



*Missionary Sisters
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

To the Ends of the Earth July/September 2021

Prot.S.G. – L. 070/2021

Dear Sisters and Partners-in-Mission,

I greet you all in the grace and mercy of the precious Sacred Heart. It has been a full last quarter, with many meetings and much activity despite the August holiday period in the northern hemisphere. I hope you all had some time out to spend with your family and friends. This past quarter has seen certain parts of the world lowering Covid restrictions allowing life to normalize somewhat. Yet many countries remain in desperate situations, with only a small percentage of their population vaccinated. We think of all those who have suffered and continue to suffer a great loss during this time; you are in our prayers.

During the month of September, several Sisters and I had the privilege of attending a [Conference on Migrants and Refugees](#) where we were reminded that all of us are migrants in this world, here temporarily as stewards of relationships and our common home, but ultimately making our journey towards eternity. Migration today truly is a phenomenon that touches all the corners of the earth. In our world, there are more than 230 million persons living in countries not of their birth. Sadly, as we know, this migration is not always by choice, or always welcomed. The [United Nations High Commission for Refugees](#) estimates that more people are fleeing war, persecution and conflict than ever before, and human displacement is at its highest level in 70 years, with a record 70.8 million people around the world displaced, or having fled from their country. Their journeys are often extremely desperate, their health and psychosocial needs complex. I think of children growing up in camps for displaced people, a lack of access to education and the basics of water and sanitation impacting on their very identity, their wellbeing, and their futures.

During this Missionary month of October, I remember Mother Cabrini's obedience to go 'to the West' where she tended to one of the greatest needs of her time, the mass migration of millions from Europe to the Americas. She lamented about what she saw when she arrived in the United States, the inhumane living conditions, spiritual poverty, and how the migrants were taken advantage of. In our day, the geographies where people have been forced to flee from include Venezuela, Syria, South Sudan, Haiti, and Afghanistan to name just a few. As Missionary Sisters and Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, **our call is an active one, to “welcome, protect, promote, and integrate” our sisters and brothers in the countries they are seeking refuge in or passing through.** This call is at the heart of our very being, our evangelization, and our

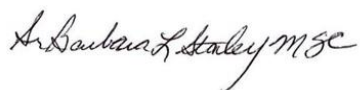


interconnectedness. **I embrace all of you in your quiet heroism**, as you answer this cry in serving, supporting, and praying for others, often in difficult situations.

As I reflect on migration and mission, I am reminded of the Holy Family who fled to Egypt, and Jesus, in communion with us, who shares the experience of those who are migratory, and those without a home to call their own. All are being held in Him, all redeemed in Him, all of us equal in Him. **The Holy Father has called us to unite in this, [an 'ever-widening we'](#), committing ourselves, and encouraging others, to restore our human family.** How we respond to this call, to the needs of the most vulnerable among us, echoes into eternity. May we be the instruments of a positive narrative about migration, and protagonists of helping God's reign be on earth as it is in heaven.

Blessings on your missions and work this next quarter, and thank you for remaining steadfast in these very challenging times.

Yours in missionary love,
Sr. Barbara Staley, MSC, General Superior



Reflection from the General Council

Sr. Stella Maris Elena, MSC

We MISSIONARIES are the presence of God among the people; we are, therefore, the creators of the "**ever greater WE**" of which Pope Francis speaks in his Message for the 107th World Migrants and Refugees Day 2021. Christ died and rose again so that all may be **ONE** (cf. Jn 17:21). In the present time, when we are in the mission field, the future appears broken, fragmented, and we MSCs are called to "heal the wound that exists between man and God" (cf. Const. 6), the wound that bleeds in the violated humanity of migrants, the marginalized, the sick, the poor, those who are educated to consumerism and false values. These are the "**OTHERS**" that the Lord continues to entrust to us, so that, through a discerned and prayerful apostolate, we may bring back the "**WE**". This task is what gives prophetic meaning to the reason for being Catholic: "that all be one". We are called, today more than ever, to make accessible the borders that those who feel powerful indolently raise; to give human, moral and economic value to the works that we already have, and to rethink those that we can put at the service of the Church, as a resistance to the onslaught of individualism and all the negative "isms" of our time, Our Mother already said it, and she continues to say it in her writings when she refers to those who have been entrusted to us to form them as good women and men, with solid principles: "the Lord will ask us for an account."



We see and we hear: The Holy Spirit has given us the grace to see the huge work of Mother and to continue to "hear" through her writings, the directives to go out, like her, to "cross the roads, to meet the neediest".

What appears before our eyes, what we discover in prayer and discernment, even what leaves us in the shadows in moments of uncertainty, must be fire in our hearts. It is a fire that comes from the sacred and eternal fire flowing from the Heart of Jesus and that must impel us to go out, "ardently and quickly", on the roads, despite difficulties, hostilities, lack of workers. Sometimes, when we place all these things that discouraging us in the Most Holy Heart of Jesus, He gives us the gifts to stimulate our hope and our creativity.

We are MISSIONARIES, WE ARE THE STORAGE OF A PRAYING AND ACTIVE CHARISM, OF ADORATION AND ACTION. WE CANNOT DISCARD WHAT WE HAVE "SEEN AND HEARD" from the one who has launched her boat into the sea and does not want it to stop in any way until the Lord is among us again. She is still with us, she is our Mother and she is our support in our weaknesses and in our hopes. That desire expressed by her in prayer must resound in us, and even more so at this time:

“IT IS BETTER THAT THE INSTITUTE DISAPPEARS BEFORE THE CHARISM DETERIORATES”.

(C.f. Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus - Spiritual Journal)

It is our responsibility to keep it alive, active and true. We cannot, says the Pope, fail to speak of what we have seen and heard, in his message for World Mission Day 2021. (Cf. Acts 4:20). With Jesus and with our Mother, we have seen and proven that things can be different. Perhaps, we are as we were in the early days of the apostles and in the beginnings of the Institute: the Apostles were few; the Sisters were few. But the Church is still standing, the Institute is still alive and widespread. Let us be courageous. How many times does our Mother repeat to the Sisters: “Courage, Courage, my daughters”? Infinite times! May it be her voice that, like the wind in the sails of evangelization, takes us where the Lord of the harvest wants us to sow, and if necessary, even to the point of donating our lives.



Photo 1. "Angel Unawares", the monument in St. Peter's Square dedicated to migrants and refugees.



Healthy roots for healthy branches and leaves

A friend has recently completed her PhD on the expression of charism in a lay-led Jesuit social services organisation. She used the image of a tree, where the health of the roots directly affects the health of the branches and leaves, to illustrate how the understanding and expression of charism impacts the experience of the organisation, both for staff and the community it serves.

The thesis identifies love as the foundational element of the Ignatian tradition. Love is likened to the taproot of the tree, with all other roots branching from this main root. The



Photo 2. People in Eswatini serving the population.

word ‘Magis’ is used to represent the understanding that we are called to be part of God’s loving action in the world. Magis is a latin word meaning more or greater, and is drawn from the motto of the Society of Jesus, “for the greater glory of God”.

Love is also the foundational element of Cabrinian charism. We know Mother Cabrini’s profound, personal relationship with Jesus Christ was the motivating force for her life. It was at the heart of her prayer life, motivated her missionary activity and was instilled in the Institute in her ‘Education of the Heart’ philosophy. Those of us who have worked (and are working) alongside the Cabrini Sisters have witnessed this same love expressed in our contemporary role models.

Like the Ignatian tradition, ours is a missionary charism where love impels action. Whilst the term ‘Magis’ may not be as well-known to us, some of its characteristics are familiar: a wholehearted desire for love and service; seeking the greater good; choosing the more loving option.

Magis requires discernment, which is described in the thesis as an ongoing dynamic that **permeates all activity, fostering our capacity to be free and available to live our Purpose**. It involves making an honest appraisal of reality, reading the signs of the times and undertaking a rigorous analysis of the situation. Again, there are clear echos here of our Cabrini heritage and tradition.



Photo 3. A beautiful tree in a sunny forest

Towards the end of the thesis, my friend draws the conclusion that the essential nature of organisational identity is both **entity and flow**. That is, organisations have entity status and are also in an ongoing process of being enacted. Authentic expression requires coherence between the foundational elements and the practices, processes and people who



give expression to it in the daily life of the organisation. **Healthy roots enable healthy branches and leaves. Equally, the leaves and branches provide nutrients that maintain and sustain the health of the roots.**

We are on a formation journey together, learning with and from one another, discovering connections between personal meaning and organisational purpose. In her journal, Mother Cabrini implored: “Lord, let this Institute perish rather than allow your Spirit in it to weaken.” **Ongoing formation** will help us to articulate, integrate and implement the distinctive elements of our heritage so **our ministry flourishes now and into the future.**

*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.*

Seeking positive social outcomes through financial investing

For this installment, we’re reintroducing a few key concepts about how the Institute’s investments are managed. Our primary responsibility is to manage investment risk and return to meet the Institute’s current and future financial needs. These include retirement and ministry support, formation, and Generalate operations, among others.

We seek to broadly align the Institute’s core investments with our congregational values. This entails excluding investments that are inconsistent with Catholic values, selecting stocks and bonds with best-in-class social, environmental, and governance records, and exercising our shareholder rights to advocate for issues of social and ethical concern.

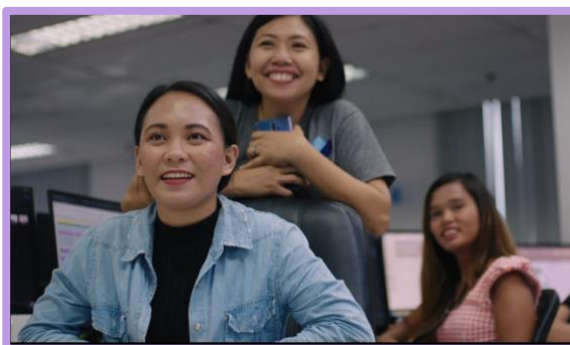


Photo 4. A clip from the video ‘When God roars’ by the business in Philippines mentioned in the article.

Lastly, a small portion of the global portfolio is designated for Impact Investments. This new ministry intentionally seeks positive social outcomes through financial investing in businesses and organizations serving vulnerable communities around the world. For instance, [we made a small loan to a business in the Philippines](#) that provides fair wage employment for women who have been rescued from human trafficking, while also offering psychosocial, educational, and health services to the women. The loan is repaid from profits from the business.

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



The Language of Love

Mother Cabrini's Legacy Between the Past and the Future

At the beginning of the year, one of the goals we set was to tell the story of hidden realities seldom talked about in the media. Communication is often a hidden ministry, made up of exchanges of emails, phone calls, videos, etc., and we have had to adapt to this in recent times. Our Cabrinian family, like every family in these two years of the pandemic, has suffered loneliness, distance, and numerous silences. As Pope Francis says, "*The family is the first place where we learn to communicate. Returning to this original moment can help us both to make communication more authentic and human, and to look at the family from a new point of view.*" For this reason, we wished to reclaim the threads of a treasured past by returning to the same language, whose alphabet was written 171 years ago by Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini.

On July 15th, our communication team had the opportunity to participate in celebrations for Mother Cabrini's birth in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano. On this occasion, the presence of our foundress and her legacy was tangibly felt, especially when all the people present embraced the statue of Mother Cabrini in Piazza XV Luglio.



Photo 5. Children in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano on July 15.

Many children sang and waved their little flags with messages dedicated to Mother Cabrini, waiting for the white doves to fly into the sky, just as they did on July 15, 171 years ago, when little Francesca was born. The entire Cabrini world from Buenos Aires to Melbourne gave a single embrace to Mother Cabrini as her birth was remembered, and she was celebrated as the celestial Patroness of All Immigrants. It was a single language, shared by the whole world.

In September, we launched a new challenge, reinventing a type of communication projected into the future. Ten people involved in communication, from the different Provinces and Region, met for the first time on Zoom. The participants had the opportunity to introduce themselves, talk about their work and share ideas and dreams about the future of communication for the Institute. It was exciting to see each other's faces, and to feel that, even though we are on opposite sides of the planet, we are all on the same wavelength: sharing the mission telling of the love of Jesus and the Charism of Mother Cabrini to the ends of the earth.

This meeting also allowed us to renew our thanks to all the Sisters and lay collaborators who, behind the scenes, continue to work with care to enhance this continuous, global dialogue. We all feel connected and in relationship as one big family. As Anthony Robbins



says, "To communicate effectively, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide for our communication with others."

In order for Mother Cabrini's message to become tangible, alive and embodied among us, we shared how important it is to join forces in sharing our ideas and labors. We wish to continue to transmit this legacy with the means at our disposal, so that our Cabrini World communication may be a bridge between the past, the present, and future generations. There is a common thread linking these two events experienced by the communication team in recent months: **to promote the legacy of Mother Cabrini and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in order to continue to dream and inflame hearts with love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus in today's world.**

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



THE ESSENCE OF LOVE

The Cabrini Charism lived out in Australia

By Jenny Nicholson - Acting Group Director Mission and Identity, Cabrini Australia

All our patients, their families, staff and doctors, volunteers, asylum seekers and refugees that we love and care for, need our visible attentiveness and nurturing of heart and soul at this time of the global pandemic. It is vital that we continue to be inspired by the spirit of St. Frances Cabrini and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus by bringing to



Photo 6. People serving in the healthcare facilities in Australia.

life her words: **"Love, today, must not be hidden; it must be active, vibrant and true."**

The richness of the Cabrinian Charism in Australia is expressed in the most recent activities, as a reflection of our love, as we endeavor to build up spirits, and lift the hearts of those around us.

The Hope and Human Flourishing in the Workplace project, launched in July this year, highlights how opportunities for employment within Cabrini Support Services provides much needed hope for many after



leaving their home countries. The opportunity to flourish, provide for families and regain a sense of identity, has enabled many staff to restore their dignity and feel part of a community once again. The inspiring stories of eleven of our staff express a real essence of love and can be read here.

Charism Conversations have recently resumed for many of our new Cabrini staff. This conversational formation program engages executives and leaders with some of the major themes emerging from the life and mission of St. Frances Cabrini. To expand this formation more broadly, some participants in these programs will lead ongoing Charism Conversations with Cabrini staff.

Meeting an unmet need, [Cabrini's 'Women's Health Centre'](#) opened its doors in September to support the mental health of women in our community. The first of its type in Australia, the Centre's opening is timely as the pandemic has magnified many mental health issues. We are honoured to be able to provide a facility where women feel loved, listened to, and safe.

Inspired by the work of St. Frances Cabrini and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart **'Our Ethic of Care'** module and booklet has been developed as a formation program for our staff by providing them with an understanding of who we are, what we believe, and what we do. To ensure all those who work at Cabrini have a deepened understanding of the Vision & Mission of Cabrini, we require that everyone completes this formation program. [Download the booklet](#) and watch the [video](#).

[Cabrini Outreach is working closely with Afghan refugees through their Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health Hub](#). Throughout August and September, a number of Cabrini nurses worked in hotel quarantine to care for returning Australians and refugees from Afghanistan. This work is core to our mission and has supported the Australian Government to bring many Afghans to Australia.



Photo 7. People serving in the healthcare facilities in Australia.

Our annual Mother Cabrini Awards, recognises and rewards above and beyond efforts and sustained service excellence. This year three recipients received this coveted award for visibly living out St. Frances Cabrini's mission with compassion, courage and love.

“Jesus does not dwell outside of us but within us; his throne of love is within each of our hearts.” (St. Frances Cabrini). This is the essence of love being shown in Cabrini ministries across Australia.



Vigil – the Heart of Cabrini

In 2017, celebrating the 100th anniversary of St. Frances Cabrini's death a sculpture was commissioned to honour her and those who have embraced and embodied St. Frances' Ethic of Care at Cabrini Health Australia.

Vigil – the Heart of Cabrini was installed at Cabrini Malvern in September and will be officially celebrated during Cabrini Week when we hold many ceremonies around the time of the Feast Day of St. Frances X. Cabrini.



Photo 8. The sculpture 'Vigil – the Heart of Cabrini' in Australia.

“The Sculpture is an exceptional tribute of gratitude to all those, present and past, who have contributed to the outstanding reputation of Cabrini Health in Melbourne. It is an artwork which invites you in, to find the courage, which is at the heart of this work, to continue working with excellence.”

Sr. Sharon Casey MSC

Do you want to be updated about all the activities of the Institute, in each Province and Region?

Write an email to correspond@cabriniworld.org and we will add you to the mailing list of the Cabrini World Monthly Highlights!

Here's the latest one in [ENGLISH](#), [SPANISH](#), [ITALIAN](#), [PORTUGUESE](#).

Don't forget to follow us on our website www.cabriniworld.org and on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).



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