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THE UPDATE

January 9, 2025

The Jubilee Year 2025

*Half a million pilgrims have already crossed
the threshold of St Peter's Holy Door*

~ by Francesca Merlo

Vatican News - Over half a million pilgrims have already passed through St Peter's Basilica's Holy Door since the Jubilee Year 2025 began just two weeks ago. According to a press statement released on Tuesday, a total of 545,532 faithful from across the globe have made the pilgrimage to Rome.

The opening of the Jubilee year took place on the 24th of December 2024 and since then pilgrims have been arriving in groups and processing up Via della Conciliazione - led by the symbolic Jubilee Cross - to reach St Peter's Basilica.



A great start to the Jubilee

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelisation and organiser of the Jubilee, described the number of pilgrims that have already crossed the threshold as “a very significant start.”

“We are working tirelessly to ensure that pilgrims receive a warm welcome and an experience that meets their expectations,” he added.

With the opening of the last of the Holy Doors, at St Paul Outside the Walls on the 5th of January, pilgrims can now complete their pilgrimage by passing through the Holy Doors of all four major papal basilicas in Rome: St. Peter's Basilica, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Given the high demand, pilgrims are encouraged to book their visit in advance via the official Jubilee website, jubilaecum2025.va. To learn more, please click [here](#)

Cardinal McElroy to Lead D.C. Archdiocese, Vatican Announces

~ by Gerard O'Connell for AMERICA



Pope Francis has appointed San Diego's Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, 70, as the new archbishop of Washington. The Vatican announced the appointment at noon on Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany.

Recognized internationally as one of the intellectual heavyweights in the U.S. hierarchy and a specialist in the social teaching of the church, Cardinal McElroy is a bishop who has wholeheartedly embraced the synodal vision and pastoral approach of Pope Francis.

Additional coverage ~ by Brian Fraga for National Catholic Reporter

That McElroy's appointment was announced during a heightened moment of political transition for the United States — the same day that Trump's election to president was certified by the U.S. Congress — was seen by some observers as a signal that the Vatican is paying close attention to current events in the nation's capital.

"I think the Vatican wants this kind of church leader to be the archbishop of Washington right now when Trump is about to take office, threatening to deliver on his promises on the deportation of immigrants. That's very important," said Massimo Faggioli, a theologian and church historian at Villanova University.

In his prepared remarks, Cardinal McElroy touched on the recent immigration debates.

"The Catholic Church teaches that a country has a right to control its borders and our nation's desire to do that is a legitimate effort," he said. "At the same time we are called to have a sense of the dignity of every human person."

McElroy added that an indiscriminate [mass deportation program](#) of undocumented immigrants — which Trump has repeatedly promised — would be "incompatible with Catholic doctrine," though he said that "we'll have to wait and see" exactly what the Trump administration does on that front in the coming weeks and months.

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

Cabrini Health to Launch First Neurodivergence Assessment Center Designed for Women

Cabrini Health will continue to pioneer female-focused mental health programs in 2025, by introducing the first ADHD and Autism assessment center specifically for women.



As the first women-only mental health facility in Australia, Cabrini's Women's Health Centre offers gender-sensitive, acute care for conditions such as PTSD, burn-out, mood disorders and addiction. Approximately 50% of our patients have either been diagnosed with or are seeking assessment for ADHD or Autism.

“The demand for ADHD and Autism assessments has remained high since COVID as more symptoms became apparent due to a sustained period of less socialization, structure and routine,” says Sharon Sherwood, Chief of Mental Health. In response, Cabrini recently launched a popular 10-week community day program focused on supporting women with understanding their neurotype and using a strengths-based approach to build strategies to use in daily life. Now, thanks to a grant from Cabrini Foundation and the generosity of its donors, Cabrini Women's Mental Health is set to achieve another Australian-first and become the only female-focused ADHD and Autism assessment center.

“There is a strong correlation between mental health conditions, early life trauma and neurodivergence in women. However alarmingly, women struggle to receive an integrated diagnosis and appropriate treatment. They often don't know how or where to find the right treatment and we aim to help change that,” said founding Medical Director of Cabrini Women's Mental Health, Professor Jayashri Kulkarni AM. “Too much of Australia's mental health system is still generic and gender-blind. Women's mental health is very different. Women need holistic, tailored models of care,” said Prof Kulkarni.

Cabrini Health continues to lead the way in creating female-focused mental health programs and this next step in becoming an ADHD and Autism assessment center in early 2025, means it can now support neurodivergent patients through their entire journey from diagnosis to ongoing treatment, via its tailored inpatient and outpatient programs. ~ submitted by Margaret Stewart, Group Director, Identity and Mission, Cabrini Health, AUS

In the New Year, Celebrating a New US Citizen!



Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), in Dobbs Ferry, NY is so proud to announce that we have a new citizen! Singh Surinder, who is from India, passed his Naturalization Exam on December 23, 2024.

Singh worked with his CIS tutor, Philip Papa. He studied very hard to improve his English, his reading and writing skills and to learn the 100 US Civic questions.

Warm congratulations to new US citizen Singh Surinder (r.) who worked diligently with his CIS tutor Philip Papa.

Congratulations Singh! 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.

~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY



From the Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission:

We wish to bring to your attention a documentary entitled **“Separated”** that is now streaming on Netflix. **Separated** deals with the separation of immigrant children from their parents.

Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Errol Morris incisively probes the darkest chapter in recent American history: family separations. Merging narrative vignettes of one migrant family's plight with hard-hitting interviews with government officials, Morris paints a jaw-dropping picture of the state-sponsored crisis of cruelty, as over 1300 children remain separated today, according to the Department of Homeland Security. ~ Review from Rotten Tomatoes

To watch a trailer for the film, click [here](#)

Prayer Requests

Barbara

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC requests prayers for Barbara who is suffering from some, as yet, undiagnosed health conditions.

Nancy Golen

Your prayers are requested for Nancy Golen who underwent surgery on Monday of this week. Pray that her recovery will be swift and uneventful. Nancy would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

Hollie Havens

Kindly unite in prayer as Hollie Havens, Cabrini College Class of 1998, undergoes surgery today. Please pray that her procedure will go smoothly. Hollie serves as one of the co-chairs of the newly established Cabrini University CAVS alumni organization. She brings her vision and energy to every Cabrinian endeavor. We wish her a successful procedure and a speedy recovery.

Los Angeles fire victims

We hold in our prayers all those who are being affected by the fires in Los Angeles. We pray especially for members of the Cabrinian community who reside there.

Special Intention

Prayers are requested for the parent of a Cabrini College alumna who is undergoing treatment for medical issues.

With Grateful Hearts

Emily Gudas



For months, Update readers have seen Emily's name on our prayer page. Emily is a college student who was hospitalized at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) for 125 days. We are overjoyed to share that Emily was discharged on New Year's Eve and is now recuperating at home with her family. The Gudas Family shares, "we, once again, can't thank you enough for all your love and support during our journey." Heartfelt thanks to the Missionary Sisters and the entire Cabrinian community for your prayers for Emily and her family. Emily's mom, dad and sister are all graduates of Cabrini College/University.

In Loving Memory

Former President Jimmy Carter

The Cabrinian community joins the nation and the world in offering prayers for former President Jimmy Carter as we observe a National Day of Mourning. May President Carter rest in God's eternal light.

Mary Dinino

Prayers are requested for Mary Dinino who passed away last evening. Mary is a good friend of Lorraine Campanelli, Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY and the Director of Cabrini Lay Missionaries. May Mary rest in peace.

Brother Gabriel O'Brien, OSF

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brother Gabriel O'Brien, OSF who passed away unexpectedly on December 31st. Brother Gabriel was the Superior General of the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, NY and a very dear friend of Lorraine Campanelli, the Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY and Director of Cabrini Lay Missionaries. May Brother Gabriel rest in God's eternal light.

Alia Sheety, PhD

We are sad to share the passing of Dr. Alia Sheety, a former Professor of Education at Cabrini University. Dr. Beverly Bryde, former Dean of the School of Education, writes, "Our dear colleague and friend, Alia Sheety, passed away on January 1st after a long battle with cancer. She was a treasured faculty member at Cabrini University from 2012-2024 where she served as chair of the University's Educational Leadership Department and the Director of the EdD program. Dr. Sheety mentored hundreds of students through their journey to earn a doctorate or master's degree and her own research and publication record was exemplary. Her legacy at Cabrini is highlighted by her commitment to her students, to the social justice mission, and to the restorative practices that she demonstrated and lived by every day." Memorial Services are being arranged by her family in Shefa Amr, Israel.

