



Missionary Sisters  
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

## *To the Ends of the Earth*



*Mother Cabrini with her Sisters in New York.*

*This photo was taken in June 1889 in the first house opened by the MSC in New York City on 59th Street. This was after the arrival in the United States of 3 further Sisters (the first 6 sisters having left in March 1889 with Mother).*

Dearest Sisters and Partners-in-Mission,

Easter time greetings and blessings to you all. During these past few tumultuous weeks, in prayer and contemplation, I'm constantly reminded of the importance of our interconnectivity as a congregation and Institute. Over this time our interconnectedness has often found expression through messages of solidarity and acts of kindness.

Deep within, all of us longs to be connected, to find safety, acceptance, meaning and purpose within a greater whole. In different cultures we express the 'I am because you are you'. I joy in your joys, I suffer in your suffering. We are one, undeniably joined. In addressing the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic for our future, the Holy Father notes that the current crisis will help to remind us "once and for all, that humanity is a single community". He says it will teach us that "universal kinship" is important and critical.

Through our various ministries globally we connect with individuals, families, geographic and cultural communities, other service providers and the greater Catholic and faith-based world. Over the years these relationships have proven invaluable in our providing effective solutions to the pressing challenges and needs of that day. We are currently facing unprecedented times and my desire now, more than ever, is that we can intentionally deepen our connectivity within our Institute. Through our standing and working together we can



accomplish so much more. This may take the form of sharing information, or our stories and experiences. It may mean cooperating on projects, checking in on one another, drawing on expertise, or even sharing resources. Where we cannot be somewhere, we support those who are, and in that way we align in our vision of this mission reaching the ends of the earth.

When we speak about the ends of the earth, it is not just one team that sets off somewhere relatively unknown to start a new mission, it means all of us in all our respective parts of the world playing our part and reaching new frontiers (for example marginalized communities). Whether it is a long-established mission or a recently established one, we are all in this together. This newsletter focuses on three of the ministries through the Generalate: the Finance portfolio, the Impact Investing portfolio (a sub-set of finance) and the International Health Commission. Each article provides examples of how we are already bringing more interconnection between our ministries through these timely vehicles. In this we can see how our charism works as an invisible yet tangible thread that connects us all.

Each piece of work we have undertaken as an Institute and the changes we have gone through has built on that which our Sisters and Partners-in-Mission who so tirelessly served before us worked for. Where we find ourselves today is not a bubble in our history but part of our interconnected sacred history and tradition. It is an ongoing trajectory and development in our understanding of ourselves and in our understanding of what God desires of us and for us today.

At this time we think of our health professionals and those working in our health missions bravely serving on the front lines, our educators who are finding creative solutions to ensure their students continue learning, our caring social workers and service people running our elderly care facilities, those of us providing support and services to refugees, immigrants and other vulnerable population groups. We also think of our family that has been affected through illness, economic hardship, despair and loneliness. We think of our family that are selflessly volunteering, those who are tirelessly praying, and those who are advocating for human rights protection at this time. As we stand back and look at the larger tapestry, it becomes clear how we are connected in this journey together.

Let us move forward, living by faith and trusting the Light of Christ sufficient to help us take the next step, knowing that we are in this together. Much grace upon you all as you unbind yourselves and put on wings in seeking out new ways to fulfil our mission in these times. May we always pray for and remember each other, working on our interconnection in our Cabrini World, so that we may become the true bearers of the love of Christ we always yearn to be.

United in the heart of Jesus,

*Sr. Barbara Staley, General Superior, MSC*



# *The International Health Commission*



*An HIV prevention group in Lubombo, Eswatini, run by Cabrini Ministries.  
Women's promotion and education is an essential ingredient of development in the rural areas of Eswatini.*

*It is a great joy for us to **welcome Ms. Catherine Garner as the new chairperson of the IHC.***

*Cath is the Group Director Mission and Cabrini Outreach at Cabrini Health Limited in Melbourne Australia. I have known Cath for many years and she brings a dynamic leadership, deep understanding of and commitment to the mission, skill, and much experience in our Cabrini World to build on the thus far established work of the IHC.*

*We thank with deep gratitude Dr Michael Walsh for his leadership as the first Chairperson of the IHC. His inclusive leadership style, service, medical knowledge, and wisdom have greatly benefitted us on a professional and personal level and his dedication to our mission is a true testimony. While we wish Michael everything of the best for his next endeavors, we also hold in our hearts that he will find his way back to our circles soon. Please join me in keeping Cath and Michael in your prayers for this new season in their lives."*

*Sr. Barbara Staley*

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



## Quarter 1 2020 Update

The International Health Commission was established in September 2018. Our purpose is to support the General Superior to evaluate and provide strategic support to the health missions around the Cabrini World in light of the XV General Chapter outcomes.

We began our work by:

- i) articulating **general standards** for health service delivery,
- ii) agreeing to evaluate the **thematic areas** of maternal and child health and preventing and treating malnutrition, and
- iii) designing a **standard evaluation process** for all our health ministries.

In this way, from our inception and early stages, our work has been designed to **strengthen enhance the interconnectivity between our Cabrini health missions**.

To date, we have reviewed the self-assessments completed by the health ministries in **Argentina, Eswatini and Guatemala** and conducted an in-country external review in **Eswatini (August 2019) and Guatemala (February 2020)**.

Whilst we are yet to complete the process for all of the health services, the experience so far has given us a great sense of the good that is being done as each service strives to respond to the needs of their own local community. **We have been impressed with the high level of staff engagement, professionalism and enthusiasm**. One theme already emerging is the need to improve communication – internally, with the community and with potential funders and donors. We are in the process of consulting with the local Superiors to understand how we might best respond to this finding and the other areas identified for capacity strengthening.

The original intent in focusing on the two thematic areas was to enable us to **maximise the impact of our health services in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**. The phrase ‘think global, act local’ more accurately reflects the situation we have found so far. We are now considering ways to encourage relationships between the services so that individual strengths can be leveraged across the group, for example, in joint funding applications.

We look forward to sharing more news in future editions of this newsletter.



## Special Message: Remembering our Shared Mission in the Face of COVID-19

When the **International Health Commission last met in late March 2020**, Italy had overtaken China with the highest number of deaths from the virus, New York was bracing for a rapid increase in cases, Australia looked to be following a similar trend with a time lag of a few weeks, the clinic in Argentina had closed and the first cases of the virus had been diagnosed in Ethiopia, Eswatini and Papua New Guinea.

Much has changed in the last two and a half weeks. Some countries are faring better than expected and many are faring worse. In the unceasing coverage of death and devastation, one of the more positive images is of health workers being hailed as heroes as they turn up to work each day, putting their own lives at risk as they care for the sick and dying. We thank the IHC members, who in their personal and professional capacities, are playing an important part in the fight against COVID-19, some within their local geographic contexts and others internationally in their role as global health experts. We thank them also for the technical assistance provided to the MSC health missions.

As we battle this global pandemic in each of our health missions around the world, we are even more strongly connected to one another. Our mission is to be the face and hands of Jesus, to heal the sick and so play our part in healing the world. Never has our message of hope been more important than now. We are praying for each of you and those for whom you care.

May you be strengthened by our love, and the hope and joy of the resurrection this Easter season.

*Cath Garner*

*Chair, International Health Commission*





# *Interconnectivity within Our Institute through Impact Investing*

**Impact Investing** is an exciting and rapidly growing field powered by investors who are determined to generate social and environmental impact as well as financial returns.

The Missionary Sisters have actually been doing impact investing since the inception of our Institute! Our very own ministries represent what today's progressive investors call "social enterprises".

At the **Institute's Finance Office** we differentiate our internal and external investing. "**Internal**" being investments in all our **MSC ministries** (education, health, elderly care, refugee and immigrant services, and more). "**External**" being our new way of directing the Institute's investment money to generate not only financial returns but also **positive social and environmental impacts**.



*Figure 1 The MSC Impact Investment Portfolio's Growing Reach*



In order to strategically invest internally we need to understand our “**Cabrini World**”. Therefore in August 2019 we embarked on a global financial sustainability study. This analysis of the Institute’s current and future needs considers communities and works in all 17 countries, including the Generalate. The results will be used to assist leadership in making well-informed decisions regarding the use of the temporal goods to support our Sisters and mission.

We feel that the sustainability study project and the **International Meeting of Treasurers and Administrators (Codogno, May 2019)** have fostered new kinds of interconnectivity within the Institute. Thanks to the cooperation of all stakeholders, particularly the Provincial/Regional Superiors, we now speak regularly with finance administrators throughout the world. We are all working together to help guide the use of temporal goods throughout the Institute.



*Photograph 1 International Meeting of Treasurers and Administrators (Codogno, May 2019)*



## EXTERNAL

The goal of our external impact investments is to **expand the reach of our mission to serve the most vulnerable populations around the world.**

As we look to support organizations that complement, mirror, or parallel the work of our MSC ministries, we've developed relationships with many organizations that directly serve immigrants and refugees. Connecting these organizations to our Cabrini family strengthens our mission while deepening the Institute's interconnectivity. We also strive to share our knowledge of external impact investing across our Cabrini World.

Here are some ways we see our impact investing portfolio's interconnectivity with the MSC Ministries deepening:

### CURRENT



#### Cabrini Immigration Services

**We helped connect Cabrini Immigration Services' lawyers to a Salvadoran family held in immigration detention.**



#### London Community

**We supported our London community's search for a values-aligned banking solution. We also shared tools and resources with provincial investment staff interested in using temporal goods for mission.**



#### Religious Communities Impact Fund

**Our investment in Religious Communities Impact Fund is a partnership that helps to deepen our interconnectivity with other Catholic Organizations. They are an organization of Catholic women's religious that are called to use their financial resources as a ministry by investing in projects consistent with the Gospel mission of economic justice for all.**





# FUTURE

We also hope to increasingly use our external impact investments to **strengthen interconnectivity within the Cabrini family and to other Catholic religious congregations.**

Here are some of our ideas:

Through a social enterprise called **Beneficial Returns**, we invest in a company called **EcoFiltro** in Guatemala.

They produce and distribute low-cost clean water filters in Guatemala. This group could potentially work with our Guatemalan missions to complement our community health efforts in the country!



*Photograph 2 Photo credit: EcoFiltro and Beneficial Returns*

We connected with **Opes**, an Italian organization that seeks partners to support Italian social enterprises dedicated to refugees and at-risk youth in Italy. We would love to connect this group with Casa Cabrini in Rome.



Through **Beneficial Returns** we will also be supporting **Fundación Paraguaya**, a not-for-profit that focuses on poverty alleviation by running self-sustaining rural agriculture schools, offering microfinance loans, and providing entrepreneurship training. Our loan will support the expansion of the agriculture school's dairy facility so that the students can package and sell the cheese they make. At the right time, we can be the linking point between the group and Santa Francisca Cabrini Province.



*Photograph 3 Photo credit: Fundación Paraguaya and Beneficial Returns*

**We invest in an organization called **One Acre Fund** that provides fertilizer, seeds, tools, and training for small-holder farmers across Africa.**

**This holds potential for our future work in Northern Uganda!**

We are continually working to ensure our investments compliment and build on the work already achieved by the Sisters and partners-in-mission throughout our Cabrini World. Ultimately we acquire a deeper level of understanding about the outworking of our Cabrinian mission, key issues and strategic approaches from our engagements with the MSC



ministries. We hope in future to have structural ways for the partners that we work with under the investment portfolio to be able to learn from our various MSC ministries too.

In the spirit of deeper **interconnectivity**, we always invite you to reach out to us to learn more about impact investing and the partners we support, or share names of organizations in your local communities that might fit our impact investment portfolio.

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

## **Biographies**



**Greg Lane** provides strategic and operational oversight of the Institute's global finances. He helps guide the Sisters' use of resources – people, property, and capital – for the benefit of the common good, especially among vulnerable populations. This includes developing a mission-aligned impact investment portfolio and repurposing real estate according to unmet need. Mr. Lane is an experienced development finance professional who has worked extensively in Emerging Markets. He is a graduate of Duke University.

**Kayoko Lyons** joined the Cabrini family as the Director of Impact Investing in January 2019, relocating from Washington D.C. back to her hometown of Chicago.

Prior to working with the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart she worked at MicroVest, an impact investing fund that supports financial inclusion around the world, and at JPMorgan Chase lending money to hospitals, not-for-profits and governments. She studied Economics at the University of California, Berkeley and received a Masters in International Development from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, Italy and Washington D.C.







## THE ESSENCE OF LOVE, a Letter of Reflection

*It was my first visit to Guatemala, a reality I only knew thanks to some reading up on the history, economy and society of the country I made while preparing for the task I was to undertake for the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mother Cabrini's Sisters.*



*Photograph 4 Mrs Angela Paraluppi and Mr Mario Raviglione at Dispensario San José*

*The rainbow of colors visible in every corner of the villages, in all artifacts and dresses, even on the walls of houses surprised me. I was expecting to see them abundantly but not to such extent, also in the asentamientos where the Missionary Sisters provide their assistance and care.*

*Both Dispensarios work as a catalyst for the whole population around them and as an incubator of*

*initiatives for elderly, children and women.*

*The energy and dedication of Sisters Concepcion, Maria Elena, Juanita and Ana Jilma generat a ripple effect in the lay staff working with them. San Jose and Madre Cabrini Dispensarios provide an oasis of spiritual and physical wellbeing in the poor and humble environments they are located in. Their presence and work radiate the essence of love, respect, empowerment, education and care that gives hope to overcome even the most difficult realities.*



*Photograph 5 Dispensario San José*

*~ written by Angela Marinella Paraluppi,  
friend of the MSC, partner-in-mission, and (Architect) Head, Space Planning and Accommodation  
at the World Health Organization*





We are very grateful to Ms. Paraluppi for her special dedication to our Cabrini mission, and for the professional service she has provided us in assessing the infrastructure and equipment at our health missions in Ethiopia and Guatemala.

All the photographs below capturing life ‘on mission’ in Guatemala are by Ms. Angela Marinella Paraluppi.

For more photographs, visit our gallery on [www.cabriniworld.org](http://www.cabriniworld.org).





One year ago we started a **new website** and opened **social media accounts** (@Cabrini World) in an endeavour to **further our interconnectivity** within the Institute and deepen our mission in **bringing the redemptive message of Jesus love to the world**.

*In celebrating this milestone and reviewing what further we can do to deepen our in interconnectivity through our communications portfolio, we would sincerely appreciate your help.*

*If you have ideas how we can strengthen our communications with you and your communication with us, [please take a couple of minutes to answer these quick questions](https://forms.gle/DKuSSjaak1KSjiM66) through this link: <https://forms.gle/DKuSSjaak1KSjiM66> .*

*Let's stay in touch! Thank you!*

*The Communications Team at Cabrini World*



Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Viale Cortina D'Ampezzo, 269  
00135 Rome, Italy + 39 06 35505721  
[www.cabriniworld.org](http://www.cabriniworld.org) - [info@cabriniworld.org](mailto:info@cabriniworld.org)

