



November 7, 2024

## November 13<sup>th</sup> is the Feast Day of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Mother Cabrini's pioneering spirit was manifested early on, even before she founded the Missionary Sisters, as she grew in discernment, courage and energy, her capacity for relationship, and her drive and tenacity. She learned early in her life how to deal with setbacks, blocks, and frustrations: a gift she had learned from her deep and intimate prayer life and her loving relationship with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

She was a very passionate woman – passionate to help others, passionate in overcoming the difficulties which were always assailing her, passionate in deepening a gospel spirituality not only in her sisters but also in those to whom she and her sisters were ministering. Through the years, Mother Cabrini had become expert at handling difficulties and adversities, always maintaining her peace and always alert to the needs of others, especially the poor, the marginalized, the immigrant. She had a far-sighted vision of mission and had planted her Institute in eight countries by the time she died.

What was her secret? Where did all this energy and insight come from? From an early age, Frances knew how to immerse herself in the depths of the Heart of Jesus and scripture. She took every problem she had to the Heart of Jesus who inevitably showed her his love for her, how to resolve difficulties, what he wanted from her and what her priorities had to be.

Mother Cabrini was always writing in her diary. We are so blessed to have these intimate glimpses into her heart and soul, her passion



and energy, her love and zeal. She was truly a “contemplative missionary” and she encouraged all of her sisters to be the same. Today, that is the same challenge that is offered to ever MSC, every Cabrini Lay Missionary (CLM), every Cabrinian collaborator and friend who is called to serve the Lord with compassion and zeal, determination and far sightedness.

What a blessing it is for us in the Cabrini Family in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to have a such a legacy, a far-sighted vision of mission “*to the ends of the earth*”!

*~ This passage was written by Sr. Patricia Spillane, MSC, former MSC General Superior, for the foreword to Mark Davis’ book entitled St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, a Passionate Life. Sr. Patricia returned home to her God on August 26, 2024.*

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## A Feast Day Novena St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

As we approach the Feast Day of our Patroness, please join us in praying a novena to Mother Cabrini.

The novena can be found [here](#)

Let us unite our hearts and our prayers with all those in the Cabrinian community as we seek the guidance and intercession of our Patroness.



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## A Prayer for the Feast Day

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, thank you for the gift of life and for your servant, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. Fill us with the fire of your love and root in us the same spirit that animated Mother Cabrini. Renew our hearts so that we may live as she did, faithful and open to your will. Amen.



# Very Special Visitors to Mother Cabrini Shrine



Sr. Gilda (c.) joined Shrine Executive Director JoAnn Seaman (2<sup>nd</sup> r.), Brother Jude Quinto, OFM, Cap., (r.) and members of the Spanish Mass community (l.) for Mass at the Mother Cabrini Shrine.

We were blessed to welcome Sr. Gilda Mercedes Mendoza Argueta, MSC, a member of the General Council of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to Mother Cabrini Shrine. Her visit was a beautiful reminder of the global mission we share in the spirit of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. Thank you, Sr. Gilda, for your presence, inspiration, and kindness to all the people you encountered during your days at the Shrine.

You never know who is going to visit the Shrine on a snowy Monday! We were honored to welcome Cristiana Dell'Anna, the actress who played Mother Cabrini in the recent "Cabrini" movie and her husband, Emanuele Scamardella to Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden. This was their first visit to the Colorado Shrine, and they were both visibly moved by

the peace and beauty of this sacred space. Just as they were leaving, a bus of junior high students from

Kansas arrived for their annual retreat at the Shrine. The students had just



watched the Cabrini movie a few days prior. Imagine their delight as "Mother Cabrini" boarded their bus for photo ops and to meet the students and their chaperones! Cristiana and Emanuele could not have been more gracious and engaging, and we look forward to their return.



**Photo above:** Having just watched the Cabrini film, imagine the excitement of these junior high students actually meeting Cristiana Dell'Anna, the actress who played Mother Cabrini! She graciously boarded the bus for a photo op.

**Photo left:** Cristiana and her husband Emanuele chat with Tom Francis on the Shrine staff.

~ submitted by JoAnn Seaman, Executive Director, Mother Cabrini Shrine



# Educational Theater:

## *The Importance of Responsible Antibiotic Use*

On October 24, Dispensario San José held an educational theater performance aimed at children, focusing on a critical health topic: the responsible use of antibiotics. Organized by Dr. César Anleu, a pediatrician, and Guiselle De León, an educator from the educational program, the event aimed to raise awareness among families about the risks of improper antibiotic use, especially for children.

The play opened with the story of Anita, a young girl suffering from a stomachache caused by a virus. Her



The characters in the play —Wise Doctor, Worried Father, Daughter, Bacteria, and Virus— were portrayed by children from the Chispa Modificado educational program.

concerned father, eager to relieve her discomfort, contacts Dr. Wise to ask if antibiotics would help. Dr. Wise then explains that antibiotics are only effective against bacterial infections, not viruses, and that using them unnecessarily could actually make germs stronger.



Two performances of the play were held with different groups of children, both of which were a resounding success.

The storyline continued with a creative, humorous portrayal of how viruses and bacteria "mocked" the antibiotics, highlighting how antibiotics don't work

against viral infections and can actually strengthen bacteria if misused. In a key scene, Dr. Wise arrives to examine Anita and reassures her father that antibiotics aren't needed in this case. Instead, he recommends rest and certain home care measures, explaining the specific role of antibiotics to the family.

In the final scene, Anita recovers and cheerfully bids farewell to the virus, affirming that Dr. Wise’s advice was indeed correct. The play concluded with a powerful message from the children in unison: “Antibiotics should be used responsibly and only under a doctor’s guidance.”

To reinforce this message, Dr. César Anleu gave a brief talk to the parents in attendance, encouraging them to avoid self-medicating and to understand the importance of using antibiotics only when absolutely necessary. This event was not only educational but also engaged both children and adults, emphasizing the family’s role in safe medication practices. ~ submitted by Vanessa, Comunicacion Cabrini

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## Fra Noi Pilgrimage to National Shrine



Monsignor Ken Velo celebrated Mass.

The National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini welcomed over 170 people for the Fra Noi pilgrimage on September 15, 2024. Fra Noi Editor Paul Basile organized the pilgrimage to the National Shrine. The Shrine welcomed Italian Americans from several different areas across Chicagoland. They came from Casa Italia, Highwood Bocce Club and the Old Neighborhood Club for Mass, tours of the Shrine, and a visit to the gift shop. A classic Italian feast, prepared and executed by Mr. Ron Onesti, President of Onesti Entertainment Corporation was enjoyed after Mass.

Monsignor Ken Velo, who celebrated Mass, is chairman of the Big Shoulders Fund, and DePaul’s university liaison to the archdiocese Catholic life. He gave an inspiring homily on the extraordinary and tireless work of Mother Cabrini in Chicago and beyond.



An Italian bounty prepared by Ron Onesti was enjoyed by all.

Fra Noi Magazine has been the cultural magazine in Chicagoland for the Italian American community for many decades. It was started in April of 1960 as a newsletter for an elderly facility in Melrose Park, Illinois. Since its meager beginning as



a newsletter, it has very quickly morphed into a magazine read by thousands, but it had remained a newsletter for many years.

The editor of Fra Noi, Paul Basile, has published articles on St. Frances Cabrini



**Photo above:** Sr. Laura Baldini, MSC provides an overview of Mother Cabrini's ministries for the Shrine guests.

**Photo below:** The Fra Noi pilgrims attended Mass at the National Shrine.

several times in the past few years. Those articles have stimulated a great deal of renewed interest and memories of stories about Mother Cabrini among Chicagoland's Italian community, as they recall the devotion their parents and grandparents had for Chicago's own saint. Many of their ancestors actually knew Mother Cabrini and were beneficiaries of her kindness and love at the "three C's" — Columbus Hospital, Cabrini Hospital, and Cuneo Hospital, as well as Assumption School.



It was a very special day at the Shrine, as excited attendees were embraced once again by the love of Mother Cabrini. Many of them expressed that they were so grateful to come to the place they had heard about since they were little children, and that they enjoyed themselves immensely. Paul Basile reported that

everyone thought it was an extraordinary pilgrimage and would like to make it an annual event.

*~ submitted by Kim Sorenson, Social Media Specialist, National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini*

# Observing the Día de los Muertos

November is a time of remembrance for our departed family members, friends and loved ones. There are many ways that we remember those who have gone before us. There are different prayers and rituals that we use when remembering our deceased.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, some of the clients from Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, shared their celebration of Día de los Muertos, (the Day of the Dead), with the residents at St. Cabrini Nursing Home.

It has become a tradition that the clients from CIS honor this special day with the residents and staff at the nursing home. A beautiful altar was created in the lobby. As our clients built the altar, there was such reverence, love and tears that went into it. Each piece that was added to the altar had great meaning. It is customary in Mexico and many of the countries in South and Central America to build an altar in remember the dead. Our clients were from Mexico, Honduras, Venezuela and Guatemala. Many are not able to return to their homeland and so they celebrate and remember with the Cabrini family.



Elaborate costumes are part of the celebration honoring departed loved ones.



CIS Director Lorraine Campanelli (l.) and Fr. Ron Galt (r.) join CIS clients in observing Día de los Muertos with the residents of St. Cabrini Nursing Home – an annual tradition.

was carrying the Book of the Dead. The names of deceased family, friends, residents, etc. are written in this book. The way to the lobby was lit with candles inside luminaria bags.

The program began in the chapel where our clients spoke about the meaning of Día de los Muertos. The residents were then led out to the lobby behind one of the clients who



The clients spoke about the altar and the meaning of the different items. There were pictures and names of their loved ones on the altar. Special flowers, fruits, bread, sugar skulls and candles were also placed on the altar.



Through tears, many described how being able to share in this moment helped them as they prayed and remembered their loved ones. Everyone present was invited to add the names and pictures of their loved ones to the altar where they would be remembered in prayer.

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

## Prayer Requests

### *Yvonne Hrapmann*

Your prayers are requested for Yvonne Hrapmann, the Principal of Cabrini High School in New Orleans. On Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Yvonne will undergo hip replacement surgery. Please pray that her surgery will go smoothly and that she will have a swift and uneventful recovery. Yvonne would be so grateful for your prayers.

### *Prayers for a Peaceful Transition of Government*

Let us ask for God's grace and help as we experience endings and beginnings together with perseverance, hope, and trust in what He has planned for us.

~Jesuit Resource.org



**For Further Information**

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