



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

THE UPDATE

July 16, 2026

Happy 176th Birthday, Mother Cabrini!

This year, on the occasion of Mother Cabrini's birthday, it seems fitting to reflect upon the remarks delivered by Pope Leo XIV when he recently visited Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Mother Cabrini's birthplace. ~ excerpts from Vatican News and www.cabrineworld.org

"I am here to pay tribute to Mother Cabrini, Patroness of Migrants and the first Saint of the United States of America, who was born here in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano in 1850 and died in Chicago - my hometown - in 1917.

When the time came to make the decisive choice regarding the "direction" her religious institute's mission should take, she wanted the Pope to be the one to point the way. And Pope Leo XIII was clear: "Not to the East, but to the West," in service to the thousands of Italian emigrants in America.

Through these words, Mother Cabrini interpreted the signs of the times and understood that her dream of going to China, following in the footsteps of St. Francis Xavier, was to be realized wherever the need was greatest at that moment.



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

But dear sisters and brothers, when we look at the world today, what are we to say? That "sign" - that is the phenomenon of migration - has entered a different phase, one that is certainly more complex, yet no less capable of challenging the Church.

Let us ask ourselves: if Mother Francesca were alive today, what would her missionary spirit tell her? Or rather, what would the Heart of Christ say to her

heart - that of a woman consecrated to Him and to the service of His kingdom? And what would a Pope like Francis - who, as the son of Italian immigrants, had made service to migrants one of the key priorities of his pontificate - ask of her?

Brothers and sisters, what could be more relevant today than this charism? I say this here before the relic of Mother Cabrini's heart, brought from the Motherhouse in Codogno. I say this as I greet and thank with affection her spiritual daughters, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred heart of Jesus. What could be more relevant today than a missionary charism dedicated to serving migrants?

I therefore take this opportunity to make an appeal, especially to young people: get to know Saint Frances Cabrini! Read her writings, filled with passion for Jesus and for the mission: her letters, her travel journals, and the notes from her retreats. Anyone who gets to know Mother Cabrini is captivated by her.

May Saint Cabrini help you to be in love with Christ, and witnesses to his Gospel with a dynamic and generous spirit, in service to the poorest.

Finally, I pray to the Lord for the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in all their communities: May God bless them and renew them in their fidelity to Mother Cabrini's charism.” ~ www.cabrineworld.org

To read the full text of the remarks of Pope Leo XIV and to view the video of his visit to Sant' Angelo Lodigiano, please click [here](#)



A Joyful Celebration of Mother Cabrini's Enduring Mission

Mother Cabrini Shrine was filled with joy as we celebrated the 80th anniversary of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini's canonization. We were especially delighted to welcome members of the Cabrini University alumni community, who spent the weekend on pilgrimage, retracing Mother Cabrini's footsteps and deepening the bond we share in her mission.



JoAnn Seaman, Executive Director of the Mother Cabrini Shrine, and dedicated staff and volunteers offered a warm and heartfelt welcome to the alumni from Cabrini University who were delighted to be among the Missionary Sisters and so many kindred Cabrini friends during their stay.

Our celebrations included an inspiring musicians' workshop and concert with renowned Catholic artists Steve Angrisano and Sarah Hart, whose music invited all of us to encounter the Sacred Heart of Jesus with renewed faith and hope. Steve and Sarah also joined our Shrine choirs for both English Masses on Sunday, enriching our liturgies with prayerful music and joyful worship.



World renowned liturgical musicians and composers Sarah Hart and Steve Angrisano performed a concert of inspiring music in the Shrine chapel during the weekend celebrations.



From left: At the Spanish Mass, Missionary Sisters Meseret, Sonnia and Maria Elena received flowers from the children to be placed in front of the statue of Mother Cabrini.

The weekend concluded with a moving evening featuring Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J., founder of Homeboy Industries, whose message of mercy, compassion, and human dignity beautifully echoed Mother Cabrini's own commitment to those on the margins.

We were also grateful for the presence of our Missionary Sisters, who joined pilgrims, staff,

volunteers, and friends in celebrating the mission we are all called to share.

Throughout the weekend, we were reminded that Mother Cabrini's legacy continues to unite people of all backgrounds in faith, service, and hope. It was a joyful celebration of her enduring mission and of all those who continue to carry it forward together. ~ submitted by JoAnn Seaman, Executive Director, Mother Cabrini Shrine, Golden, CO



Please note: Next week's Update will be the final edition for the summer. The Update will resume publication on Thursday, September 3rd. Prayer requests are always welcome and can be submitted to cabrininews@mothercabrini.org and will be published on Thursdays as they are received. Thank you and have a good summer!

Cabrini University Alumni on Pilgrimage to the Mother Cabrini Shrine

Mother Cabrini, in passing through Colorado, described this region:

“At every moment, the landscape changes: austere mountains whose peaks are white with glittering snow; hills all verdant with pines and roseate by reason of the color of the rocks and the soil; sharp peaks that seem to touch the sky where only the eagle nests...”



And thus, it was here, at the Mother Cabrini Shrine, nestled in Golden, at the foothills of the Rockies, that Cabrini University alums embarked upon a pilgrimage. It was the first time that such a trip had been organized by the CAVS Alumni Association, and we were delighted that ten alums - spanning many years of graduation - embarked on travels to Colorado to walk in the footsteps of Mother Cabrini.

Warmly welcomed by JoAnn Seaman, Executive Director of the Shrine, and her wonderful staff and volunteers, our group stayed in the Stone House which was originally designed by Mother Cabrini and which served as a summer residence for the orphans cared for by the Missionary Sisters. The alums were awestruck by the commanding views of Denver and the surrounding area that could be seen from the Stone House.

Our visit commenced with an orientation presented by Sr. Alice Zanon, MSC, which provided an historical context for our visit. Then, it was off to explore all the wonders of the Shrine property: the beautifully curated museum, the grotto, the Cabrini Gardens and the spring where Mother



The spring that Mother Cabrini discovered on the Shrine property continues to flow to this day. Pilgrims fill their vials with the holy water.

Cabrini first discovered water on the property that formerly had been dry. (The spring has never stopped flowing.)

The big challenge was to climb the 373 steps to the top of the mountain to visit the statue of the Sacred Heart and to view the stone heart first created by the orphans during the time of Mother Cabrini. Mission accomplished!

The weekend provided time for group reflection along with celebrations of the 80th Anniversary of St. Cabrini's canonization and her birthday. A festive dinner with the Shrine staff and volunteers, a liturgical concert and an uplifting Sunday morning liturgy were highlights. Much too soon, our visit ended with the intention to return again. Our sincere gratitude to everyone at the Shrine for making us feel so welcome.

~ submitted by the Cabrini CAVS Colorado Crew



Proudly wearing their Cabrini swag are Cabrini alums from left: Rita Genovese, '88, Marion Moore Schaeffer, '77 Marina Haley, '16, Nancy Gorevin Costello, '71, Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, '66, Sharon Agostine, '86, Suzanne Schoenhut, '96, Hollie Havens, '98, Kimberly Linden '88, and Janet Bauman. G'18

Do you know an alumnus, friend, family member or benefactor who would enjoy receiving The Update?

If so, kindly send their name and email address to:

cabrinineews@mothercabrini.org

We will add their contact information to our database so that when we resume publication in September, they will be in the loop!



Birthday Celebration at the Cabrini Cottage

Asking 'what would Mother Cabrini do during these uncertain and perilous times for immigrants and migrants?', the CAVS Alumni Association, in collaboration with the Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission,

hosted a birthday party for Mother Cabrini at the Cabrini Cottage in Wayne, PA, for members of the Cabrini University and Villanova University communities.



Cabrini alums Fran Carusi Brooks '82 and Greg Pasquarello '77 catch up at the party.

Guests were invited to honor Mother Cabrini by donating gift cards to Walmart, Target and Giant Foods which will be donated to nearby school districts that serve large populations of immigrant students.

The Immigration Commission collaborates with the school district social workers who intimately know the students and their families who

are in dire need - many of whom suffer from inadequate housing and food insecurity.

Providing the families with gift cards enables them to purchase food, clothing, and other necessities on their own which confers a sense of dignity and autonomy, especially during such stressful periods in their lives.



The gift card tree was a fun focal point of the party.



So happy to be celebrating Mother Cabrini's 176th Birthday!

Deepest thanks to all who joined in celebrating Mother Cabrini in such a meaningful and impactful way. Once again, this year, we have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity of the Cabrini and Villanova communities.

We trust Mother Cabrini would have been smiling...and is very grateful.

Cabrini High School Commemorates the 80th Anniversary of Mother Cabrini's Canonization



Cabrini High School's Sacred Heart Chapel for 80th Anniversary Mass.

On July 7, the Cabrini High School community gathered in the historic Sacred Heart Chapel to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. The celebration was especially meaningful as Mass was celebrated in the chapel on campus where Mother Cabrini spent hours in prayer while expanding her mission in New Orleans and beyond. Praying in the very place where she once worshipped offered alumnae, students, and friends a profound opportunity to reflect on the enduring legacy of Mother Cabrini, whose faith, courage, and example of leadership continue to shape the Cabrinian mission in New Orleans today.

One of the most moving moments of the liturgy came as Cabrini's Spanish students sang "*Gloria, Gloria, Madre Cabrini*," filling the chapel with a hymn honoring the school's patroness, and also when alumnae gathered during communion to sing another Spanish hymn.

Each attendee was given a commemorative prayer card modeled after the pamphlets that were showered over the crowds from airplanes in Rome on July 7, 1946. Featuring the same inscription that appeared on those original cards—"*Work, my daughters, for you have an eternity in which to rest.*"—the keepsake served as a tangible connection to that historic day eight decades ago and to Mother Cabrini's enduring call to lives of tenacious service.

In keeping with Mother Cabrini's lifelong devotion to orphaned and vulnerable children, attendees generously donated new, unwrapped toys that will be sent to orphaned children in Honduras. The service project transformed the anniversary celebration into an opportunity to continue Mother Cabrini's mission of bringing hope and compassion to those most in need.



Commemorative prayer card modeled after pamphlets originally distributed in Rome in 1946.



Cabrini students with Mission Integration Chair Vivian “Chica” Coutin.

~ Account continues on following page.

As the Cabrini community marked 80 years since Mother Cabrini's canonization, the celebration served as a reminder that her legacy is not confined to history. It lives on each day

through the faith, leadership, and service of all who carry forward her mission.

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



Cabrini High School alumnae gathered for the 80th Canonization Anniversary Mass.

One Minute Meditation

It's Up to Us!

These days, our lives can feel so hectic and out of control, so lacking in hope and joy. And yet every day, opportunities to experience joy and create peace-filled lives come our way. We have within us the enormous potential to create peace. It's a matter of how we view the people and experiences in our lives. Being willing to see things differently is all that we need. Every time we respond to a situation with love rather than anger, or fear, or hatred, we take a step toward a more peaceful life, and each step creates its own momentum for positive change - small changes that ripple their way ever outward, influencing other people, other communities and ultimately, the world.

~ Karen Casey, *All We Have is All We Need*, Used with permission - Words of Grace

Volunteering is a 'Work of Heart'



Recently we offered the Annual Retreat for our Cabrini Volunteers at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY. We offer this gathering every year and there is spiritual and sacramental content along with sharing among the volunteers and a refresher on the importance of prayer preparation for Communion Ministry and other areas of volunteering at Cabrini.

We begin with a beautiful breakfast and welcome to everyone, and we end with the celebration of the Eucharist which includes a service of Blessing and Re-Commitment by the volunteers.



Each year, St. Cabrini Nursing Home thanks the volunteers who give so generously of their time to serve residents.

Each year, the volunteers seem to look forward to this opportunity to gather together, pray together, and renew their commitment to Cabrini and to our residents. We have a wonderful group of volunteers who are so generous with their time and the positive impact they have on the lives of our residents and Cabrini at large is profound indeed.



Prayer Requests

Dr. Nancy Rush

Prayers are requested for Dr. Nancy Rush, former faculty member at Cabrini College. Dr. Rush was recently admitted to the hospital. Please pray for her return to good health.

Linda Shikitino's mother

Please say a prayer for Linda Shikitino's mother who is very ill at this time.

With Grateful Hearts

Frances Carole Meehan

Faithful readers of The Update will remember that last summer and fall, we were asking prayers for newborn baby Frances "Frankie" Meehan who was born with an immunity deficiency disorder and who had received a bone marrow transplant with her four-year-old brother, Grady, serving as her donor.



Frankie's grandmother, Nan, is happy to report that Frankie celebrated her 1st Birthday on July 8th and is healthy and happy. Nan's son, Frankie's dad, wore a medal of Mother Cabrini each day that Frankie was in the hospital for her procedure and during her recovery. Nan shares that "your prayers and inspiration carried our family through a tough year. Frankie is all better now."

Thanks to the Missionary Sisters and all the members of the Cabrini Community who prayed to Mother Cabrini to watch over Frankie throughout the many months of her hospitalization. As we can see, Frankie is thriving!

