



October 10, 2024

## The Synod Reopens in Rome

~ by Christopher White, National Catholic Reporter

Throughout the October 2-27 synod, some 400 delegates from all over the world will meet in Rome to bring to a close a years long consultation process Pope Francis [launched](#) in 2021. It invited Catholics from around the world to have their say in how the church might become more inclusive and better at listening to all its members.



Millions of Catholics [responded](#), and at last year's first session of the synod, the delegates — representing a wide array of views and backgrounds — engaged in intense and sometimes heated discussions on several contentious issues facing the church. They addressed issues including clergy abuse, the role of women in ministry, inclusion of LGBTQ Catholics and other questions surrounding church authority.

As the delegates reconvene, Francis has [insisted](#) that he doesn't want hot-button issues to dominate the event. Rather, he wants the assembly to focus on how the church's structures can encourage greater participation and to determine where there is room for "legitimate diversity" among local churches on different issues and practices.

"With the help of the Holy Spirit, we must listen to and understand these voices — that is, the ideas, the expectations, the proposals — so as to discern together the voice of God speaking to the church," Francis said at the opening Mass in St. Peter's

Pope Francis, who has made synodality the [centerpiece](#) of his papacy and the primary vehicle for implementing church reforms, told those gathered that the issues facing

the synod are "great and delicate" and must be guided by humility and careful listening, but always seeking harmony. **To read the entire account, please click [here](#)**

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## Colorado Celebrates Cabrini Day

This year, on October 7th, Mother Cabrini Shrine in Colorado celebrated Cabrini Day, a holiday dedicated to the remarkable life and legacy of Frances Xavier Cabrini. Recognized as the first woman in the United States to be honored with a paid state holiday, this special day was made possible through a bill signed into law in 2020 by Colorado Gov. Jared Polis.



The Shrine hosted a variety of engaging events for all ages during the Cabrini Day festivities. A pop-up museum showcased several artifacts, providing a unique window into Mother Cabrini's life and work. Additionally, a noon Mass was celebrated with ten members of our clergy, Missionary Sisters, and Shrine staff, local elementary school children, and many others who gathered to pay tribute to St. Frances Cabrini's inspiring contributions to Colorado and the world. The celebrations continued with a captivating screening of "Cabrini," the movie, held within the tranquil atmosphere of the chapel.



In the soaring chapel of the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO, Fr. John Lager, OFM, Cap., concelebrates Mass on Cabrini Day. Colorado has declared the first Monday in October as a statewide holiday in honor of Mother Cabrini.

Blessed with beautiful autumn weather, the atmosphere at Mother

Cabrini Shrine was warm and inviting, reflecting the community spirit that Mother Cabrini held so dear. Cabrini Day serves as a powerful reminder of her lasting impact and the Shrine's ongoing commitment to sharing her story and providing a unique, peaceful environment for visitors to experience God's loving presence.

*-submitted by Molly Johnson for the Mother Cabrini Shrine*

# Perpetual Pilgrims Share Their Experiences

Last May, the St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine was the launch point for the Manhattan leg of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. The chapel was packed to overflowing with the faithful who took to the streets with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



From left; Pilgrims Marina Fratelli, Zoe Dongas, and Fr. Roger Landry discuss their experiences on the road with Jesus.

On Tuesday three of the "perpetual pilgrims" returned to the Shrine to discuss their experiences during nearly three months on the road with the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Roger Landry, Zoe Dongas, and Marina Fratelli each spoke with compelling faith about what it was like.

Marina was a new convert to Catholicism and began the pilgrimage just days after graduating from law school. For her, participating meant giving up the two months she had available to study for the bar exam. Zoe Dongas had to quit her job to become a pilgrim, because her employer would not allow her that much time off. Neither young woman regretted her decision in the slightest.

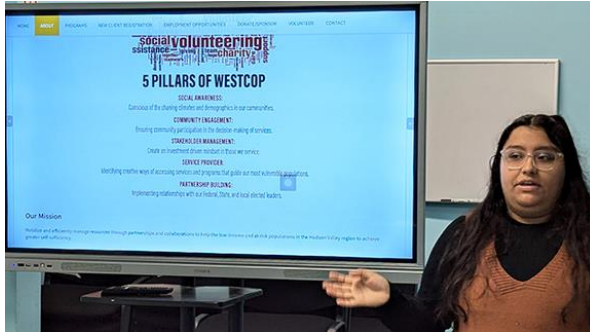
Fr. Landry spoke of the intensity of walking with the Blessed Sacrament mere inches from his face for six or eight hours a day. The end result: he can no longer live with just one holy hour a day.

The witness of these three pilgrims who traveled with Jesus in heat waves and in rain, in prisons and on boats, was exhilarating. It left us all inspired to step out boldly in faith to bring the Gospel to the world. ~ submitted by Julia Attaway, Exec., St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine





# Lending A Hand to Help Others



Rocio Soria-Morales, a social work intern, organized the Giving Back Program. She shares information about the recipients, WestCOP.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, when the schools were closed, some of our students came to Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry for a Giving Back Program. We had students from elementary and high school working together to make 200 bags of toiletries. The program was organized by Rocio Soria-Morales, a social work intern at CIS, who attends Hunter College.

The packets were donated to Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (WestCOP). Rocio shared with the students the different programs that WestCOP offers. One of the many programs is the Victims Assistance Services. This program provides services to crime victims and their families, friends and loved ones. Our packets will be used for this program. The packets contained bars of soap, deodorant, a toothbrush and toothpaste, tissues, lip balm, socks, a Rice Krispies snack, etc. Along with the items, we sent our love and prayers for the people who will be receiving the packets.



As the saying goes, “many hands make light work” and so it was with the CIS students who pitched in to put together these helpful packets.

Thank you to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation Grant for allowing our students to reach out and help others in need. When asked how they felt after they finished the project, they said, “proud, happy to help, good inside knowing they could help someone in need.” We are so proud of our students for not only giving up part of their day off from school but seeing how important it was to them to help others.

*~submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, Director CIS, Dobbs Ferry, NY*

## Our Pets Are a Blessing to Us!



**Photo above:** Fr. Michael Banks, OFM, Cap. blesses the parakeets on the Short-Term Rehabilitation Unit.

**Photo below:** Fr. William Arlia, OFM, Cap. blesses the conure and cockatiels as well as special guest, Oshi the dog.

“Francis of Assisi was a man of humility and because of this, God gave him the grace to communicate with animals,” said resident Father Michael Banks, OFM, Cap, during blessing of animals at Cabrini of Westchester. “There are many stories about St. Francis and his ability to convene with all sorts of animals including preaching to the birds who flocked around him to listen.”



to bless all animals in his name, Fr. Ron Galt, Vice President of Pastoral Care and Mission, arranged to have the birds blessed by not only Fr. Banks, but also by resident, Fr. Bill Arlia, OFM Cap, on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

After sharing the story, “When Francis Met the Wolf of Gubbio,” where St. Francis tamed a wolf from terrorizing the people of Gubbio, Fr. Michael bestowed a blessing of the birds on the Short-Term Rehabilitation Unit. A special visitor named Oshi, a pet dog owned by one of the resident’s family members, was also blessed. The group then processed to the cockatiel and conure aviary where Fr. Arlia blessed them with holy water as well.

*~ submitted by Susan Herveg, Cabrini of Westchester*

Cabrini of Westchester is the home to several birds including parakeets that live in an aviary on the Short-Term Rehabilitation Unit, and cockatiels and a conure that live in a large aviary in the building’s main hallway. Since October 4<sup>th</sup> was the Feast of St. Francis and it is customary



# Prayer Requests

## ***Emily Gudas***

For the past few weeks, we have been praying for Emily Gudas, a college student, who remains hospitalized at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Yesterday, Emily had to undergo another surgical procedure. Her parents, Mark and Sharon, both Cabrini College graduates, are deeply appreciative of the prayers they have received from the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community. Emily has a long recovery ahead. Please continue to keep this young lady in your prayers that she will soon regain full health.

## ***Prayers for all those affected by Hurricane Milton***

Hurricane Milton has churned its way across Florida bringing high winds and massive flooding. We pray for all those whose lives, livelihoods, and homes have been affected by the storm. We pray for all first responders, medical personnel, and utility workers as they prepare to provide assistance wherever needed.

## ***Prayers for the Guadalupe Province Assembly***

Kindly keep the Guadalupe Province Assembly which will take place next week in your prayers. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will be present to the Missionary Sisters and their lay collaborators during their sessions and deliberations. Pray too, that all may travel to and from the Assembly in safety.

## ***Prayers for the St. Francis of Assisi Parish***

Please keep in your prayers the parishioners and students of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Springfield, PA. On Monday evening, their primary school building was totally gutted in a fire. Fortunately, no one was injured. Please pray that this parish and school community will be able to resume operations in a nearby location and the students can return to their regular school routine as soon as possible.

# In Loving Memory

## ***Salvatore Della Rocca***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Salvatore Della Rocca. Salvatore is the grandfather of Caitlin Della Rocca, the Director of Communications for Cabrini Mission Foundation. Our prayers and support are with Caitlin and her family during this time of their loss.



## In Loving Memory

### *Carlos Gonzalez*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Carlos Gonzalez, the father of Javier Gonzalez, who takes care of the buildings on Deming Street in Chicago for the Missionary Sisters. May he rest in peace.

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Please note that due to the Guadalupe Province Assembly next week, The Update will not be published. Publication will resume on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

