Now Thank We All Our God

with hearts and hands and voices…



Gracious and loving God, Source of all life and abundance, we gather with hearts overflowing with gratitude for the countless gifts You have poured out upon humanity.

We thank You for the gift of this earth, the harvest that sustains us, and the hands that labor to provide food for us to share. Above all, we thank You for the extraordinary gift of one another—for the vibrant tapestry of your human family across every nation, culture, language, and walk of life. In our rich diversity, we see a reflection of your boundless creativity and grace.

Thank You for the gifts of compassion, resilience, and hope that You have woven into every person, uniting us as neighbors and kin regardless of our differences.

Bless the gatherings we will share and bless our hearts to be generous stewards of all You have given us, extending Your love and peace with all of humanity. Amen.

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

Grateful for Our Many Blessings



Dr. Wendy Mages, storyteller, shared the book, The Grateful Tree with the children.

Cabrini Immigrant Services, Dobbs Ferry, NY (CIS-DF), held a **STARS** (**S**tory**T**elling, **A**rt, **R**eading and **S**ocialization) Program for students in Grades 2-3. Dr. Wendy Mages, a trained storyteller, told the story, *The Grateful Tree* by Paul Mason.

The book was about four friends who discover a magical garden. There is a special tree in the garden called the Thankful Tree. The tree asked the children to tell it what they are thankful for. As they shared their gratitude, the garden became even more magical.

After listening to the story, the children shared all the things for which they are grateful. They spoke about family, friends, faith, school, and so much more. As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, it was a wonderful opportunity to pause and reflect on the many blessings in our lives. The children then created their very own Grateful Tree, decorating them with colorful leaves. Some even added special messages sharing the things they are most thankful for!



A youngster's rendering of The Grateful Tree.

The children were so happy to receive a copy of the book so they can read it at home to their parents and their siblings.

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

The Update Publication Schedule

Please note that due to the Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 26th in the US, The Update will not be published next Thursday.

In December, The Update will be published on: Thursday, December 3rd & Thursday, December 10th. The Christmas edition will be on: TUESDAY, December 15th. This will be the final edition for 2026.

The Update will resume publication on Thursday, January 7, 2027.

Feast of St. Frances Cabrini at Mother Cabrini Shrine

We joyfully celebrated the Feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Colorado with a 12 p.m. Mass on Friday, November 13.

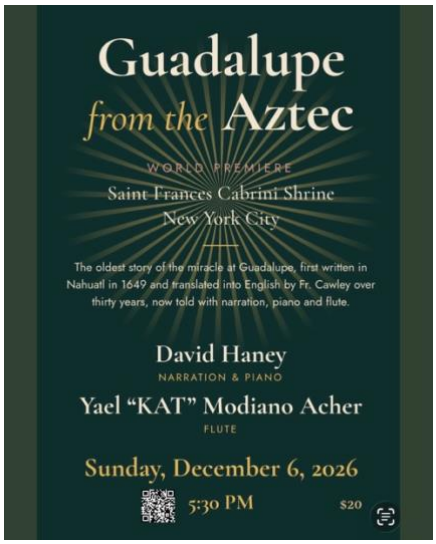


Sr. Alice Zanon, MSC (r.) and Br. Jude Quinto, O.F.M., Cap. (l.) are delighted to make the acquaintance of young Miss Cabrini Elmer who came to the Shrine dressed as Mother Cabrini, her namesake.

One of the highlights of the day was a very special little girl named Cabrini, who came dressed as her patron saint, and along with her siblings brought the gifts to the altar during the offertory procession. What a beautiful reminder of how Mother Cabrini continues to inspire new generations.

Our celebration continued Sunday at all three Masses, with our Spanish-speaking community honoring Mother Cabrini through traditional dances filled with joy and gratitude. It was a wonderful weekend of faith, celebration, and thanksgiving for the extraordinary gift of Mother Cabrini and her mission that continues here at the Shrine.

~ submitted by JoAnn Seaman, Exec. Dir. Mother Cabrini Shrine



Upcoming on December 6: Guadalupe from the Aztec

On Sunday, December 6, St. Frances Cabrini Shrine will host the world premier of Guadalupe From the Aztec. This narrated performance for flute and piano is built around the oldest account of the miracle at Guadalupe, written Nahuatl in 1649 and translated into English by Trappist monk Fr. Martinus Cawley, OCSO. Yael Acher (flute) and David Hawley (piano) are both award-winning performers. There is one performance only.

$20 admission.

Dual Cabrini Feast Celebrations in Pennsylvania



For the very first time, the Cabrini University CAVS Alumni and the Cabrini Immigration Commission observed Cabrini Feast Day Week in concert with the Villanova University community as together they honored St. Frances Xavier Cabrini on her November 13th Feast Day which is also St. Augustine's birthday.

A series of events organized by the CAVS Council, the Villanova Office for Mission & Ministry and the Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration, unfolded throughout the week that honored the intertwined legacies of St. Augustine and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

A showing of the **CABRINI** film was a stirring reminder of the indefatigable saint as she sought to serve the Italian immigrants in New York and all those on the margins of society.

Lots of Hats and Mittens





Photo right: Due to the generosity of the MSCs, the Cabrini University community, the Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration at Villanova University and St. Thomas of Villanova Parish, immigrant children will be warm and cozy this winter with the abundance of mittens, hats and scarves that were donated during Cabrini Week.
Photo above: Cabrini alumni Fran Carusi Brooks '82, Faith Pitsikoulis '22, Nancy Gorevin Costello '71 and Hillary Hoch Chybinski '90 rally around Mother Cabrini to display some of the many winter hats and mittens that were donated.

Throughout the week, to benefit immigrant children, the CAVS Mission and Service Committee, in collaboration with the Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration, sponsored a winter essentials clothing drive. Through the generosity of the Cabrinian and Villanova communities, colorful mittens, hats and scarves were placed in donation bins on the Villanova and Cabrini campuses. These will be distributed to local PA school districts that serve a large immigrant population.

Cabrini - Villanova Feast Day Events

The Feast Day began with a prayer service on the Cabrini campus. A noontime Mass on the Villanova campus was followed by a keynote presentation given by Dr. Kathleen Cummings entitled, "Embracing the World, The Legacy of Mother Cabrini." (Dr. Cummings serves on the Board of Trustees at the National Shrine of St. Frances Cabrini in Chicago.)





Photo right: Michele Pistone, Faculty Director of the Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration, welcomes guests to the keynote presentation on Mother Cabrini given by Dr. Kathleen Cummings.
Photo below right: Dr. Kathleen Cummings (r.) shown here in an earlier photo with Sr. Maria Barbagallo, MSC, while engaging in research on Mother Cabrini.

The week ended with the Cabrini Day of Service. Cabrini alums from a cross section of decades gathered at The Joy of Sox in Phoenixville, PA, where they packaged new socks for distribution to men, women and children experiencing homelessness.



Cabrini College/University alumni spanning many decades concluded Cabrini Week engaged in a day of service by packaging new socks for those who are living unhoused.

Cabrini alumni were encouraged to engage in service for causes that were personally meaningful wherever they were located. Such service demonstrates the ways in which the Cabrini University community carries forth the legacy of Mother Cabrini in today's world making a fitting capstone to a week of celebration.

Mother Cabrini Week Honors the Woman Who United Generations

Mother Cabrini Week brought our foundress's story into life at Cabrini High School in New Orleans. From students dressed as Mother Cabrini leading trivia to paper boats recalling her childhood dreams of becoming a missionary, each day connected Mother Cabrini's story to the class emblems our Crescents proudly carry. This yearly tradition gives students opportunities to learn more about Mother Cabrini, build class spirit, and enjoy plenty of laughter.



Students dressed in costume for Mother Cabrini trivia is always a campus favorite during Mother Cabrini Week.

Each day highlighted a class emblem and its connection to Mother Cabrini's story: the Senior Angels recalled her rescue from drowning; the Freshmen Doves, her Italian roots; the Pre-Freshmen Hearts, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; the Junior Stars, the guidance of Our Lady Star of the Sea; and the Sophomore Violets, her childhood dreams of becoming a missionary. Students brought these stories to life through activities such as decorating prayer jars, painting miniature canvases, and scrambling about campus on scavenger hunts for class emblems.

At the same time, a canned food drive took center stage and carried her spirit of service into the week. Students and their families donated pantry items to Love Your Neighbor NOLA, a non-profit begun by alumna Nadia Sanchez, Class of 2005. The connection to alumnae continued throughout the week as our 2026 Alumna of the Year, Paula Pizzaloto '73, addressed the student body about the extraordinary role alumnae play in carrying Cabrini's mission forward. At the end of the week, the 50th reunion class, the Class of 1976, returned to campus to receive their 50-year pins, keepsakes that resemble the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Students received tiny figures of Jesus at the Faith Rally.

Thursday brought something entirely new to school. Our first-ever Faith Rally filled the Cabrini Arena with the Holy Spirit. Was it a pep rally? Was it a revival? Yes, and yes! For certain, the Faith Rally, with its praise music and clever faith-related and Mother Cabrini-themed relay games, brought the community together in spirit and officially became our newest—and perhaps already a favorite—tradition.



Archbishop James F. Checchio with members of our Campus Ministry Team and Campus Minister Nicole Jouandot (l.).

The school week ended with a Feast Day Mass celebrated by Archbishop James F. Checchio, during which 400 members of the school community gathered in Our Lady of the Rosary Church. After the Mass, student members of our Campus Ministry team guided the archbishop on a tour through our holy and historic grounds, visiting Mother Cabrini's bedroom, chapel, shrine, and sacred spaces. Sharing those places allowed our students to tell her story where it unfolded and demonstrate their pride in the mission entrusted to them.

The entire celebration culminated on Saturday with our annual Alumnae Luncheon, where generations of Crescents gathered to reconnect, celebrate their lasting sisterhood, and honor the woman and legacy that keep us united as a Cabrinian family.

Here is a link to the video recapping the faith rally: https://www.instagram.com/p/DfqXae6t5Ex/

A Cabrini Homecoming



This week, Cabrini College/University alumni and faculty gathered on the Cabrini campus of Villanova University for a pre-Thanksgiving luncheon. Renewing friendships and sharing fond memories, are from left: Carolyn Wilson Albright; Hollie Havens; Carol Serrota, Cathy Yungmann; Dr. Adeline Bethany; Dr. Jerry Zurek; Dr. Marilyn Johnson; Dr. Sharon Schwarze; David Katz; Ruby Remley and Dr. Joseph Romano. Many, many years of dedicated service are represented in this photo! We give thanks for the many students they gifted with 'the education of the heart.' Happy Thanksgiving!

SO Many People!



The Feast at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine stretched from Friday morning through Sunday night. There were five Masses in all, one for school children (275 of them!), and one each for the Italian, Filipino, English-speaking and Spanish-speaking communities.

There were three Director's Talks, cookies from Arthur Avenue, and to close it all out a spectacular chamber orchestra concert of Italian spiritual masterworks. Blessings to all who came, prayed, and celebrated with us!

~ submitted by Julia Attaway, Executive Director, St. Frances Cabrini Shrine





Clockwise from photo right: Catholic School Mass; blessing with the relic; Filipino Mass and the Italian Mass - all were celebrations of the St. Cabrini Feast Day over the course of last weekend at the NY Shrine.



Once again, our beloved tradition of Advent reflections offered by the Cabrini Lay Missionaries will grace our Advent season. The meditation for the first week in Advent is given by Angela Campbell, PhD, CLM.

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

As we enter this sacred season of Advent, I find myself reflecting with profound gratitude on the extraordinary grace of Christ's coming into the world and the immeasurable mercy revealed through His life, death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, chose not to enter our world surrounded by earthly power, wealth, or privilege, but through the humility and vulnerability of a child born in a manger. What an extraordinary expression of divine love! The One through whom all things were created entered His own creation to restore us to communion with God. His arrival was a profound gift of grace, His earthly life a living revelation of God's love, and His willing sacrifice on the Cross the ultimate expression of divine mercy. Through His death, burial, and glorious resurrection, Christ conquered sin and death, opening for us the way to forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life with Him.



Advent invites us to contemplate not only the miracle of His coming, but the very purpose for which He came: to reveal the Father's love, to heal what was wounded, to reconcile what was broken, and to restore humanity to the way of wholeness and fullness of life for which we were created.

As a Cabrini Lay Missionary who has renewed my vows to be a bearer of the love of Christ to the world, I experience this Advent season as both a sacred invitation and an enthusiastic commitment to being continually confirmed to the Spirit of Christ. My vows are a daily call to surrender my heart, my will, and my very life to the transformative love of Jesus Christ. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini understood this calling with extraordinary clarity and courage. Rooted in an abiding love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mother Cabrini recognized that Christ's love was not meant to remain confined to one place or one people. Rather, it was meant to move outward, crossing oceans, borders, cultures, and every human barrier that separates us from one another. Her life reminds us that the love of Christ becomes most visible when we allow ourselves to become instruments of His mercy, precious grace and abiding love. I welcome the Advent of His coming and continual renewal of my heart, mind and soul. Blessings to All during this blessed Advent season. ~ *Angela Campbell, PhD, CLM*

Prayer Requests

Cabrini College Alumna

A Cabrini College alumna has asked for our prayers as she struggles with some difficult family matters.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Loving and generous God, at this time of Thanksgiving, we lift up in gratitude the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank you for their steadfast devotion, their joyful hospitality, and the tireless compassion with which they carry the spirit of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini into the world.



Bless the Sisters as they continue to be bearers of Christ's love to the vulnerable, the immigrant, the sick, and all those in need of hope. Grant them renewed strength, deep peace, and abundant joy in their shared mission and community.

Prayers for friends

Dr. Candi Sicoli, Cabrini University faculty emerita, requests prayers for a friend whose older daughter is in the final stages of cancer, and for his younger daughter who was found deceased in a car. Dr. Sicoli's friend himself is suffering from multiple myeloma. Please keep this family in your prayers as they are in great distress.

In Loving Memory

Stephen Johnson

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Stephen Johnson, the beloved father of Julia Attaway, who returned home to God on November 13th. Julia is the Executive Director of the St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine in New York. May his legacy continue in the lives of his family members.

Charlie Sullivan

Your prayers are invited for Charlie Sullivan, the uncle of Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC, who returned home to God on Nov. 14th after a long illness. Please pray for his wife, Barbara, and all in his family.