



Missionary Sisters
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

To the Ends of the Earth

Prot. S.G. – L. 061/2021

7 July 2021

Dear Sisters and Partners-in-Mission,

On July 7th we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Mother Cabrini's canonization. Saint, lover of Christ, businesswomen, entrepreneur, advocate for the vulnerable, audacious, servant, educator, hard worker, mother... St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, lived prophetically, a woman beyond her time, human and humanizing, and until today a beacon of hope and life. She gave her all to bring the love of Christ to the ends of the earth. I encourage each of us, individually and collectively, as we celebrate this hallmark anniversary, to reflect on the past years of our personal affiliation with the MSC. As sisters and lay in partnership, you have been light and salt, continuing her legacy. When did you hear your vocational calling? What drew you to be a Sister or to apply for your position in partnership with the MSC? What about Mother Cabrini continues to inspire you today?

Now more than ever the world needs courageous bearers of God's love to audaciously and intelligently confront the injustices, ills, and challenges of our time. This past quarter is not an exception. The pandemic continues to rage in various parts of the globe. We celebrate that the great majority of our Sisters are vaccinated as are others in our Cabrini World. While on the world level some have managed to be vaccinated, with many high-income countries having vaccinated more than 50% of their population, only 0.9% of individuals in low-income countries had received one dose by June 30, 2021. We think of the devastating effects of the pandemic especially on countries where we serve, like Brazil and Argentina. Political unrest continues in Nicaragua, Ethiopia, and now Eswatini. The effects of global warming and climate change are devastating our common home, as can be seen by the deadly heat wave experienced in Northern America. 2020 was the hottest recorded year in history. These realities inevitably have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable of our societies.

Thank you to those of you who faithfully continue to provide services despite all the hardships you are facing. Your presence and actions are evidence that love is alive and active. Whether through our sponsored ministries, our emerging ministries, our pastoral care, or our Sisters' communities, know that as we act locally we should continue to think globally. All of our actions and voices together help advocate for and shape our response to the biggest crises of our times.

Looking forward to the next 75 years and the legacy that we will leave future generations, the Extended Council is actively reviewing our sponsored ministries according to the Chapter Mandates, and in a process about making recommendations for each one. Let us

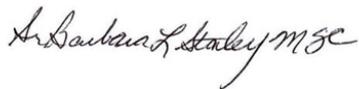


continue to ask Mother Cabrini to pray for us, in our discernment, and daily in all we are asked to do. Pray and act so that we may respond effectively to the most pressing needs of our time. While much has changed in the world the past 75 years, what we hold to is not an object or an organization, but the mission of spreading God's love to all the ends of the earth.

I also use this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the Mother's Day gift for the Sisters, we were truly overwhelmed by your kindness, thank you for accompanying us. As MSC we continue to grieve the loss of many of our Sisters in the past months, each one of them precious, and all of them carrying a piece of our history. They are exemplars, having dedicated their lives to the outworking of the charism like a golden tapestry on this earth.

Embodying Philippians 4.13, Mother Cabrini continually shows us that as we lay down our lives, so we truly can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. In her words: "God has done it all, I have only been a spectator of God's work." Letter 779 Volume 2 of the Letters written to Mons. Rota in Codogno, on 5.11.1896. Let us continue to hold one another and the work of our ministries in prayer as we navigate through these times.

Yours in the Heart of Christ,
Sr Barbara Staley, General Superior, MSC



Reflection from the General Council ***Hallmark Anniversary of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini's Canonization***

Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC

Pope Francis has often reminded us that we are all poor and fragile. Mother Francesca Cabrini knew this well in her own life, and therefore, depended wholly on God. Inspired by the words of St. Paul, her motto became "I can do all things in Him Who strengthens me." This past year, in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis, tribute has been paid to our Foundress in two areas of New York City, Manhattan and Brooklyn, for her presence and untiring work on behalf of immigrants and people in need. Soon after her canonization in 1946, she was honored as Patroness of Immigrants, and at the dawn of the new millennium, the Church gave her yet another title: Missionary of the New Evangelization. She was the Apostle of Love.

This petite woman was intent on wasting no time to spread the love of Jesus wherever she went. The world was too small for her, and so today we, Missionary Sisters, Cabrini Lay Missionaries, Partners in Mission, and all our other collaborators and co-workers, continue her legacy in Africa, North America, Central America, South America, Asia, Australia, and Europe. Even a pandemic could not stop this force of Love; the need has been too great.



Worldwide, we continue to see people on the move due to displacement, fleeing from violence, war and corruption, seeking a safe haven for their loved ones. The chaos of a virus that has spread into the far reaches of almost every country resulting in lives lost, sickness, separation, unemployment, instability in the economy, and concerns about the future. Through all this, we rely on the grace of our God to do our part in the various missions around our globe, just as Mother Cabrini did. Together, we can, and do, make a difference in being Bearers of the Love of Jesus.

The International Health Commission: responding in compassion to the emerging needs

The quote “you don’t know what you have till it’s gone” is playing on my mind as I write this piece. I have recently left Cabrini Health in Australia where I had worked for more than 30 years and I now work in a secular healthcare environment. My new workplace functions as part of the same healthcare system, is accredited under the same quality standards and has many passionate, dedicated, caring health professionals whom I enjoy working alongside. However, I acutely feel the absence of the shared understanding of Catholic social teaching animated by Cabrinian heritage and spirituality that motivated my work at Cabrini and gave it meaning. In short, I miss the heart and soul.

This experience, and the approaching 75th anniversary of the canonization of our Foundress, has brought the Catholic and Cabrinian identity of the International Health Commission and the health ministries we support into sharp focus.

Over the last 15 years, I have been fortunate to participate in many meetings with lay representatives from across the Cabrini world. At my first meeting, we reflected on Mother Cabrini’s life and the Sisters who had been influential in our formation, to draw out characteristics that resonated with us. I was surprised that despite coming from eight distinctly different countries and not sharing a language, culture or profession, our Cabrinian experience gave us much in common.

One image that captured our imagination was that of Mother Cabrini with a newspaper in one hand, and the Bible in the other. We felt the ability to read the signs of the times, and respond in compassion to the emerging needs, is the hallmark of a missionary congregation.

This characteristic is writ large in the International Health Commission, which was only established three years ago by Sr. Barbara Staley as an advisory body to support the health ministries. It is also reflected in the health ministries we support that have all been established since Mother Cabrini’s death. It is also reflected in the services they provide, which have changed – and are still changing – in response to the changing community needs.



For example, in the late 1990's, the Sisters considered withdrawing from Eswatini (Swaziland). They decided to remain, concentrating their efforts at St Philip's Mission where they provided primary care, maternity care and material aid. In 2001, the Sisters handed over these services to a local Swazi Congregation so they could respond to the emerging HIV-Aids epidemic that was devastating the country. They established community education, testing and counselling programs, initiated treatment, monitoring and follow-up, supported people dying in the community and care for the orphaned children.

In 2020, Eswatini became the first country in Africa to achieve the United Nations HIV target and, despite having the world's highest HIV prevalence, the target was achieved 10 years ahead of the 2030 goal.¹ However, five years prior to the target being met, Cabrini Ministries Swaziland had already recognized the crisis was easing and, determining it again had capacity to meet broader community needs, set about re-establishing a primary care clinic. Today, being a primary care provider has enabled Cabrini Ministries to lead the local community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I know these changes did not happen without many hours of prayer and discernment. As Sr. Maria Barbagallo reminds us: "Faith was the distinguishing note of Mother Cabrini's life. Faith infused her heart and mind with a tremendous capacity for decision-making."² We observe this same steadfast faith in the Sisters who lead the Institute and health ministries today.

We lay collaborators must be equally unapologetic that our mission is to be the face and hands of Jesus, to heal the sick and so play our part in healing the world. Let us pray that we prove to be good stewards, leading organizations with heart and soul.

Cath Garner

Chair, International Health Commission

The International Health Commission (IHC) is a collaboration of health professionals and MSCs that provide guidance to strengthen the MSC-sponsored health ministries

[Visit the International Health Commission section on the website: Cabrini World](#)

¹ WHO Africa How the world's highest HIV-prevalence country turned around, and in record time accessed at <https://www.afro.who.int/news/how-worlds-highest-hiv-prevalence-country-turned-around-and-record-time> on 19/06/21

² Maria Barbagallo MSC Maria Barbagallo, MSC Mother Cabrini and Her Abiding Faith in the Sacred Heart at <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/mother-cabrini-and-her-abiding-faith-in-the-sacred-heart-5459>



Using our temporal goods to spread the love of Christ

In this edition of *To the Ends of the World*, the Institute's Finance Ministry highlights two examples of using our temporal goods to spread the love of Christ to vulnerable communities.

The first example is a small monetary donation to **SEFRAS** to help combat hunger in Brazil. We learned about SEFRAS through our Brazilian Sisters. In response to a worsening hunger crisis brought on by the health and economic crises in Brazil, our Sisters and lay collaborators at Associação Madre Cabrini teamed with SEFRAS to help feed thousands of people.

The second is an impact investment, meaning we expect repayment of our invested capital plus interest. Our investment in One Acre Fund provides resources to smallholder farmers in remote areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, where crop yields and access to financing lag those of the rest of the world. Marked improvements in the lives of farmers help surrounding communities prosper; farmers invest in education, build businesses, and help neighbors in need. Edina Mkolomi of Tanzania is one of those farmers.

Prior to joining One Acre Fund, Edna used to harvest about five maize bags per season, often struggling to feed her four children. Since enrolling with One Acre Fund, she now harvests 20 bags and is able to pay school fees after selling the surplus maize. Despite the pandemic, Edna is assured of getting farm inputs on credit for the next season.

"My home has become hunger-free since I joined One Acre Fund", Edna said.

*Gregory Lane and Kayoko Lyons,
On behalf of the Generalate Finance Team*

[Visit the Social Impact Investing section on the website: Cabrini World](#)

Raising our voice in favor of the weakest

Over the past few months, our Communications Team had the opportunity to spend a few days with the community of the Sisters of Codogno. A great gift!

We arrived in a community where the wounds from the loss of many Sisters to Covid-19 were still fresh. Yet, at the same time, we were able to experience how Mother Cabrini's charism and her love for the Heart of Jesus is alive and active: in the Sisters' love for the Eucharist, in their joy of sharing, even in fatigue and illness, in the intelligence of love with which they carry out their mission through daily duties, and in their utmost care for all.



"Thank you for how you share the mission with us" are the words we received, and with which we returned to our daily tasks. We felt this thanks was addressed to all of us lay collaborators and sharers of the charism. A question continues to accompany us during these weeks, and we share it with you who are reading: ***what does it mean for me, a lay collaborator who shares the charism, to live the mission with the Sisters?*** To be close to each other; to make us closer to those who are more 'far away', not only geographically.

It is with this in mind that, over recent months, we have renewed our website, and with this newsletter we are also inaugurating a new look for our quarterly bulletin.

We would really like Communication within the Institute to be more and more an instrument for sharing among us, and for uniting our voices. Voices that, when shared, become louder and whose echoes resonate farther afield. We will still continue to challenge ourselves on important issues that the international world is calling to our attention, through means such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (healthcare, zero hunger, fair access to vaccines, environmental sustainability), and, in the face of which, our faith does not allow us to remain inert.

We will continue to talk about the contribution that our Cabrinian world is already making every day to the achievement of many of these goals (e.g. with migrants and refugees, impact investing, health, education, support for the vulnerable).

It was with this same purpose in mind that, in the past few months, we asked all the lay collaborators of the Cabrinian world to express their closeness and thanks to all the Sisters (Watch the video and read the journal [HERE](#)). And they were delighted to receive so much feedback from all of you collaborators. We never cease to say 'thank you' for the great witness and richness that you have given, contributing to our global communication efforts.

Fr. Paul Molinari SJ wrote about the relationship of Mother Cabrini and the Sisters with the migrants: *"from their first meeting with those 'angels' who spoke their language and understood them, [the migrants] considered the houses of the Sisters [...] as a center for their lives, as the family in which they found that warmth and affection of which they had been deprived"*.

In the midst of the suffering that we are currently experiencing throughout the world, we are grateful to feel that we are part of the same Voice, which unites us and rises up in favor of the weakest, and is continually fed by the Heart of Jesus that repairs each of our hearts.

*Tatiana Paradiso and Giulia Angelucci
on behalf of the Communications Team*



THE ESSENCE OF LOVE

Following in the Footsteps of Mother Cabrini - Serving the Forgotten in Central America

On April 28, I had the opportunity to visit the Community "La Esperanza" in the Municipality of Waspam, on the banks of the Coco River, in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RANN), on the border between Nicaragua and Honduras.

Together with the Nicaraguan Conference of Religious (CONFER), we reached out to this community to provide some economic and food aid to the people affected by hurricanes IOTA and ETA. Leaving Nicaragua, we traveled in vehicles and small boats until we reached our destination. In the community, we were greeted with great joy, acceptance and hope. This is a community that is more difficult to reach because of its remoteness. The geographical situation of the area, the poor state of the road infrastructure, along with the fact that it is not located along a major route for any commercial activity, makes the community relatively isolated from the rest of the country.

A typical house in the area's capital is built on wooden stilts, either with a zinc roof, or covered with bamboo and a thatched roof. There are few homes built of concrete, and those that do exist are primarily in the urban part of Waspam and the community of San Carlos.

We helped families rebuild their homes, and purchase rice seeds to resume cultivation following the devastation of the hurricanes.

We also met with the parish priest of the town, and it made an impression on us when he said that our presence was a ***miracle***, as no one had visited the town or brought aid in this time of need.

We learned that the parish is called ***Our Lady of Guadalupe***, just like my current province. However the ***miracle*** for us lay in the richness we experienced, and the time spent with people. We were able to share the greatness of creation and, above all, faith in God. These people have nothing economically, but they are happy with the little they have.

We entrust to the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe these people and all those in the world today who are affected by wars, famine, natural disasters, and are forced to leave their homes and their countries.

Sr. Xochilt Calero, MSC

We invite all of you to send your stories and updates coming from the missions and the sponsored ministries through the Cabrini World to communications@cabriniworld.org. The Communications Team will be glad to share them to the website and on the monthly Highlights of the Institute.

Follow us on www.cabriniworld.org and on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#).



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