



May 15, 2025

We would like to share a message that Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, Provincial, sent last week to the Guadalupe Province community upon the election of Pope Leo XIV.



Dear members of the Guadalupe Province and those in mission with us,

Can we not all feel the excitement in the air as we celebrate with the Church and the world the discernment and election of Pope Leo XIV? It is not yet 24 hours but already his words speak to us and cause to rise up within us a sense of expectant hope. I would like to share some of his words that have touched my heart and offer the world hope:

From his first speech on May 8th:

"Peace be with you. ... I would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families and all people, wherever they are; and all the peoples, and all the earth: Peace be with you."

"God loves us, all of us, evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God. Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs his light. Humanity needs him like a bridge to reach God and his love. ... working together as women and men, faithful to Jesus Christ ..."

"To all of you, brothers and sisters, ... we want to be a synodal church, walking and always seeking peace, charity, closeness, especially to those who are suffering."

From His first Mass on May 9th with the Cardinals:

"We are called to bear witness to our joyful faith in Christ the Saviour..."

Faith "is both a gift of God" and a path to follow in order to allow [ourselves] to be changed by that gift." ... "A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family and so many other wounds that afflict our society. ... This is the world that is entrusted to us, a world in which, as Pope Francis taught us so many times, we are called to bear witness to our joyful faith in Christ the Saviour."

Finally, when speaking of the commitment and exercise of the ministry of authority Pope Leo XIV prayer to God, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church *"to move aside so that Christ may remain, to make oneself small so that he may be known*

and glorified, to spend oneself to the utmost so that all may have the opportunity to know and love Him.”

As the Guadalupe province, let us pray for Pope Leo XIV that God grant him the grace he asks for and that we may be firm in our commitment to walk together as brothers and sisters, missionary disciples, witnesses of faith, hope and love in the world. ~ Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC on behalf of the Guadalupe Province

An Augustinian Friar and Scholar Reflects on Pope Leo XIV

~ by Fr. Allan Fitzgerald, OSA

~Editor's note: Fr. Allan Fitzgerald, OSA is a professor at Villanova University and an Augustinian scholar. Last week, following the election of his brother Augustinian, Cardinal Robert Prevost as Pope Leo XIV, Fr. Allan wrote this reflection which he shared with friends and colleagues. The Guadalupe Province Communications Office has received his permission to share his words which are excerpted.

“What can we expect from a Pope whose life has been spent in service to the people of Peru, to his brother Augustinians and, most recently, to the whole church?

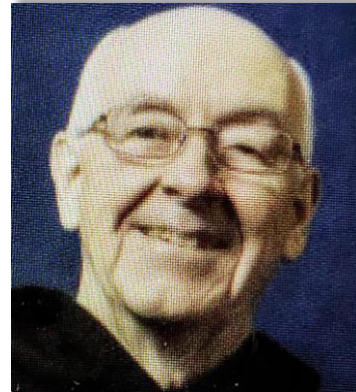
“I have known Pope Leo personally for about 20 years, dating to a time when we were members of the Augustinian communities located next to St. Peter’s Square in Rome. Even though he held the highest position of leadership in the Order at that time, he was very much a member of the community. A naturally thoughtful and quiet person, Pope Leo enters comfortably into conversation. His words, taken from Augustine, from the balcony above St. Peter’s Square were typical: “With you I am a Christian, for you, a bishop,” adding, “So may we all walk together toward that homeland that God has prepared for us.” Pope Leo clearly accepts his role as bishop, but his sense of belonging to God’s people and wanting to move forward together with all of us is deeply personal and genuine.

“Whether he was living in Chicago, Chulucanas, Peru, or Rome, when he was a parish priest, a superior in the Order, or a bishop, he was the same person - a carry-on traveler and a compassionate listener.

“An historical connection – pointed out by a colleague at Villanova – can be seen in the decision to take the name Pope Leo. In fact, Pope Leo XIII was a great friend of the Augustinian Order. Pope Leo XIII approved the acquisition of the land

immediately adjacent to St. Peter's Square for the Augustinian General Curio and the international house of studies.

"...Let me say something about how his selection as Pope touches me – a brother, friend and admirer. There is, first of all, a sense of awe as I recognize that he is not stepping into a role of fame and glory so much as he is accepting a cross. In this divided world – a time not unlike the deep divisions that marked the time of St. Augustine himself – the work and ministry of Pope Leo XIV is uniquely important. He will need every bit of prayerful support that I or anyone can give. It also becomes all the more significant that my own work and ministry feels more significant because of the fraternal bond that unites us. So, he is now Pope Leo XIV, but he also remains 'Bob' as well – united in mind and heart as St. Augustine asked us to be.



Fr. Allan Fitzgerald, OSA

Speakers of Hope

As part of its Jubilee "Speakers of Hope" series, last week St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York City hosted Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculée Ilibagiza.

Immaculée's story is tremendously inspiring and had the audience riveted. Our guests included attendees from the Bronx, Brooklyn, and New Jersey. Immaculée received a standing ovation at the end.

A reporter from the Archdiocese of New York's news site, The Good Newsroom, was on hand and wrote a nice piece about the event.

*~ submitted by Julia Attaway, Executive Director,
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine, NYC*

You can read the article [here](#)



2025 JUBILEE OF HOPE

IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA

Wednesday
May 7, 2025
6:30 pm

Rwandan genocide survivor and *New York Times* best-selling author Immaculée Ilibagiza speaks on hope and forgiveness

 JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

 scan for tickets

St. Frances Cabrini Shrine
701 Fort Washington Avenue
New York, NY 10040
A Train to 190th Street

A Joyful Week at the Shrine: From Papal News to Mother's Day Blessings

This past week was full of meaningful moments at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, Colorado.



Brother Jude Quinto, O.F.M., Cap.

On Tuesday, our local CBS affiliate visited the Shrine and interviewed Brother Jude Quinto, O.F.M., Cap., one of our Pastoral Ministers, about the election of Pope Leo XIV—the first American Pope. “Here at the Shrine, things got very electric all of a sudden,” Brother Jude shared. “We were able to ring bells and broadcast the announcement over the outdoor speakers. Everybody was turning on their news. Sister Alice was turning her laptop on. All of a sudden, I was like, oh my gosh, that’s an American! That’s somebody from the United States!”

Brother Jude expressed his hopes that Pope Leo XIV will continue the work of his predecessor, Pope Francis, while bringing his own leadership style to the Church. “We hope for a stronger church, that means a church that is more unified. A church that is welcoming to people of various walks and people, all people, who can find a place in the heart of God.” You can view the full story [here](#).

On Sunday, the Shrine welcomed an overwhelming number of people and families for our Mother’s Day Masses and brunch. Our

liturgies were filled to capacity, with overflow seating needed to accommodate everyone who came to celebrate the special day. After each Mass, the community gathered in the cafeteria for a warm and welcoming brunch prepared by the Shrine’s kitchen staff. The turnout was so strong, not a crumb was left in sight!



The Mother Cabrini Shrine chapel overflowing on Mother’s Day.

We are so grateful to everyone who joined us to celebrate this special week!

~ submitted by Molly Johnson for the Mother Cabrini Shrine, Golden, CO

Palliative Care Week at Cabrini Australia

This week is National Palliative Care Week, a time to recognise the work of Cabrini's palliative care teams who bring comfort, peace and healing, and above all compassion. Here are two wonderful examples of our care:

In our specialist palliative care ward, music and compassion are used every day to support patients and families as they navigate end of life. Wendy Snook, Harp Therapist, is one of 4 South Nurse Unit Manager Nicola Lowrie's important team members.



Harpist and member of the Palliative Care team, Wendy Snook plays an important role in patient care.

“I learned pretty early on when I started playing the harp that there's something about the sound of the harp that affects our bodies in a positive way for our wellbeing and our healing,” Wendy, a cancer survivor herself, said. “It's a great privilege to be with patients and families during difficult times.”

Wendy's presence on the ward is a true gift – one supported by a kind Cabrini Foundation donor – but she is just one of the many people who contributes to this extraordinary care.

So too is Pastoral Practitioner Alexandra Wilde, who last week gave a patient the “best day” of her life.

“The family of a terminally ill patient requested a living wake for their mother, Evelyn, who was expected to pass away soon,” Alexandra said.

“Within 24 hours, with the support of a number of people from around Cabrini, we were able to get everything organised and had about 40 people turn up to celebrate Evelyn's life, which she told me was the best day of her life.

“Evelyn died the next day with her family at her bedside, at peace.”

~ submitted by Margaret Stewart, Group Director, Identity and Mission, Cabrini Health, Australia

Advocating for Immigrants

Justice for Immigrants (JFI) joined the New York for All and Dignity Not Detention coalitions in Albany for the Stop the Complicity! All Hands for Immigrant Justice action. Together with immigrant leaders, advocates, and allies from across the state, we called on our elected officials to end New York's complicity with ICE and take action to protect our communities.

We are witnessing unprecedented attacks on immigrant communities: from the handcuffing of children in Sackets Harbor to the disappearance of New Yorkers to CECOT in El Salvador, and the detention of people, both citizens and non-citizens, without due process.

That's why we're demanding the passage of two bills this legislative session:

- New York for All Act (S2235/A3506) – to stop local and state agencies from collaborating with ICE.
- Dignity Not Detention Act (S316/A4181) – to end ICE detention expansion in New York and ban private detention centers altogether.

We were proud to stand alongside community members and elected officials, many of whom wore a handmade cape bearing the NY4All message around the Capitol and during the press conference. Because art is resistance, too.



~ submitted by Amelia Scdoris, Community Organizer, CIS-NYC

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests to be published in The Update are always welcome.
Kindly send your requests to:

cabrininews@mothercabrini.org

Shhhhhh...Don't Tell Anyone...No Le Digas a Nadie

On Friday, May 9th, the Cabrini Immigration Commission, presented the documentary, 'Don't Tell Anyone/No Le Digas A Nadie' at Cabrini Immigrant Services-Dobbs Ferry, NY. Karol Brewer, from the Cabrini Action & Advocacy Coalition, the Province Formation Office, and a member of the Commission, joined us for the movie.

CIS-DF invited their adult tutors and volunteers to view the movie. The movie is about Angy Rivera, who came to the USA at the age of 4 with her mother. She lived with a secret; she was undocumented. The very moving documentary follows Angy's life for 3 years. It takes us through the process of her applying for a U-Visa.



Joining the group via Zoom, Angy Rivera, whose life story the movie portrays, responds to questions following the movie.



From left: Attending the movie screening were Joely Caro Castillo, an intern from Westchester Community College and Immigration Commission members Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS-Dobbs Ferry, and Rocio Soria-Morales, CIS-DF intern.

In time, she became an activist for undocumented youth, created an advice blog, "Ask Angy" and a YouTube channel.

After the documentary, Angy Rivera joined us via zoom. We were able to ask her so many questions and express our deep admiration for all that she has and continues to do for immigrants. ~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli,

Director of CIS-Dobbs Ferry and Cabrini Immigration Commission member



Cabrini Immigration Commission

GUADALUPE PROVINCE

Cabrini's Class of 2025 Sets New Standard

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The Class of 2025 has achieved something truly remarkable. Cabrini High School is proud to announce that this year's graduating class, 53 strong, has earned an astounding \$13.5 million in college scholarships. That's an average of \$350,000 per student—a powerful

testament to the academic excellence, leadership, and character fostered within the Cabrinian-educated school community.

This incredible accomplishment sets a new standard in the city and solidifies Cabrini's role in New Orleans as more than just a high school. It is one of the strongest investments available to families seeking a bright future for their daughter, and this year's graduates have proven that investment yields life-changing returns. With full scholarships to top-tier institutions across the country—including Baylor, Howard, Rutgers, and Villanova—our Doves are taking flight with confidence, preparation, and purpose. We are especially proud to recognize this year's Valedictorian and Salutatorian, two exceptional students who embody Cabrini's mission and spirit:

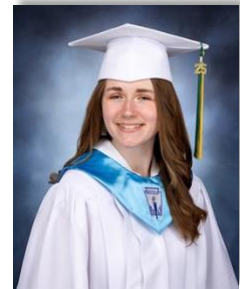
Valedictorian: Grace Williams



Grace will attend Villanova University on a full Mother Cabrini Scholarship, where she plans to study neuroscience.

Salutatorian: Tessa Anderson

Tessa is heading to Baylor University, also on a full scholarship, to pursue studies in pre-med and biology.



The Class of 2025 has raised the bar, and in doing so, they've inspired the next generation of Crescents to dream boldly, work tirelessly, and live with purpose. At Cabrini, the future isn't just imagined—it's earned.

~ submitted by Anne Argus DiPaola '96, Communications Director, Cabrini High School

CAVS Social Justice Ambassadors Host Medicaid Webinar

Launched in the spirit of Mother Cabrini, the recently formed Social Justice Ambassadors, a branch of the Cabrini University CAVS (Cabrini Alumni Volunteers & Supporters) Mission and Service Committee, hosted their second webinar last evening looking at the proposed cuts to Medicaid by Congress and offered insights to the agencies, organizations, and adults and children who could be severely impacted.

Dr. Jerry Zurek, former Cabrini University professor, and the creative force behind the Social Justice Ambassadors, introduced Sr. Emily TeKolste, a Sister of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, who was the keynote speaker. She is an advisor to the Pennsylvania chapters of NETWORK which does policy analysis and advises Catholics nationwide about social justice issues and federal policy. NETWORK was founded by Catholic sisters 50 years ago.

Sr. Emily explained how the proposed cuts legislation makes its way through Congress. She shared that Medicaid serves individuals, families with children, pregnant women, elderly persons and disabled persons, some of whom are nursing home residents, all of whom are low income.

Joining in the webinar too, were several Cabrini College/University alumni who work in organizations and fields whose clients/patients are recipients of Medicaid. One alum, Amanda Myers, '07 who works in Special Education, shared insights into one of

her students who is autistic who requires the services of a nurse, specialized therapies, and feeding supplies to attend school.

Joyce Roman, '84, a nurse, who now works as an administrator of Medicare and Medicaid, spoke of the medically fragile children who are ventilator and tracheotomy dependent, who are in long-term residential facilities – how will this affect their care?

Roseanne Carfagno Corcoran, '94 is an advocate for caregivers of people who are experiencing dementia. She spoke, too, of those being cared for in nursing homes. Will nursing homes close due to Medicaid cuts since three of five nursing home residents are on Medicaid?

The evening concluded with the group being urged to call their legislators via NETWORK to vote NO on the proposed Medicaid cuts: **1-888-897-9753**

Prayer Requests

Maria Guadalupe Chavez

Veronica Calderone, Generalate Finance Office in Chicago, asks for prayers for her mother undergoing medical tests at this time.

Donna Keskes

Anne Lynne, a Cabrini College alumna, asks for prayers for her sister, Donna Keskes, who had back surgery and is having a difficult recovery. Please pray that she will soon be feeling better.

Tom McGowan

Please remember Tom McGowan in your prayers. Tom is experiencing some walking difficulties and will be reevaluated for additional physical therapy. Please pray that this additional physical therapy will help to strengthen his legs. Tom is the husband of Marianne McGowan, CLM.

Pope Leo XIV

We give great thanks for our new Holy Father, and we ask God's blessing upon him. May the Holy Spirit guide his every endeavor.

Linda Shikitino's father

Linda Shikitino, former faculty member at Cabrini University, asks for prayers for her elderly father who recently suffered a fall and has several abrasions. Please pray that he may recuperate quickly.

Frank Weber

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC asks for prayers for Frank Weber, a young father, who is suffering with recent health issues

In Loving Memory

Barbara Henkels

The Cabrini College/University community notes with sadness the passing of former College trustee, Barbara Henkels, who served on the Board of Trustees in the 1980s. Mrs. Henkels and her late husband, Paul, were the parents of ten children. Mrs. Henkels was very active in many Catholic educational causes. May she rest in God's eternal light.