



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

THE UPDATE

September 24, 2026

112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Sunday, September 27, 2026

The 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, centers on the theme **“Even Just One of These Children”** (Mt 18:5). Issued by Pope Leo XIV, this year's message turns global attention toward the millions of displaced minors—children and adolescents caught in forced migration, conflict, poverty, and environmental displacement. ~ Diocese of Portland - portlanddiocese.org



Key Focus Areas & Core Principles:

- **Human Dignity Over Statistics:** The papal message challenges global society to consider human movement. "Even just one" emphasizes that every displaced youth possesses inherent, inalienable dignity.
- **Extreme Vulnerability of Minors:** Displaced children face heightened risks, including family separation, trafficking, exploitation, loss of education, and severe psychological trauma along dangerous migration routes. www.vatican.va
- **A Shift from Management to Rights:** Faith leaders and international organizations call on governments to move beyond restrictive migration

enforcement and prioritize human rights, immediate physical safety, legal protection, and family reunification. www.usig.org

- **Integration and Pastoral Care:** Local communities, schools, and parishes are urged to move past simple charitable aid. Instead, the focus is on creating environments where young migrants can fully participate, overcome isolation, and build shared futures with host youth. www.vatican.va

Originating in 1914 under Pope Pius X, the World Day of Migrants and Refugees remains a call to action. The 112th observance reminds the international community that welcoming and protecting a vulnerable child is both an ethical imperative and a testament to shared humanity. Portlanddiocese.org

We are Called to Respond

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

This quotation challenges each of us to reflect more closely on the often-dire situations that drive children to migrate - often alone - in search of a safe haven.



- **What can I/we do to ensure that child migrants are not exploited but receive the care that they deserve?**
- **What steps can I/we take in our local community to welcome migrants and help them become more fully integration in their new home?**

To learn more about the Church teaching on migration, please visit:

www.justiceforimmigrants.org

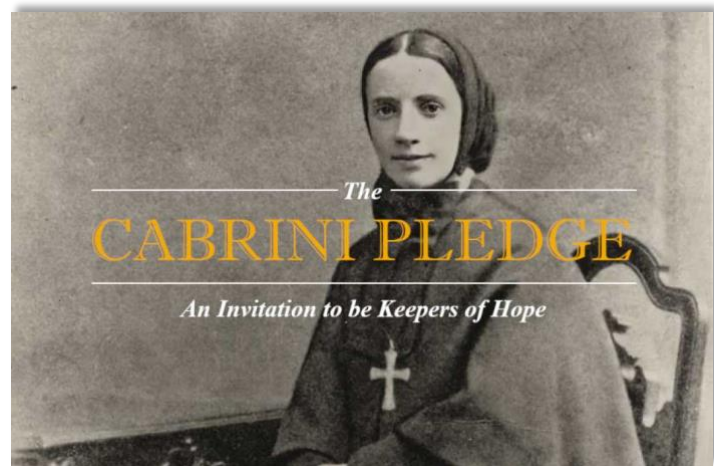
The Cabrini Pledge

The Cabrini Pledge is both a reminder of our immigrant heritage and a call to deeper engagement with our faith in response to current events. At a time when our culture is dominated by deep political divisions and reasonable disagreements about immigration policy, progress can feel impossible. But by witnessing to the God-given dignity of every person, including the migrants and refugees in our midst, we pave the way for an approach rooted in mercy, justice, and the common good. And together, like Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, we can be keepers of hope.

Explore the call

“Migrants and refugees remind the Church of her pilgrim dimension, perpetually journeying towards her final homeland, sustained by a hope that is a theological virtue.”

—Pope Leo XIV, *Message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees*

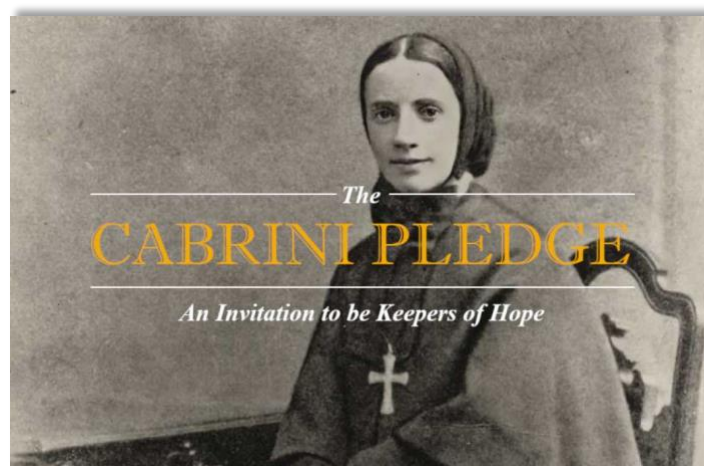


The history of the U.S. Catholic Church, like the history of the United States itself, is very much intertwined with the phenomenon of migration. The first American citizen to be canonized a saint, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, was the embodiment of this phenomenon. An immigrant from Italy, she adopted this country as her own. While often facing discrimination and seemingly impossible odds, she never succumbed to hopelessness. With relentless faith, she accompanied her fellow immigrants and others living on the margins of society with a great missionary zeal.

But Mother Cabrini’s challenges, and the challenges of those she served, are not unique among the generations of Catholics and immigrants in general who have come to this land. This is not just a matter of history. It is a present reality in the life of our Church and nation. ~ USCCB

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.
- **To 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.
- **To listen and learn about the circumstances facing migrants and refugees**, including those in my community, with an open heart and mind.
- **To seek opportunities for encounter**, so as to grow in deeper understanding and communion that leads to an authentic solidarity with those in need.
- **To consider what it means to be a good neighbor** and how I am called to reflect the love and hope of Christ to others.
- **To encourage civic dialogue that places the human person and the sanctity of families at the center of policymaking**, especially toward the end of meaningful immigration reform.
- **To join with Pope Leo in praying for all migrants and refugees** as fellow travelers on the journey to our true homeland. ~ USCCB



Citizenship Day!

Last Saturday, nine attorneys and a crew of volunteers joined Dominicanos USA (DUSA) at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York City for a free citizenship clinic.



Photo above and right: Nine attorneys were on hand at St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine to assist people who are seeking citizenship. The paperwork can be extensive and confusing. Having attorneys and volunteers to assist can lessen anxiety and facilitate the process.

The goal was to help people seeking to become citizens complete the paperwork needed. DUSA assisted about 60 people and completed 40 applications with full legal reviews. Bonus: when a pilgrimage group visiting the Shrine was curious about what was going on, the director of DUSA spoke with them and offered them the same service information via Zoom.

~submitted by Julia Attaway, St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine, NYC



RAISING OUR VOICES in SONG for OTHERS

This Saturday at 4pm St. Frances Cabrini Shrine will hold a neighborhood-wide sing-in to learn songs of strength and solidarity in the Civil rights tradition. These songs of protest will give us a peaceful way to raise our voices in protest to stand up for what's right. **Free. All ages are welcome.**

Getting the School Year Off to a Great Start!

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is observing National Migration Week from Monday, September 21st through Sunday, September 27th. The theme of the week is, “Even just one of these children.”



Surrounded by an abundance of pencils, crayons, and folders, Fr. Ron Galt blesses these necessities for all the children who will receive them that they will have a productive school year.

blessed the supplies, each child, their families, and the staff of CIS-DF. He also blessed each individual family and prayed that they would have a very good and safe school year.



To start off National Migration Week, Cabrini Immigrant Services – Dobbs Ferry (CIS-DF) distributed much needed school supplies to many of our children. The Mission Integration Advisory Committee at St. Cabrini Nursing Home held a ‘Mission in Action’ project. They chose to collect school supplies to benefit our Cabrini Kids. What a beautiful way to honor our children.

We received an amazing number of supplies. The children and their parents were so happy and relieved to receive them. There were many smiles on their faces. Fr. Ron Galt, Vice President of Pastoral Care and Mission, visited CIS-DF to help distribute the supplies. He



Fr. Ron blessed each child and family.

Thank you to all who donated to the Mission in Action project. We are so grateful for all your prayers, love and support. ~ Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS-DF

Witness to Hope: Pastoral Care of Immigrant Communities

Witness to Hope: Pastoral Care of Immigrant Communities was a regional conference hosted on September 17–18, 2026, at Villanova University. Co-sponsored by Villanova's Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and Catholic IMMpact, the gathering convened Church leaders, scholars, advocates, and pastoral ministers from across the Mid-Atlantic states.



A distinguished panel of legal and immigration experts offered differing insights on the ways in which the Catholic community can respond. The conference was a collaborative outreach of the Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration led by Michele Pistone, JD, LLM, Faculty Director (r.) and Fr. John Lydon, OSA, Director. (r. seated.)

The conference was designed to translate Catholic Social Teaching into actionable strategies for parish and diocesan leaders serving immigrant populations. It addressed the heightened fears and legal

uncertainties faced by migrant families while reinforcing the Catholic mandate to offer compassionate pastoral accompaniment and protection.

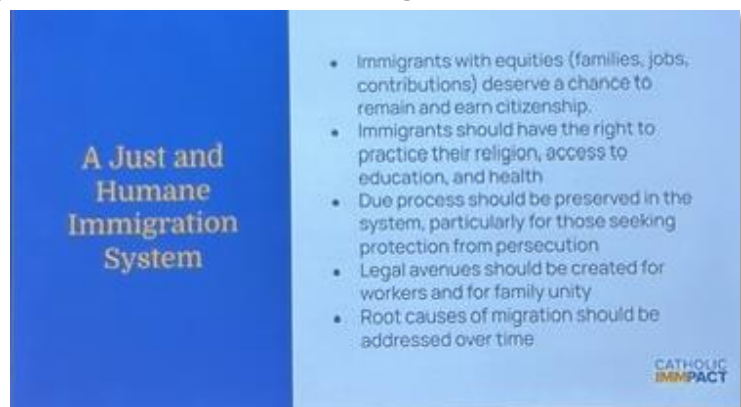
Key Themes & Agenda

- **Understanding Rights & Legal Realities:**

Presentations and workshops covered the current immigration enforcement landscape, practical guidance on "know-your-rights" protections and navigating legal statuses such as Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and humanitarian parole.

- **Lived Experiences:**

Personal testimonies from immigrants grounded the academic and theological discussions in real-world struggles.



- **Spiritual & Pastoral Support:**

Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia celebrated Mass for participants, and Bishop Bruce Lewandowski delivered a keynote address urging deeper solidarity and active accompaniment within local faith communities.

- **Actionable Diocesan Strategies:**

Sessions featuring representatives from the USCCB, the Hope Border Institute, and Welcome.US provided concrete tools for outreach, community education, and assistance with pathway-to-citizenship programs.



Attending the Witness to Hope Conference were from left: Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC; Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission Co-Chair Karol Brewer; former Cabrini University faculty member Dr. Maria Elena Hallion (c.) representing the Camden Diocese; Nancy Costello and Dr. Jerry Zurek, Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission members.

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, Karol Brewer, Co-Chair of the Cabrini Immigration Commission, Nancy Costello and Dr. Jerry Zurek, Immigration Commission members attended the conference on behalf of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred. Heart of Jesus.

Equipping pastoral leaders with policy knowledge, crisis planning tools, and advocacy strategies, the conference aimed to build

supportive, bridge-building structures for vulnerable immigrant communities.



Archbishop Nelson J. Perez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, officiated at the Mass in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church on campus during the Witness to Hope conference.

Gathered in Prayer for Immigrant Children



Storytellers, candle lighters, volunteers and residents collaborated to make the prayer service for immigrant children so meaningful.

St. Cabrini Nursing Home observed National Migration Week by having a special prayer service in honor of migrants and refugees. Keeping with the theme of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), “Even just one of these

children,” there were songs, scripture, prayers, storytelling and reflections. The theme, chosen by Pope Leo XIV calls us to reflect on Matthew 18:5: “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

The prayer service opened with the song, All Are Welcome, a reminder that we are all God’s children. We prayed a special Litany, ‘Immigrants Are a Blessing,’ which, reminded us to praise God for the blessing of the stranger. Dr. Wendy Mages, a storyteller, told the story, ‘The Giving Tree’ by Shel Silverstein. She invited each of us, in our own way, to welcome those in need and offer them the comfort of a place to sit with us and reside in peace.



Members of the St. Cabrini Nursing Home community lit candles in honor of immigrant children who are stranded, without parents, and are victims of bullying and human trafficking.

Following the story, we lit individual candles for children who have been stranded, separated from parents, victims of human trafficking, bullied and so have been done to them. Sr. Carol D’Angelo, SC, gave a beautiful reflection on Micah 6:8. She reminded us that each of us is called to have a heart that desires justice, goodness and walking



Everyone present was invited to sign the Cabrini Pledge seeking ways to support immigrants, migrants and refugees and upholding the dignity of all people.

humbly with God. Our hearts should embrace respect and dignity for ourselves and those we meet and to accept God's unconditional love for ourselves and others. Before the solemn blessing, everyone was invited to sign the Cabrini Pledge. The Pledge, initiated by the



USCCB, invites us to affirm the dignity of all people, especially migrants and refugees. It is based on Catholic social teaching and uses the example of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

~ submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, Cabrini Immigrant Services-Dobbs Ferry, NY



ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

Immigration, Migrants & Refugees:

WHAT WOULD MOTHER CABRINI DO?

Monday, September 21, 2026 at 7pm
Harten Hall, St. Thomas of Villanova Parish

Please join us for an interactive panel discussion about Mother Cabrini, America's first saint, and how her mission of caring and compassion is needed now more than ever. Our speakers will be Eustace Wolfington, Martie Gillin and Michele Pistone, Faculty Director of the Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration at Villanova University.

RSVP to Parish Center: 610-525-4801 or office@stvparish.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!



What Would Mother Cabrini Do?

On Monday, September 21st, as a part of their Women's Speaker Series, the St. Thomas of Villanova Parish in Villanova, PA presented **What Would Mother Cabrini Do?** as a parish conversation in response to the immigration

issues at this time in our nation. Mr. Eustace Wolfington, the executive producer of the CABRINI film, and his sister, Martie Gillen, shared their experiences of producing the movie and the outcomes of showing the films in prisons and to high school students throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



Eustace Wolfington relates his experience of producing the CABRINI film. He shared that the initial idea/request for the movie came from Sr. Mary Louise Sullivan, MSC, PhD. Michele Pistone, Faculty Director of the Mother Cabrini Institute at Villanova University, served as the moderator.

Michele Pistone, the Faculty Director of the Mother Cabrini

Institute on Immigration, served as the moderator of a the lively, outcomes-oriented group discussion that followed the remarks by Mr. Wolfington and Mrs. Gillen.

Prayer Requests

Peter Dolan

Kindly pray for Peter, the son of the late Kevin Dolan, who is undergoing a procedure in Columbia Presbyterian Hospital this week. Pray that all will be well.

Immigrant, Migrant and Refugee Children

Loving God, we lift up all immigrant, migrant, and refugee children seeking safety, hope, and a place to call home. Surround them with Your divine protection on every step of their journey, and shield their hearts from fear, trauma, and confusion. Grant them loving hands to hold, warm shelter to rest in, and communities that welcome them with dignity and kindness. May they find peace in new beginnings, comfort in Your unfailing presence, and the promising future You have prepared for them.



Margo Litwin

We invite your prayers for Margo for her ongoing health issues.

Alessandro Quagliariello

Prayers are requested for Alessandro Quagliariello, brother of Cabrini University alum Lia Quagliariello Abernathy '98. Sandro recently had surgery to have tumors removed from his spine. However, as a result of the surgery, he has lost all feeling from the waist down. He is currently using a wheelchair and facing a challenging road toward healing and regaining strength and mobility. Please pray for comfort, patience, and strength as his recovery progresses each day.

Infant Zachary Wagner

Please pray for baby Zachary Wagner, the newborn son of Cabrini alumna Chelsea Frank Wagner '15 and her husband Alexander Wagner. Zachary was born on Friday, September 18th and had to undergo surgery following his birth. Please pray that all will be well with Zachary, and Chelsea, as she recovers.

Don Wingerter

We are asked to keep Don Wingerter, husband of Florence Wingerter from New Orleans, in our prayers. He is undergoing tests on October 1st and 2nd. Pray for his ongoing healing.