



October 23, 2025

## Refugees and Migrants in Our Common Home



Among those gathering in Rome for the Refugee and Migrants in Our Common Home conference were from left: Javier Ramirez Baron, Executive Director, CIS-NYC; General Councilor Sr. Patricia Godoy, MSC; Sr. Joseane Cabral, MSC; General Superior Sr. Eliane Azevedo da Silva, MSC; Michele Pistone, Esq., Mother Cabrini Institute and Conference Chair; Sr. Tatiana Avdokushina, MSC; Giulia Angelucci, Generalate Communications; and Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC, CIS-NYC.

From October 1 to 3, Villanova University, through the Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration, and the Refugees and Migrants in Our Common Home project, held three days of conferences and working groups at the Patristic Institute Augustinianum in Rome, with the aim of “shaping the first drafts of action plans that will guide our collective response to migration in higher education and beyond.”

The invitation came from attorney Michele Pistone of Villanova University, which enabled Javier Ramirez Baron, Executive Director, Sister Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC, and Sister Yolanda Flores, MSC of Cabrini Immigrant Services - New York City (CIS - NYC) to participate, along with our Superior General, Sister Eliane Azevedo da Silva, MSC; General Councilor Sister Patricia Godoy, MSC, Sister Joseane Cabral, MSC and Sister Tatiana Avdokushina, MSC.

An integral part of the program was an audience with Pope Leo XIV, who encouraged us to strive to seek new ideas and forms of service “by placing the dignity of each person at the center of any solution.” When we encounter difficulties, he said, we should not fall into the trap of “globalization of indifference,” but rather nurture a

“culture of reconciliation.” The Pope, recognizing that this work is not easy, encouraged us to formulate action plans without forgetting that “it is also important to remember that migrants and refugees can be privileged witnesses of hope through their resilience and trust in God.”

During the conference, Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz created a sculpture of Frances X. Cabrini, incorporating figures of migrants considered—in his own words - “angels unawares.” His work reflects what we can offer through our service, hope, and support for each person we serve. This piece of art was blessed on the last day by Fr. Joseph Farrell, OSA, the Prior General of the Augustinian Friars, in the presence of all the participants.



Artist Timothy Schmalz created this sculpture of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and migrants and refugees.

On the 4th and 5th, we actively participated in the Jubilee of Migrants and the Mission.



Missionary Sisters and Javier Ramirez Baron (L. back row) attended an evaluation meeting following the Jubilee.

On the 6th, a group of MSCs, along with a lay person, Javier Ramirez, held a meeting to evaluate our participation in the jubilee and share our different types of services related to migration. This was an opportunity to present to the General Council a proposal to organize a small committee of sisters and lay people (two to three people) to help us find resources, creative ways, and support for the work we do on

behalf of migrants and refugees. It can be a small drop into a huge ocean of needs, but a helpful drop maybe needed to complete the ocean.

~ submitted by Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC, CIS-NYC





## A Jubilee of Consecrated Life

The words of the prophet Ezekial 20:41: *“As pleasing aroma I will accept you when I bring you from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations.”*

These words were realized when ninety-five Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus gathered in Rome to celebrate the Jubilee of Consecrated Life and to participate in a General Assembly. The Sisters traveled from Asia, Europe, and the Americas to take part in this momentous celebration.



The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus attending the Jubilee for Consecrated Life.

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, they visited the Basilica of St. Paul where they passed through the Holy Door and also prayed before the recently installed statue of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini which was a gift from Dr. Carol Christansen that was presented to Pope Francis. The next stop was to the Basilica of St. Mary Major where the MSCs again walked through the Holy Doors and where they raised their voices in prayer, especially prayers for vocations.

On Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Sisters gathered amidst a throng of thousands of men and women religious from around the world for Mass presided over by Pope Leo XIV. It was another beautiful day, and the sun shone brilliantly on everyone in St. Peter's Square. It was an inspiring and moving experience to be in the presence of the Holy Father.

Our General Assembly took place over the next three days in which we took a deep dive into the meaning of our lives as consecrated women and we were challenged to see things in a new way – to be born again; to celebrate Jesus Christ incarnate; and to be on the side of the poor. We were reminded that we are called to be women of hope – women called to be the heart of the world. ~ submitted by Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC

Dear Cabrini Friends,

Last week the Cabrini Immigration Commission delivered donations to social workers in the Avon Grove and Oxford School Districts in southern Chester County, PA. With your support we were able to supply toiletries, clothing, snacks, gift cards, and school supplies to students and their families. Your generosity directly supports our local community.



**Cabrini Immigration Commission**  
**GUADALUPE PROVINCE**

Here is a note of appreciation from Holly Oliver, the social worker in the Avon Grove School District:

***Thank you for all the lovely donations of snacks, clothing, gift cards, and general supplies.***

***Just last week we had a student who had red ink all over her clothing. Turns out the family took their clothes to the laundromat and the person before them must have left a marker in the dryer. The mom told us she did not have means to purchase new clothing. I was able to give the student some clothing from my comfort corner, and I sent home some of your gift cards for the mom and the brother to get new clothing at Walmart and Target. They were SO grateful! Your generous donations sure helped provide a real practical need.***



***THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of you who are loving our students and families!***

***We will be announcing more ways to get involved soon. Thank you for standing with us!***

With heartfelt gratitude,

**Cabrini Immigration Commission, Guadalupe Province**

Karol Brewer, Lorraine Campanelli, Nancy Costello, Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC, Rocio Soria Morales, Susan Pierson, PhD, Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC, Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC, and Amelia Scdoris

# Cabrini U. Unites with One Church, One Family

~ a reflection by Jerry Zurek, PhD, former Chair, Communications Department, Cabrini University

Cabrini University alumni and friends joined 100-plus faithful in raising their voices in song and prayer in front of the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Philadelphia field office.

This public witness was a part of the nationwide Catholic campaign to call people of faith to publicly demonstrate solidarity with migrant families, asylum seekers, and refugees. The campaign is called One Church, One Family.

Information may be found at [1family.us](http://1family.us).



Dr. Jerry Zurek



**From top:** Cabrini College alumnae Sheila Ross Breen '69 and Joyce Patitucci Roman '82 along with Dr. Mary Laver, former faculty, joined their voices with those of many other concerned citizens.

The speakers reflected the spirit of Pope Leo's recent message on the World Day of Migrants and Refugees: "Migrants and refugees stand as messengers of hope. Their courage and tenacity bear heroic testimony to a faith that sees beyond what our eyes can see and gives them the strength to defy death on the various contemporary migration routes."

"We reject the culture of fear that dehumanizes," said Sr. Michelle Cimaroli, of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

A second day of prayer is planned for Nov. 13, timed to coincide with the feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Personally, I was inspired by the many women religious present. As I mingled with everyone, each person spoke from their rich lives, often of decades of service. One, an IHM Sister from Peru, spoke of how the image of the United States has changed for many in other countries.

I hope that public events like this reveal the true spirit of many Americans and Catholics who understand that we truly are one family and must care for those seeking hope as best we can. Participating in a prayer vigil or a public action gives me greater courage to stand up for what we believe.

~ Jerry Zurek, PhD, Faculty Emeritus, Cabrini University



# Healthy Recipes – Healthy You!



Our Nutrition Group, hosted by the CIS-NYC Social Services team, carried out its first recipe session last Friday with 17 participants. During the session,



participants prepared healthy salad wraps and learned practical ways to add more fruits and vegetables to their daily meals. This hands-on activity is part of our ongoing effort to promote healthy eating habits and increase access to nutritional education for immigrant families.



*~ submitted by Amelia Sedoris, Justice for Immigrants Coordinator, CIS-NYC*

A nutrition workshop was held at CIS-NYC. Participants learned healthy dietary and cooking tips, and then chopped, diced and prepared yummy veggie salads and wraps.



# Feeling Thankful and Blessed



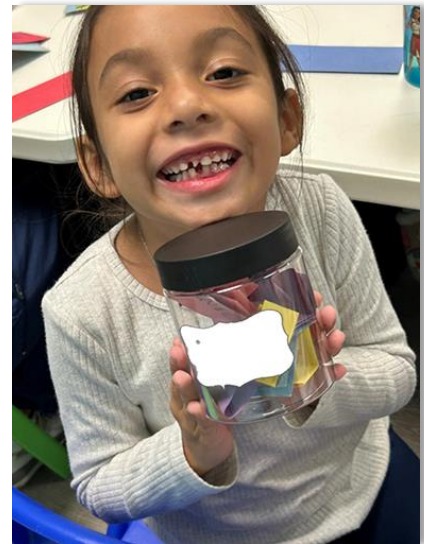
Dr. Wendy Mages, shares the story of *Thankful*. The children then shared their blessings.

Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry (CIS-DF), held a STARS (StoryTelling, Art, Reading and Socialization) for Kids Program for students in Grades Kindergarten. The STARS program has helped our students by increasing their attention span, improving their imagination and creative thinking as well as building confidence in their verbal and artistic expression.

Dr. Wendy Mages, a trained storyteller, read the story, *Thankful*, by Eileen Spinelli.

After listening to the story, the

students discussed all that they were thankful for. What a wonderful reminder to know how blessed we all are! The students worked on two art projects. Everyone wrote on a piece of construction paper what they were thankful for. The papers were linked together to create a 'I Am Thankful For...' chain. The students were given jars which they filled with words of thankfulness. Some of the words chosen were Mom, Dad, grandparents, sisters and brothers, school, friends, books, and so many other things. The students can add more papers to their jars as they discover new things about which they are thankful.



Brimming with joy, this youngster has much for which she is thankful

The students were so happy to receive a copy of the book, *Thankful*. They were going to read the story at home and ask their family to share what they are thankful for.

~submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS-DF



It's no accident that this paper chain of blessings looks like a smile.



# Hearts of Service & *Faith in Action*



The CHS Class of 2029 volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank, filling boxes of goods to be distributed throughout the region to serve the homeless, hungry, and marginalized.

What happens when busloads of Cabrini Crescents show up at Second Harvest Food Bank for a service day? Hearts open wide, and the Holy Spirit transforms lives! Service was at the core of Mother Cabrini's mission to uplift the marginalized, and we are honored to continue that legacy through our Campus Ministry Department.

This fall, our students began a new service and retreat initiative designed to help them live out their faith in tangible ways. Each class is participating in a two-day retreat experience: day one dedicated to service at Second Harvest Food Bank, and day two a class retreat focused on reflection, prayer, and community building. These experiences remind our students that living the Gospel means putting love into action.



Cabrini Retreat Team members joined forces with Brother Martin High School's retreat team to host student-led days of faith formation for grammar school students throughout the Archdiocese.

At the heart of these efforts is our Campus Ministry Retreat Team, a group of passionate students who are pouring their hearts for Jesus into leading retreats not only for our Cabrini community but also for schools across the Archdiocese. Guided by Campus Minister Mrs. Nicole Jouandot, the team has joyfully hosted retreats for





Senior Kaiden Wolfe and Junior Emily Zavala lead a reflection group with students from St. Louis King of France School.

St. Louis King of France Catholic School, during which 5th and 6th graders toured the Cabrini Shrine, Mother Cabrini's bedroom, chapel, and museum, learning about Mother Cabrini's courage and deep faith. The team also collaborated with the Brother Martin High School Retreat Team to

welcome Saint Dominic School's 5th graders for a day of spiritual growth, prayer, and connection.

As Mother Cabrini once said, "You, my dearest daughters, are destined to live the life of the apostles." Our Campus Ministry Department embraces that call with joy, serving others, spreading Christ's love, and helping students encounter Jesus in both service and spiritual formation. The seeds being planted today promise to bear beautiful fruit for years to come. ~ submitted by Anne Argus DiPaola '96, Communications Director, CHS



Please,  
Save the Date!  
Friday,  
December 12<sup>th</sup>

# Prayer Requests

## ***Cabrini Lay Missionaries***

Please remember the Cabrini Lay Missionaries this weekend as they gather in Wayne, PA, for a day of reflection and fellowship.

## ***John Catalanotto***

Anita Catalanotto, former staff member at Cabrini University, requests prayers for her husband, John, who is experiencing some health issues. Anita and John would be so grateful for the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community.

## ***Andrea Rodgers***

Kindly unite in prayer for Cabrini College alumna, Andrea Rodgers '99, who will be having surgery on November 10<sup>th</sup>. She would be grateful for the mindfulness and prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian Community during her procedure and recovery.

## With Grateful Hearts

## ***Baby Frances “Frankie” Meehan***

We have been praying for Frances Meehan who has undergone a bone marrow transplant. Upon her diagnosis, Frankie’s grandparents were given a medal and relic of Mother Cabrini. This medal, along with others, is pinned to her crib in the hospital. Frankie is doing well, however, she is still fragile and will remain hospitalized for several more weeks. Her family is so grateful for this meaningful gift and all the prayers.



A medal of Mother Cabrini (r.) is pinned on the hospital crib of baby Frances Meehan.

## In Loving Memory

## ***Sr. Frances Brogan, MSC***

It is with sadness that the Missionary Sisters share the passing of Sr. Frances Brogan, MSC on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Sr. Frances for many years, taught at the Mother Cabrini High School in New York City. May she rest in peace.

