



MISSIONARY SISTERS  
of the SACRED HEART of JESUS  
*Bringing Christ's love to the world*

THE UPDATE

April 23, 2026

# From Colorado to Codogno

## *Walking in Mother Cabrini's Footsteps*

Ciao from Italy! This April, members of the Mother Cabrini Shrine Colorado community participated in a pilgrimage across Italy, following in the footsteps of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and visiting places central to her life and mission.



What better place to walk in Mother Cabrini's footsteps than in her home village of Sant' Angelo Lodigiano. The Mother Cabrini Shrine pilgrims are pictured in the courtyard of Mother Cabrini's family home. Serving as guides are Sr. Therese Merandi, MSC (l.) and Shrine Executive Director, JoAnn Seaman (4<sup>th</sup> r.)

The pilgrimage began in Codogno, where Mother Cabrini founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and continued to Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, her birthplace. The group also paused in Assisi for time set aside for prayer and reflection before arriving in Rome.

In Rome, pilgrims celebrated Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter at the Vatican and visited the statue of Mother Cabrini inside St. Peter's Basilica. They also visited St. John Lateran and St. Paul Outside the Walls, where a recently installed statue reflects her global impact.



From left: General Councilor Sr. Gilda Mendoza Argueta, MSC; General Superior Sr. Maria Eliane Azevedo da Silva, MSC; Shrine Executive Director JoAnn Seaman; Kyle Dyer; Fr. John Lager, OFM, Cap.; General Councilor Sr. Patricia Godoy, MSC; Cabrini Mission Foundation Executive Director Christopher LaBianco and Fr. Bob Fisher gathered at the MSC Curia where a statue entitled “Cecchina’s Dream” is a focal point of the garden.

One of the most significant moments of the pilgrimage took place when six members of the group were welcomed to the General Curia of the Missionary Sisters in Rome. They were received by the General Superior, Sr. Maria Eliane Azevedo da Silva, along with members of her council. During the

visit, the group viewed portraits of the congregation’s leadership, dating back to Mother Cabrini, and spent time in prayer before her relic in the Curia chapel.

They also visited the archives, where Mother Cabrini’s writings and volumes are carefully preserved, offering a direct connection to her life and work. The visit included time at the statue “Cecchina’s Dream” and concluded with conversation and hospitality before continuing on to Casa Cabrini.

At Casa Cabrini, the broader group celebrated Mass in the chapel built by Mother Cabrini and



As the pilgrimage neared completion, the pilgrims gathered with the Missionary Sisters at Casa Cabrini in Rome.

prayed before her relic. The pilgrimage concluded at St. Mary Major Basilica, where the group gathered in prayer, carrying with them the intentions of the Shrine community.

Throughout the journey, the experience offered a deeper understanding of Mother Cabrini’s life and the continued relevance of her mission.

Photos from the pilgrimage can be found on the Mother Cabrini Shrine Facebook page. Thank you to all who followed along and for your continued prayers throughout the journey. ~ submitted by Mother Cabrini Shrine Special Correspondent, Molly (Seaman) Johnson

# A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Citizen!



New citizen Maria Cordon, (l.) is congratulated by her tutor, Anne Zucker. Congratulations, Maria!

Cabrini Immigrant Services - Dobbs Ferry, NY (CIS-DF), is thrilled to announce that we have a new US citizen! Maria Cordon passed her US Citizenship exam. She came to the United States in 2016 from Guatemala. Maria worked very hard with her tutor, Anne Zucker, to improve her English, her reading and writing skills and to also learn the civic questions.

We are so proud of Maria and congratulate her on becoming a new American citizen. She is looking forward to her swearing-in ceremony on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

*~submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, CIS-DF, Director*

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## Cabrini Scholarship at Villanova

Last Thursday evening, members of our Cabrini University community attended the Villanova University Endowed Scholarship Award Dinner, specifically to honor the recipients of the Cabrini High School Scholarship and the Cabrini University Alumni Association Scholarship.

Unfortunately, neither of the student scholars could attend the dinner - one is studying abroad and one had to cancel last minute. We applaud their academic achievements and look forward to meeting them both in the near future.

*~ submitted by Hollie Havens '98, CAVS Legacy Council Chairperson*



Enjoying the hospitality of Villanova University in honor of the Cabrini Scholarship recipients are from left: Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, '66; Hollie Havens, '98, Cabrini University CAVS Chairperson; Becky Bradbeer, '94; and Nancy Gorevin Costello, '71.

# Kindred Souls

In the mid-afternoon of Tuesday 14 April, a call came to me from Cabrini Malvern Reception. A lady named Elizabeth was asking to see me.

To my delight and surprise, it was Elizabeth Barmann from Mother Cabrini Shrine in Denver, Colorado. Elizabeth and her husband Terry were here visiting their daughter who lives locally in Malvern. What a long way from home!

Elizabeth is the Liturgist and Music Director at the Shrine. So, I immediately rang our own Cabrini Liturgist and Cabrini Choir Director, Mission Integration Lead, Leesa Horrigan to join us for coffee. What a great connection for each of us to have on the other side of the world.



From left: Margaret Stewart, Cabrini Health Group Director, Identity and Mission Mission; Leesa Horrigan, Cabrini Health Liturgist and Choir Director; Elizabeth Barmann, Liturgist and Music Director at Mother Cabrini Shrine, and Elizabeth's husband, Terry Barmann, have much in common as they meet at Cabrini Health.

A visit to our Chapel meant that we could have a beautiful snap taken by a colleague. And all too soon our wonderful conversation about Mother Cabrini, her spirituality and the beautiful legacy we carry in our different ministries was over.

*~ submitted by Margaret Stewart, Group Director Identity & Mission | Cabrini Australia*

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For Update submissions and prayer requests, please email: [cabrininews@mothercabrini.org](mailto:cabrininews@mothercabrini.org) and copy, [ncostello@mothercabrini.org](mailto:ncostello@mothercabrini.org)

Thank you.

## Cabrini High School Teachers Recognized for Excellence

At Cabrini High School, excellence in teaching is not only a goal but a lived reality, one reflected in the recent achievements of several distinguished faculty members whose work extends from the classroom to the global stage.



Jose Lozano

This year, Social Studies teacher **Jose Lozano** was named a recipient of the inaugural *Bischof Research and Travel Scholarship*, awarded by the Center Austria at the University of New Orleans. This prestigious honor supports academic research and cultural exchange between New Orleans and Austria. Lozano earned the award for his extensive study of the Hasburg dynasty, which culminated in a research trip to Vienna last summer. Through firsthand archival work and immersion in European history, he deepened his scholarship in ways that directly enrich his teaching. His recognition, shared with an Austrian student at UNO, underscores both his academic rigor and the global perspective he brings to Cabrini students.



Elizabeth Leblanc

Cabrini also celebrates the continued recognition of its faculty closer to home. **Elizabeth Leblanc**, Science Department Chair, and **Lisa Dubus**, Social Studies Department Chair, have been named Top 10 finalists in the *New Orleans Mom Blog Teacher of the Year* campaign. Selected from a highly competitive pool of educators across the region, this distinction reflects their exceptional dedication to student growth and achievement. Both educators are widely respected for their ability to engage and inspire, fostering intellectual curiosity that extends well beyond the classroom.

Further highlighting this commitment to excellence, Mrs. Dubus is also a recipient of the **FOX 8 News Golden Apple Award**, a respected regional honor recognizing teachers who demonstrate creativity,



Lisa Dubus

passion, and an unwavering dedication to their students. Nominated by students, parents, and peers, Golden Apple recipients are celebrated in local Fox broadcasts for going above and beyond in shaping meaningful learning experiences.

Together, these achievements reflect the strength of Cabrini’s faculty and its mission to cultivate excellence, leadership, and lifelong learning.

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



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***Volunteers do not necessarily have the time...they just have the heart.”***

*~ Elizabeth Andrew*



Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC, (c.) joins with other volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation event in New York City.

Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC attends a Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Gouverneur Skilled Nursing Facility on April 22, 2026. Sr. Renee has been a Catholic volunteer at the facility for the past three years where the Missionary Sisters have been a presence for many years. We thank Sr. Renee for her dedicated volunteer service.

# Mother Cabrini's Life Near and Far

Cabrini Immigrant Services-Dobbs Ferry (CIS-DF) was very honored to have Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC, speak to our Knitting Group about the life of St. Cabrini.

Sr. Bridget spoke about Mother Cabrini's birthplace, her family, her poor health and her desire to be a missionary. She also shared about her wanting to go to China, but Pope XIII told her to go to America instead to serve Italian immigrants.

Using technology, Sr. Bridget was able to have us 'be' in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Codogno, the Shrines in Chicago, Colorado and NYC. We also saw some historic pictures of the novitiate and orphanage in Dobbs Ferry which is the current home of St. Cabrini Nursing Home.

Everyone loved seeing the special places that meant so much to Mother Cabrini. Many were surprised to hear that Mother Cabrini walked the streets of Dobbs Ferry and lived on the property where the Nursing Home is located. Sr. Bridget gave everyone a prayer card of St. Cabrini that had a special prayer for immigrants.



Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC with her statue of Mother Cabrini nearby, shared many stories of Mother's life and travels.



The Knitting Group participants listen attentively to Sr. Bridget and were amazed to learn that Mother Cabrini walked the streets of Dobbs Ferry, NY.

Sr. Bridget has already been asked to return to CIS-DF to share more about the life of St. Cabrini.

We are most grateful to Sr. Bridget for sharing so much with us. She brought Mother Cabrini to life!

*~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS-DF*

# Prayer Requests

## ***Anne D'Amico's father***

Please pray for the 97-year-old father of Cabrini College alumna, Anne D'Amico. Her dad has been hospitalized after experiencing a fall.

## ***Sr. Regina Peterson's niece, RoseMarie Parker***

My niece, RoseMarie, (36)), has very serious health issues. She, and her husband, Jonathan, have been accepted to be part of the Order of Malta pilgrimage to Lourdes.

### **A request from RoseMarie:**

As part of the pilgrimage, the Order of Malta asked us to reach out to those around us to pray the novena before our pilgrimage. I am reaching out to ask you to pray the Our Lady of Lourdes Novena starting today, Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and ending on April 29<sup>th</sup> when I will leave for my pilgrimage to Lourdes.

I will be praying for you while I am there. If you or anyone you know have any prayer intentions, please fill out this anonymous link and I will print it out and leave it at the Grotto in Lourdes where it gets prayed over each day.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Ep2MriujvO9LjODz4oXzwrbyyTr9MrcrCdYOYXvfz3Q/edit?usp=drivesdk>

## ***Marilyn Rogers***

Prayers are requested by Marilyn Rogers, a former St. Cabrini Nursing Home employee and a volunteer at Cabrini Immigrant Services, that she will have a good outcome from hip replacement surgery. Pray that the surgery will go well and her recovery will be swift and uncomplicated.

## ***Special Intention***

A member of the Cabrinian community requests prayers for a special intention.

# In Loving Memory

## ***Mariarae Gabriel***

Please remember in your prayers, Mariarae Gabriel, a member of Sr. Bernadette Anello's extended family, who returned home to God on Tuesday, April 21st, due to the complications of an aneurysm. Prayers for her, Michael, her husband, her sons, Michael and Matteo and all the family members will be greatly appreciated at this time.