



February 19, 2026

Pope Leo XIV Calls for Renewal as Lent Begins



On Ash Wednesday, Pope Leo XIV delivered a powerful and solemn message. Presiding over the Mass, the Pope invited believers to embrace the core themes of Lent: repentance, conversion of heart and action compassion. ~ *USCCB*

In his homily, Pope Leo shared that the ashes that people receive symbolize human mortality and a world “in flames” - marked by war, environmental degradation and the erosion of justice and peace. He continued by saying that the ashes reflect not only personal sin but also broader social and cultural brokenness, urging Catholics to “call death for what it is” and to face both personal and communal failures with humility and courage. ~ *Vatican*

The Pontiff stressed that Lent is not only a private devotion but a communal journey toward spiritual freedom. He encouraged Christians to respond to sin by bravely accepting responsibility and striving for genuine conversion. ~ *Vatican*

Beyond the traditional disciplines of fasting and prayer, Pope Leo also underscored the importance of everyday acts of kindness and reconciliation. He encouraged believers to abstain from harsh words and rash judgment, to promote peace in daily interactions, and cultivate charity in their homes and communities. ~ *Vatican*

For Lent, here are 101 ways to enrich the journey through this holy season, [click here](#)



Bunnies Bring Heart and Joy

The Knitting Group from Cabrini Immigrant Services – Dobbs Ferry (CIS-DF) has been hard at work putting smiles on the faces of many children. The group crocheted bunnies for Valentine’s Day. The bunnies were donated to the children at Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital in Valhalla, NY. Every stitch was made with love for the children who would be spending Valentine’s Day in the hospital.

Shirley Godoi, our Administrative Assistant, dropped off the bunnies. She was greeted with big smiles and excitement from the nurses on the unit. They were so grateful to be able to give the children a special gift. A note was enclosed with the bunnies telling them that our love and prayers accompanied each one. We’re looking forward to the next project that our Knitting Group will be doing. They love to spread joy and happiness to others. ~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS-DF



The nurses welcomed all those happy bunnies from the CIS-DF knitting group.

A Lenten suggestion:

“Find more time for prayers. These may be short as you wish if you find long prayers too hard, but do not forget to say them. The sign of the cross can be a prayer.” ~ Pope St. John XXIII

Statue of St. Frances Cabrini to be Erected in Chicago's Arrigo Park

A statue honoring St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first American citizen saint, will be installed in Chicago's Arrigo Park. Mother Cabrini was the winner of a public selection process to determine which figure of Italian heritage would be represented in Chicago's Little Italy section.

Artists interested in creating the sculpture are invited to submit an application online beginning [March 1st](#). Upon completion, the statue will be displayed in the seven-acre park on the Near West Side of the city.

To learn more, please click [here](#)



A Snowy Mardi Gras Celebration



Ann Breen (c.) and Liz Kanaras (r.) Cabrini College Class of 1983, are joined by a friend for a mountainous Mardi Gras festival.

Lent reminds us that Jesus overcame the darkness of the desert to one day emerge into the light of the Resurrection. Prior to the somber, reflective days of Lent, there is the celebratory season of Mardi Gras. Cabrini College alums Ann Breen and Elizabeth Kanaras, both of the Class of 1983, journeyed to Spring Mountain in Schwenksville, PA to attend an interesting twist on Mardi Gras - a Snowshoe Scavenger Hunt. The celebration included an evening "glow up" trek up and down the mountain with colorful Mardi Gras headbands, tutus and jackets. Quite a different setting than that of Mardi Gras in New Orleans!

~ submitted by Liz Kanaras, '83 Cabrini College



As has been our tradition, the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLM) will be journeying with us through Lent by sharing reflections and meditations each week. The reflection for the First Sunday of Lent is offered by Susan Pierson, PhD, CLM.

The First Sunday of Lent

Winter can feel long and unyielding. The cold temperatures, the piles of snow and ice, and the bare branches remind us how harsh the world can be. Yet even in the deepest winter, we look ahead to spring, trusting that new life is already stirring, unseen but certain.

I have been growing paperwhites indoors. Amid winter's gloom and grayness, their green shoots push upward, and soon their white blossoms open, filling the room with light and fragrance. They are a gentle reminder of life and beauty, even in times that seem dark and devoid of light.



As we enter Lent, the paperwhites speak to the promise at the heart of our faith. Even in times of darkness and uncertainty, God is at work. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, new life has been promised to us—a life stronger than death, brighter than winter, and certain as the coming of spring.

Lent invites us to trust that promise, to nurture our faith, and to do something good for others every day, as we demonstrate the love of Christ through our lives.

If you want to try growing paperwhites, it is easy and rewarding!

https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/learn/gardening/growing-paperwhites-winter-flowers-that-can-grow-indoors.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Romans 6:4

“We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.”

Prayer Requests

Richard Nello

Prayers are requested for Richard Nello who is undergoing medical tests. Please pray that all will be well.

Rosemarie and Joseph Thompson

Prayers are requested for Rosemarie and Joseph Thompson, extended family members of Maria Valente Breeser, Cabrini College Class of 1973. Both Rosemarie and Joseph are experiencing serious medical problems and would appreciate the prayers of the Cabrini Community.

In Loving Memory

Joseph Cutrufello

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joseph Cutrufello, first cousin of Virginia Marzano, extended family of Maria Valente Breeser, Cabrini College Class of 1973. The family would appreciate your prayers.

Gary Gebis

It is with heavy hearts that the Financial Office of the MSC Generalate shares that their beloved colleague and friend, Gary Gebis, passed away last week surrounded by his family. A CPA by profession, Gary was a valued member of the Generalate's fiscal office. He is remembered for having served with care, wisdom and fidelity. His dedication, steady presence, and love for the mission of Mother Cabrini touched all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Beyond his professional excellence, Gary will be remembered for his kindness, humility, and quiet generosity of spirit. He was not only a trusted colleague but also a friend to many in our community.

Please keep Gary's family, and all who mourn his passing, in your prayers. May we also give thanks for the gift of Gary's life and the enduring impact of his service.

