



Today is the Feast Day of the Patroness of Immigrants



The Sister with the Suitcase

~ excerpts from an article by Lucetta Scaraffia, *Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 100 Years of Cabrini Mission*

This fragile, determined woman from the Lombardy region [of Italy] traveled extensively having dedicated her life to helping the Italian immigrants who, filled with hope, made the trip to America [in the late 1880s.] Francesca Cabrini had received this mission from Pope Leo XIII and to serve them, became an immigrant among immigrants. She left Genoa, Italy with seven Missionary Sisters in 1889, unfamiliar with the sea, exactly like most of the women and men packed into third class and

during the crossing she began to comprehend the appalling conditions in which immigrants lived. Like them, she thought she would find a warm welcome and assistance when she arrived in New York, but, bitter disappointment was what she found.

The Scalabrini Fathers, who awaited her arrival, told her that they had not expected her so soon and that they had not yet prepared their accommodations. The next day, after having rested in appallingly filthy conditions [overnight] she went to see Archbishop Corrigan, where she discovered that the situation was even worse. The prelate ordered them to go back on the same ship that brought them.

This experience only confirmed to Francesca Cabrini that the presence of her mission here was a necessity. Like other immigrants, without anyone to protect her and her Sisters and without knowing a word of English, she went to work immediately. Nothing seemed to work out the way it should have and everything seemed to conspire against her projects.

Yet, from every ministry she founded, a network of initiatives emanated towards its neighborhood, from parochial schools to family visits. Immigrants knew the Sisters would assist the unemployed in finding work, rescue orphaned children, and ensure legal assistance to the poor families who needed it. The Sisters also took care of prisoners who were the most shunned group of Italian immigrants.

Mother Cabrini always chose beautiful places to open a school, an orphanage or a hospital destined for immigrants. In this way, she dispelled the negative image that weighed on the Italian community.

The migratory movements at the time of Mother Cabrini involved mainly the poor of Europe, whose destination was the Americas. Today, migration concerns [span the globe.] Immigrants, migrants and refugees have become the pressing issue of our time and precisely for this reason, the Saint who died in Chicago in 1917, is today more relevant and important than ever.



About the artist: Brother Mickey McGrath is a religious brother of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. He majored in art at Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA and later received an MFA in Painting at the American University in Washington, DC. For eleven years, he was an associate professor of Studio Art and Art History at De Sales University in Center Valley, PA where he transitioned in 1994 into working full time as an artist who leads retreats, creates books, and gives presentations. In recent years, Brother Mickey's artwork was featured in the Gorevin Art Gallery of Cabrini University. (His Cabrini image is used with permission.) [Learn more here](#)

The Cabrini Pledge

To embody the holy witness of Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, I pledge to:

- **Affirm** in word and deed, the inherent dignity of every person, regardless of immigration status or country of origin, seeing each as a child of God before all else.
- **Engage** with Scripture and the Church's social teaching, reflecting on the role of migration in salvation history, the history of the United States, and the history of my own family.
- **Listen and learn** about the circumstances facing migrants and refugees, including those in my community, with an open heart and mind.



- **Seek** opportunities for encounter, so as to grow in deeper understanding and communion that leads to an authentic solidarity with those in need
- **Consider** what it means to be a good neighbor and how I am called to reflect the love and hope of Christ to others
- **Encourage** civic dialogue that places the human person and the sanctity of families at the center of policymaking, especially towards the end of meaningful immigration reform.
- **Join** with Pope Leo in praying for all migrants and refugees as fellow travelers on the journey to our true homeland.

~ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) has taken a stand supporting immigrants, particularly condemning "indiscriminate mass deportation" and advocating for "comprehensive reform" of the U.S. immigration system. Their position, rooted in faith and emphasizing the inherent dignity of all individuals, calls for a system that includes a path to citizenship, protects families, offers relief for childhood arrivals, and provides a fair asylum process. The bishops also urge for a more humane approach to enforcement that is just and respectful of human rights. To read the entire text of the statement please click [here](#)

Integrity Always!



compassion, responsibility, etc. were suggested as the ways in which we should act towards one another.

After the discussion, the students created “A Tree of Integrity.” On the trunk, branches and leaves of the tree, the words that were used during the discussion were written on painted leaves. The tree, which hangs in our classroom, is a reminder to always be people with integrity.

Cabrini Immigrant Services – Dobbs Ferry (CIS-DF) held a STARS (StoryTelling, Art, Reading and Socialization) Program for students in Grades 3-5 on November 11th. In addition to being Veterans Day, it was also National Young Readers Day. Dr. Wendy Mages, a trained storyteller, told the story, *The Empty Pot*, by Demi. A great discussion took place following the story. The students spoke about the importance of having good character. Words such



These youngsters are intent on painting their leaves which feature kindness and fairness.

Teens Helping Teens

Following the STARS program, several of our high school students came to CIS-DF to participate in a Giving Back Program. The students made 100 bags filled with toiletries and other items which will be given to teenagers whose families frequent



Putting together packets of essentials, these high school students gave of themselves for others on Veterans Day.

The Pantry, which is located in Verplanck, NY. The Pantry provides groceries for residents in the Town of Cortlandt.



These teens are making someone's day brighter by packing blessing bags.

One student created the list of items for the bags. In addition to deodorant, lip balm, toothbrushes and toothpaste, etc., the teenagers will also be receiving socks, scrunchies, stress balls, lollipops, wristbands and keychains with inspirational sayings. We are sure that that these packets will brighten the holidays for these teenagers. A special thank you to our CIS-DF teenagers for

taking time on their Veterans Day off from school to help others.

~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS-DF

100 + Years of Life x 7 = Cause for Celebration

On Monday, November 10th, Cabrini of Westchester held a festive celebration honoring its centenarians, 7 special women who are celebrating milestone birthdays this year. The esteemed honorees are: Gloria Wagner, 100; Jacquelin Beckerich, 102; Martha Macugowski, 100; Alessandra Dileo, 101; Cecile Rosenfeld, 100; Molly Neilson, 102 and Gloria Petrillo, 100. *Story continues on next page.*



Cabrini of Westchester Centenarians from left: Molly Neilson, Gloria Petrillo, Martha Macugowski, Senator Andrea-Stewart Cousins, Gloria Wagner, Jaquelin Beckerich and Cecile Rosenfeld.

Jessica Garcia-Robinson, Assistant Administrator addressed the gathering of residents, staff members, family and friends: “On behalf of Cabrini’s Administrative team, it is with great joy, deep respect and heartfelt gratitude that I welcome you all to this extraordinary occasion. Today we are gathered not just to honor these 7 remarkable women, but to recognize their lives through a century of change, challenge, triumph and transformation.” Addressing the centenarians, she said, “You are living treasures. Each of you has witnessed history in the making and in your own unique way, you have helped shape the world we live in and we are truly grateful for that. We are humbled to be in your presence today.”



A blessing was offered by resident, Fr. Michael Banks, followed by a presentation from special guest, New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Senator Stewart-Cousins bestowed framed resolutions to each centenarian and said, “I am so happy to be here to celebrate each centenarian and to give you official proclamations from the New York State Senate because we honor your lives and the value that you have brought to all of us, your communities and your families. I wish you continued health, love, care and many more happy and healthy birthdays.”

~ submitted by Susan Herveg, Director of Development and PR, Cabrini of Westchester

Cabrini H.S. Sophomores Live Mother Cabrini’s Mission

Guided by the Campus Ministry Department, the Cabrini Sophomore Service Day and Retreat invited students to step beyond the classroom and experience faith in action. The day is an opportunity to live out one of Cabrini’s core values and meaningful service. Through encounters with the Church’s diversity, sophomores discovered that faith is not only studied but lived. These two days helped students connect what they learn about the Church with real opportunities to serve and grow together as a faith community.



Sophomores make lunch for 200 people who ordinarily would not have eaten.

On Monday, November 3, the day began at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church’s Lantern Light Ministry, where students prepared meals for more than 200 individuals experiencing homelessness and displacement. They also

organized donated clothing by size to help ensure that guests could receive items that met their needs with dignity and care. In addition, students deepened their understanding of Ecclesiology, the study of the Church, by visiting three Catholic Churches representing different rites: Roman Catholic, Coptic, and Greek Orthodox. Each visit offered a chance to appreciate the beauty and unity of the Catholic faith through sacred art, architecture, music, and liturgical traditions.

Tuesday, November 4, was the Sophomore Retreat, a day of prayer, reflection, and community building. Through small-group discussions, shared worship, and moments of quiet reflection, students were encouraged to recognize Christ's presence in their daily lives and to discern how they are called to serve others. The retreat provided a time for students to strengthen their faith, deepen friendships, and grow as a class rooted in compassion and trust in God.

By serving those in need and exploring the beauty of the Church's many traditions, the sophomores embraced Mother Cabrini's mission to love generously, serve joyfully, and follow Christ with open hearts. ~ submitted by Anne Argus DiPaola, '96, PR Director, CHS



Sophomores sort and size clothing for those living unhoused to be clothed with dignity.



Some Sophomore Stars at St Joseph Catholic Church



Thumbs Up for Cabrini U. CAVS Service Day



The Cabrini University CAVS held their first annual Day of Service on Saturday, November 8th in honor of Mother Cabrini's Feast Day on November 13th.

The Cabrini University community was invited to engage in an act of service wherever they may be located. Alumni, faculty, staff and their families and friends were encouraged to follow in

Mother Cabrini's footsteps and help an elderly neighbor or volunteer at a food pantry, whatever was particularly meaningful.

Two sites were offered for those who wished to serve those serving the poor, immigrants and those experiencing homelessness: the Mitzvah Circle in Lansdale, PA and The Blessing Shop in Norris

We had an enthusiastic turnout and look forward to growing this event in years to come.



Photo above: Fran Carusi Brooks '82 organizes boots for distribution at the Mitzvah Circle.

Photos left:

Top photo: Groups of Cabrini alums volunteered at The Blessing Shop in Norristown, PA welcomed by Angela Sharpe, owner.

Lower photo:

The Mitzvah Circle in Lansdale, PA was another volunteer site. Both sites provide clothing to those in need at little or no cost.

Photo below: Chris Meller, her husband Bob, and son Ian helped sort and arrange clothing at The Blessing Shop.



10th Annual NYC Chili Bowl!



Last weekend, the 10th Annual NYC Chili Bowl brought neighbors together for an afternoon of good food and community. All proceeds from the

event supported the CIS-NYC Food Pantry, helping us continue to provide fresh, healthy food to families across Upper Manhattan.



This happy team of cooks earned Second Place in the veggie chili division.



We're so grateful to everyone who made the event possible and to all who came out to support our work. Community efforts like this help ensure that our pantry can keep serving our neighbors during a time of rising food costs and reduced federal assistance. [More photos here](#)
~ submitted by Amelia Scdoris, Justice for Immigrants Coordinator, CIS-NYC

All smiles are the First Place winners of the chili with meat division. Nothing like a warm bowl of chili to warm hearts and tummies for a very worthy cause.

Editor's note: This is Amelia Scdoris' final submission for The Update, as she will be leaving CIS-NYC to pursue a new chapter in her life. We are grateful her insightful articles over the past few years. We wish her the very best.

The Update

Publication Schedule for November

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States on Thursday, November 27th, the final Update edition for November will be next week on Thursday, November 20th. Please make all submissions no later than Wednesday, November 19th at noon.

Thank you!

A Serene Spot for Prayer, Once Again

On Wednesday, November 12 a group gathered on the lawn at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York City for the unveiling and blessing of Mother Cabrini's newly-restored prayer bench. This bench was used by Mother Cabrini when she stayed in northern Manhattan. It features griffins as side supports, and an ornate iron top.



Msgr. Robert Ritchie converses with Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, Provincial, during the blessing of the newly restored bench where Mother Cabrini once sat in repose. The bench is magnificent and captivating in its design.

Originally placed in the garden outside the professed sisters' residence, the bench was moved to a side yard when construction of the current Shrine began. Later it was moved yet again to a location overlooking a parking lot. In recent decades the bench fell into severe disrepair. Nearly 200 donors contributed toward its restoration. Now sturdy and beautiful, the bench can

once again be used by visitors the way Mother Cabrini herself used it: for prayer.

The brief ceremony was led by Msgr. Robert Ritchie, with Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, Provincial, Sr. Patricia Dunleavy, MSC and Sr. Sharon Casey, MSC in attendance. The bench is now located at the back of the Shrine's lawn, where it overlooks the Hudson River. Next year the Shrine intends to build a serene prayer garden to surround it.

~ submitted by Julia Attaway, Exec. Dir.
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine, NYC

To view blessing program, click [here](#)



From left: Msgr. Ritchie joins Sr. Patricia Dunleavy, MSC, Shrine Executive Director Julia Attaway, Sr. Sharon Casey, MSC and Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC as they sit on this bench just Mother Cabrini often did.

Prayer Requests

Cabrini Friends

Prayers are requested for four friends of the Cabrinian community who are currently undergoing medical treatments for differing medical maladies. Please pray that their treatments will be successful and that they will all regain full health.

Cabrini Alumni, Lay Collaborators, Cabrini Companions, Benefactors, Friends and Volunteers

On this Feast Day, we give thanks for all those who journey with the Missionary Sisters in the spirit of the Cabrinian charism as they strive to be a reconciling presence in today's world.

Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs)

We offer our gratitude, on this Feast Day, for the Cabrini Lay Missionaries who live out their Christian Baptismal commitment as a special call from God. CLMs hear and respond to their call by committing themselves to embrace and give witness to the love of the Heart of Jesus and the Cabrinian charism.

Margo Litwin

Kindly pray for Margo Litwin, who is hospitalized and undergoing medical tests. Margo was a classmate of Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia's at Mother Cabrini High School and was a very close friend of Sr. Patricia Spillane, MSC. Pray that all will be well.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

On this special day, we ask God's abundant blessings upon the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as they faithfully continue to live their vows "to be bearers of Christ's love in the world." May they know the love and gratitude of all whom they serve and of all who journey with them.



Did you know that November 14th is the Founding of the MSC Institute?

On November 14th, 1880, Bishop Gelmini's Decree of Foundation set in motion a series of events, which in less than a decade saw Mother Cabrini and six companions realize missionary dreams they had treasured through adversity and new beginnings.

~ Mother Cabrini, "Italian Immigrant of the Century" by Sr. Mary Louise Sullivan, MSC, PhD

A Blessed and Joyful Feast Day to all! With Grateful Hearts

To the Cabrini Sisters, the Cabrini Immigration Commission, and the Cabrini University CAVS,



Last night I received two big boxes of coats. THANK YOU for being so generous! I was able to get coats on students today. They were so happy! I have about 10 students I did not get to today but will receive them Monday.

This email cannot express how grateful I am, along with the students and the families who are receiving this blessing. I attached a picture of two boys who were just bursting with joy as they walked down the hallway. They are in the same class and wanted matching coats. Precious.

Thank you again!

Holly Oliver
Caseworker
Avon Grove School District

Happening on the Feast Day

- Attend One Church, One Family Call to Action webinar
To register click [here](#)
- - Villanova Public Witness for Immigrants - Vigil and Solidarity Walk**
 - **November 13, 2025**
2:15 p.m. - Peace Pole near St. Rita's Hall to Law School
- **Pilgrims of Hope: Augustine, Cabrini and the Journey of the Migrant**
Join us to celebrate Augustine's birthday and Mother Cabrini's Feast Day by discussing what the Augustinian tradition and Mother Cabrini can teach us about immigration.
- **November 13, 2025**
3 p.m. - Law School Commons - **Sr. Christine Marie to serve as a panelist**