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

THE UPDATE

November 12, 2026

Educator, Missionary, Patroness of Immigrants

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

Feast Day - Friday, November 13th

This year, **as we observe the 80th Anniversary of her canonization**, we reflect upon the fact that complex personality factors combined to make Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini an outstanding woman of her era. Without a doubt she possessed that intangible element known as charisma. Only a charismatic personality could have attracted so many followers and captivated the attention of both the powerful and lowly of this world.



Portrait of St. Cabrini by Cissie Brothers Gardner, Chair, Fine Arts Department, Cabrini High School. Displayed with CHS permission.

Cabrini was a modern woman. Her interests were extensive. She certainly did not adapt readily to the role expected of late nineteenth and early twentieth century women religious. She was an entrepreneur and world traveler, keenly aware of the currents of thought in the world of her time.

Cabrini foresaw the 20th and 21st centuries as times of sweeping change and therefore, tailored her philosophy of education, healthcare, and social service to accentuate the intrinsic value and dignity of each human being touched by her Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Frances Cabrini was a woman endowed with special understanding and insight.

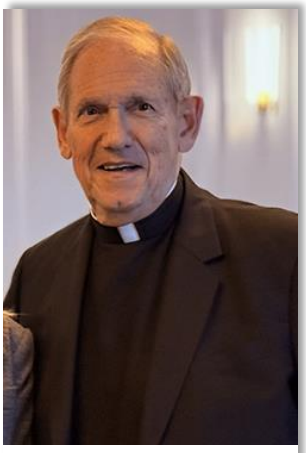
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, guided by the light of Christ and the love of God for his children, blazed a path still brightly illuminated throughout a world which was too small for her zeal. She invites us all to follow in her footsteps of love and service.

~ excerpts from Mother Cabrini, "Italian Immigrant of the Century" by Sr. Mary Louise Sullivan, MSC, PhD and. In Weakness, Strength, The Life and Missionary Activity of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

2520 N. Lakeview, Chicago IL 60614 773 360 5115 www.cabrininationalshrine.org

The National Shrine, located in Chicago, continued its celebration of Mother Cabrini's 80th anniversary of her canonization with its annual benefit event.



Msgr. Kenneth Velo served as emcee of the event.

On the evening of October 21st, 125 followers and supporters of the National Shrine gathered at Salon 61 to commemorate Mother Cabrini and the work that is being done to continue her work throughout the Chicagoland area.

Msgr. Kenneth Velo emceed the evening's event, leading the attendees in fun, fellowship and philanthropy. Due to a very generous donor, the specific operational goal was met prior to our evening's event. This allowed the 'raise the paddle' segment to generate additional funds for daily operational needs.



Photo above from left: Jessica, Brian and Linda Milam, Michelle Panettieri and John Hickey enjoy conversation at the Shrine benefit.
Photo below from left: Sophie Mueller, Julie Zahrebelski, and Mary and Tom Bucaro, the presenting sponsors.



This year's event also hosted an on-line auction which highlighted several trips and one-of-a-kind experiences. All of these exceeded our previous year's benefit event totals.

We are beyond grateful for all the work the staff and volunteers, led by Barb Willis – Development Director, put into making this such a huge success and we thank all attendees and sponsors for their support. We are truly blessed!

~ submitted by Laurie Halaska, Executive Director, National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

For more photos click here

Paint and Sip

Cabrini Immigrant Services – Dobbs Ferry (CIS-DF) held a Paint and Sip Program on November 4th. Ethel Zai, a well-known artist from Dobbs Ferry, NY and a longtime CIS-DF volunteer led the group. Ethel, along with her two helpers, Melanie and Angela, led us in creating our very own fall-inspired works of art.



Ethel Zai, a local artist in Dobbs Ferry, NY led an autumn art workshop at CIS-Dobbs Ferry.

While 'sipping' on coffee, the participants changed a blank white canvas into a beautiful fall scene. Pictures of colorful autumn leaves and trees brought out the beauty of season.

Ethel and her helpers provided instructions and encouragement along the way. The experience was enjoyable for both the experienced painters and for beginners. There was plenty of laughter, smiles and pride as we shared our paintings with each other.

Thank you, Ethel, for sharing your talent with us. We look forward to your returning so we can paint our winter scenes. ~ *submitted by Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS-DF*



Behold the newly created fall masterpieces by the ladies' group at Cabrini Immigrant Services.

They bring forth the beauty of autumn in Dobbs Ferry, NY





For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit our event page:

https://cabrinifoundation.org/events/spirit-of-christmas-2026/



Prayer Requests

A friend

Please unite in prayer so that someone who is currently in remission with cancer will continue on this course of good health.

Cabrini University Staff Member

Please unite in prayer for a former staff member at Cabrini University who is recovering from heart surgery. She would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

Mia Morris

Today, please be especially mindful of Mia Morris, 6 year-old cousin of Cabrini College alums Robin Larkins and Debbie Larkins Damiano. Mia will be having open heart surgery at Children's Hospital this afternoon to implant a device to help with a heart condition that has been causing seizures. It is the hope that the surgery can help return this brave little girl to a more normal life and her 1st grade class. Prayers for the family, medical team and all caregivers - especially her parents, grandparents and younger sister Emma.

Sally Pasquarello

Kindly say a prayer for Sally Pasquarello, the mother of Cabrini College alumnus Greg Pasquarello '77, who is currently hospitalized. Greg and his siblings would be so grateful for our prayers for their mom.



Prayer for Veterans

Gracious Creator, we give thanks for the men and women who have served in our armed forces. We honor their courage, their sacrifice, and their dedication to protecting our freedoms. Bring healing to those who carry the physical and unseen wounds of service and grant them and their families your lasting peace. May we always support them with the same loyalty they have shown to us. Amen.

Vince Santivasi

Please pray for Vince Santivasi, the nephew of Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC, who is recovering from emergency surgery. Pray that all may be well

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With Grateful Hearts



Thankful for the prayers

A Cabrini College alumna who requested our prayers for a favorable outcome of medical tests wishes to thank everyone. All test results were normal. She is grateful to Mother Cabrini, her special saint, and to the Cabrinian community for remembering her in your prayers.

Prayer to St. Cabrini

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, our first American Saint, pray for us.
You came to the United States as an immigrant yourself, and worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor, the sick, and the otherwise marginalized
who arrived on our shores.

As the Patroness of Immigrants, you have a special concern for those displaced from their homeland and in search of a new life elsewhere.
You understand their sufferings and the challenges they face
as they navigate a new world in search of a new home.
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, intercede for migrant families who are separated from one another, protect them from exploitation, and keep them safe.

May we, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, receive through your prayers the grace to open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality
for all who come in search of refuge.

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Give us the courage to welcome every stranger as Christ in our midst.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.



In Peace and Solidarity, the Faithful Philly Team