foundation's inaugural CEO and remained a faithful member of its Board of Trustees thereafter. When she wasn't working, she generously volunteered her time at Holmberg prison, teaching reading to inmates, as well as at the Bedford Correctional Facility. She also taught immigrants and refugees.

Sr. Lucille, we are profoundly grateful for your life's work. Your spirit will forever reside in our hearts, mission, and endeavors.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Friday, June 7, 2024

As we approach the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we invite you join us in praying the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

To access the Novena, please click [here](#)



