



Missionary Sisters
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

To the Ends of the Earth

Prot.S.G. – L. 055/2021

22 April 2021

Dear Sisters and Partners-in-Mission,

Fond greetings to you all as we pass through this most holy time of year, acknowledging the suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we pause to reflect and take in that which we are living through, the suffering in the world, the uncertainties, the loss, and perhaps strange new beginnings for some, let us renew our hope afresh, and reinvigorate our precious faith. It is for times such as these that we are called.

I think of the cry of Mother Cabrini's heart echoed in her passionate statement *"I will sail all the seas to bear the name of Christ Jesus to all peoples who still do not know Him or have forgotten Him"* (from *To The Ends of The Earth* – during Mother Cabrini's journey from Le Havre to New York April 1890). Are we willing and ready to go to those who are suffering, those who are in pain, those who are oppressed, to where there is injustice and inequity? Our charism urges us to serve beyond ourselves, and to go where life is most vulnerable as an outflow of us being the bearers of the love of Christ. We are called to go there physically, but also in our prayers, with our time, with compassion, and with all God has given us. To partner in all ways possible in order to play our part in making all things possible.

Our 2014 Chapter mandates calls us to be "prophetic agents of hope and transformation, defending life in all its phases", urging us to insert ourselves in those missionary areas where human frailty is more present and to "draw near to new forms of poverty and vulnerability". In this newsletter you will read about ways in which we are seeking to reach those within "hidden realities", through direct services, communication, and the use of our temporal goods. The Provincials also share with us encouraging examples of how Sisters and laity are drawing close to people at these times.

There is a growing number who remain hidden, perishing from hunger, from neglect, and from broken hearts. Throughout the remainder of this year we'll be "uncovering" some of the issues pertaining to them, for example: nutrition; elderly care; equal access to quality healthcare and vaccines; human trafficking; forced migration; climate change; etc. As a Catholic organization we need to observe the great influence we have, continually learning about such realities, playing our part in protecting and empowering the vulnerable among us.



Let us always seek to walk as Jesus did, being near to people, seeing and loving one another. Our victory is that Christ did not remain in the grave, he rose again, proving that love conquers all. Let this inspire us always, freeing our faith to arise as demonstrated in our acts carried out in love for God and love for our fellow human being.

To all of us who have suffered losses during this time, my thoughts and prayers are united with yours. Let us be free and put on wings as we move forward serving God.

Yours in Christ,

Sr Barbara Staley, General Superior, MSC



Reflection from the General Council

Focus on International Women's Day Mother Cabrini, A Woman for Immigrant Women

Sr. Maria Regina Canale, MSC

We know that at the 1st National Women's Congress, held in Rome in April 1908, in the presence of Queen Elena and Queen Margherita, Mother Cabrini was invited to speak about the condition of immigrant women.

Mother Cabrini was unable to attend due to her many commitments, but she sent a Letter to the President of the Congress, Countess Danieli Camozzi, which was read and acclaimed during the 5th session of the Congress.

Mother Cabrini speaks of Immigrant Women with much respect and love and above all speaking with full knowledge of the facts.

Mother Cabrini admires the immigrant women, who despite having to spend all day in a factory or in any other job, they do not neglect the education of their children.



Photo 1 Mother Cabrini Memorial in Battery Park, New York City

But the greatest contribution that Mother Cabrini gave and still gives today through her works and missions, is the formation and empowerment of women.

She desired well educated, and adaptable Missionaries, ready to accept the challenge of inculturality, and of internationality. She thought of a universal sisterhood which, in part, she realized through communities formed by Sisters of 10 or 12 nationalities. She did this



using a missionary pedagogy based on the Love of the Heart of Jesus and creating in her missions that family spirit that has always characterized our missions.

Mother Cabrini understood that it is essential to learn to coexist with different cultures, without losing one's own identity, being mutually enriching. **She did this by trusting in God's love, and by dialoguing and accepting the challenge of diversity.**

Today we can do as Mother Cabrini did, using communication as a means of keeping us in contact with each other and that can be a bonding instrument if used in the right way.

This is what the Letter says at a certain point:

*"I have been invited to work for the emigrants, and responding to an intimate attraction of my soul. I have established orphanages, schools and hospitals for them in the main centers of emigration, and I know that these institutes provide effective help to our poor compatriots. They educate their children, they take care of the orphans who lost their parents because of accidents at work, especially in the mines. They heal them when they are ill, both when they are forced to go to the hospital, and when they can reach the dispensary to be treated without leaving their families. I have calculated that about 50,000 people will receive benefits from these institutions each year. This would be a small amount if we did not add the most beautiful, noblest, holiest and most humanitarian part of the mission that I have so much at heart among emigrants. That is what our Sisters carry out in the various countries: the orphanages are good, the schools excellent, the hospitals too, but there is a charity that all our emigrants need, a charity that must be practiced with everyone without distinction, **and especially with women**".*

~ From the Letter of Mother Cabrini to the National Woman Congress 1908

[Read the entire article HERE.](#)

Building a fairer, healthier world

It is an unacceptable fact that some people in our world are able to live healthier lives and have better access to health services than others due entirely to the conditions in which they are born, grow, live, work and age.

In 2015, the **Sustainable Development Agenda** was launched with the goals of ending poverty, protecting the planet and improving the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere by 2030. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals map the transformation of the financial, economic and political systems that are required to guarantee the human rights of all.

In the 5 years to 2019, some progress was made towards Sustainable **Goal 3 “to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”**. However, as a result of the pandemic, we have witnessed unprecedented spreading of human suffering as the lives of



billions of people were upended and world economies were destabilised. More people than ever were pushed into poverty and food insecurity. Gender, social and health inequities were amplified. Many health systems were overwhelmed. Instead of making further progress, the pandemic has threatened the global health outcomes that had already been achieved.

Building a fairer, healthier world - the theme for World Health Day on 7 April - seems both more urgent and more challenging than ever. How are we contributing to the achievement of this goal?



Photo 2 Gabriela Martínez is a pediatrician of Cabrini Guatemala.

While historically healthcare systems have been designed around clinicians, today community engagement is increasingly being recognised as an important and integral process to improve health equity and achieve universal health coverage. My research and observation lead me to believe the Sisters implicitly understand the importance of community engagement. Although I have never been to Argentina, I have had the

opportunity to visit Eswatini and Ethiopia several times and was part of the external assessment team for the two health services in Guatemala a little more than a year ago. In each of these realities, **the Sisters and staff live alongside the people they care for.** They know their families and their stories, listen to their hopes and dreams, celebrate and mourn with them. Being close to the people is the best way to earn community trust, which is the cornerstone of community engagement.

The goal of community engagement is to ensure the services being delivered meet a real need in the community. Here I have an echo of Sr. Regina Casey's voice in my ear, asking "**But is this service what the community needs?**". There is no doubt in my mind that for each of our health missions, the answer is a resounding "yes". In each case, they are the only service provider in the community and without them, access to care would be much more difficult. The fact that their program offerings have changed over time is strong evidence of their alignment to changing community need.

The Sustainable Development Goals recognise the complex interplay of factors and opportunities involved in good health and wellbeing. This principle is exemplified in the programs co-located with or sponsored by our health services that provide access to fresh water, nourishing food, emotional and spiritual care, education, recreation and/or work opportunities. We can see this wisdom repeated on a larger scale when we look across the variety of the ministries the Sisters have established and operate today around the world.



One of the roles of the International Health Commission is to **support the health missions to improve the quality of the services they offer**. The desire to provide quality care, despite the real challenges each service faces, reflects an unwavering commitment to human dignity. **Every person, no matter their circumstance, deserves respect and the best possible health care.**

Although our health footprint is small, it is making a real difference to the lives of the people we serve. I think we can be proud of our contribution to building a fairer, healthier world.

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](#)

Seeking to engage vulnerable communities through Impact Investing

Typically, financial investments are made through intermediaries like a bank or a fund. Intermediaries implement the investment purpose whilst managing the risks. Most impact investments are structured as funds. For instance, on behalf of the MSC we are investing in **Kiva Refugee Investment Fund** (“Kiva”). This fund works with field partners to support refugee communities in **Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Colombia, and East Africa**. To reach forced migrants and other communities in need, it is important for us to build a network of connected partners like Kiva and the **Religious Communities Impact Fund** (“RCIF”). RCIF pools resources from many Catholic Congregations to make investments in low-income communities that benefit the economically poor, especially women and children. Recent travel constraints heighten the importance of having good, trusted operating partners.



Photo 3 Photo Credit Kiva Refugee Investment Fund





Photo 4 Photo Credit Religious Communities Impact Fund

In reflecting on the next phase of our Impact Investing journey, we are called to more deeply consider **how to embody the principle of subsidiarity**. How can we ensure the vulnerable communities we aim to support are engaged in design, governance, decision-making and ownership of the projects and organizations we fund?

We see the impact investing industry employing a top-down approach whereby investors and entrepreneurs rather than beneficiaries define priorities. This approach has left many smaller, community-based projects underfunded. Going forward, we seek to deepen our relationships and partnerships within those communities we support to better share in the decision-making of allocating temporal goods.

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

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

Building bridges and relationships with all people where they are at

On 15 July 2014, the newly elected General Superior, Sr. Barbara Staley, wrote to the Sisters and to all of us partners-in-mission urging us to “ask Jesus for the wisdom and courage to push past our comfort zones and do what is necessary to further transform our lives, sharing our ‘Misionariedad’ as Sisters and laity together”. Further, as Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, she asked us to pour out the Love of Christ to those most in need, “offering our own sacrifices in reparation for the good of the world”.

These words continue to echo in our minds and hearts, guiding us in the choices we are called to make every day as ambassadors of, and communicators within the Institute.

From Mother Cabrini we learn that nothing is more important than being close to people. Called to live out our mission in our role in communication, this translates into **being faithful to what the Institute has built**, through tradition and inspiration guided by the Spirit. At the same time it means meeting the needs of today, **building bridges and relationships with all people where they are at**. It is about giving voice to those who



have fewer means to make themselves heard, telling of the wounds, the beauty, and the victories of our brothers and sisters who are at all *Ends of the Earth*. This so that everyone may know they are loved by Christ, and so we may all be reached and transformed by healing words of hope.

It is with this aim in mind that in the next few weeks, **you will see our Generalate website www.cabriniworld.org taking on a new look.** This modernized website will allow us, through new technologies, to effectively reach many more people in different parts of the world, even where technological advancement is more challenging. We will be launching officially on 16th and 17th May (being 2021 World Communications Day for the Catholic Church and UN World Telecommunication and Information Society Day respectively) and we invite you all to visit and continue to follow and engage with the updates from all corners of our Cabrini World.



Photo 5 A 111-year-old woman is comforted by a nurse following her COVID-19 vaccination at IU Health Neuroscience Center March 16 in Indianapolis. (CNS/Chris Bergin, Reuters)

We encourage you also to keep communicating with and writing to us. Through your testimonies we are all greatly encouraged and we learn from one another how to embrace the challenge of being the hands and feet of Jesus, sharing His love and remaining faithful to our respective ministries. In your stories, we see how each one of us, Sisters, partners-in-mission and sharers-of-the charism, are **called to be Missionaries**.

*Tatiana Paradiso, Giulia Angelucci and Nicole Rose Nieman
on behalf of the Communications Team*



THE ESSENCE OF LOVE

Sharing this reflection on the educational mission, is a great opportunity to relive so many wonderful moments in my heart and mind that I have shared with other sisters, children, families, teachers, and leadership teams that Jesus has placed along my journey in various missions.

Above all I want to mention the fundamental principles to which I try to be faithful to, being those that Mother Cabrini indicates for the education of the heart: attitudes and feelings of compassion, tenderness, acceptance and openness. These are all concrete ways of loving and educating students and everyone. Let us try with all our hearts and wills to transmit the



strength and beauty of the Heart of Jesus. Motivated to have His same feelings, may our hearts expand to welcome the neediest, protect the most vulnerable, and resolve difficulties and challenges when they occur, especially when we lack strength.



Photo 6 Sr. Patricia in the school in London

During these years, I had the opportunity to work in various schools in **Argentina like the Cabrini Schools of Villa Amelia and Rosario**. In these places, I have had too many human experiences and testimonies of faith to tell in detail regarding the pastoral animation of

student groups, catechesis with the parents, and many celebrations of the Sacred Heart and of Mother Cabrini. Our creative teamwork resulted in many activities of solidarity and commitment to those in need. Almost nine years have passed since I left those places, but the memory of so many faces I met, and the experiences I shared with them, is still alive. I learned that the educational process is connected to the formation of bonds and authentic relationships that allow us to form an environment to educate in faith and love.

For some years I was able to work in the **St. Francesca Cabrini Primary School in London**, another very beautiful mission, where I felt that the Cabrinian charism is a living force, both inherited and present. When I arrived, I experienced the joy and dedication of the laity who are living our charism. Here I was confirmed that education implies welcoming everyone, responding with mercy to both the smallest, and the most demanding needs. To educate is to join forces in order to create an alliance that cares for the children with great tenderness. I have learned to work together with people who dedicate hours and hours to each child, and I am grateful to have seen how brief moments of dialogue become a true exchange for listening, reflecting, and putting education of the heart at the center.

As I write these words, I am in the London mission, and with great joy I can see how the children are doing in the school. We have to face the pandemic and many other challenges, but personally I feel that this experience has allowed me to give a beautiful testimony to a new way of gently and tenderly meeting each other, of listening in a new way, and taking nothing for granted. This situation has given each of us the opportunity to witness the eternal mercy of God.

I am very grateful for all that I have experienced in the Cabrinian educational missions, and I am certain of the richness that exists in every place where there is a school and a good relationship among all the members of the Cabrinian family.



Photo 7 Sr. Patricia and Sr. Suany with one of the child in Ethiopia

by Sister Patricia Godoy, MSC



Highlights from the Provinces

MATER GRATIAE PROVINCE

The Province is very **close to the families in the schools**, providing support by listening and welcoming them in their most urgent needs: job loss, separation, extended family concerns, and the growth of children and adolescents.

It has been a year that acts as a **reference point for those who lost a family member due to Covid-19**, for the elderly, the sick, the most vulnerable, the suffering and the lonely ones. When we cannot go to visit them, we try to contact them by phone.

This **Lent** we were called by Jesus to **live the intense experience of Covid-19** together with our Sisters and lay collaborators of the Community of Codogno. **The loss of our Sisters**, the isolation, the weakness and powerlessness, the uncertainty, and the fear we felt were transformed by faith in Jesus who urged us to follow Him.

Faith in the Risen Christ has been the Light that illuminated the darkness and thus we experienced the **UNITY of our whole Institute**. We were ONE suffering, crying, and rejoicing when slowly we could see the light again.

We thank all the MSCs and laity of our Cabrinian missions who prayed and accompanied us on this journey to Easter. May our Sisters who returned home to God during the past months intercede for us!



SANTA FRANCISCA CABRINI PROVINCE

We Sisters of Santa Francisca Cabrini Province continue to carry out diverse **solidarity activities** with fraternal attitudes of listening and praying for the families affected by COVID.

Two things I wish to highlight:

- The opening of space at Colégio Boni Consilii (São Paulo) to collaborate free of charge with the local **COVID Vaccination campaign**;
- **The online provincial celebration**, on the Feast of St. Joseph, with a prayer of solidarity for the end of the pandemic, for the people who suffer from COVID and its consequences and for a vaccine for everyone.



HOLY SPIRIT REGION

In **Ethiopia** at **St. Mary Catholic Primary Hospital** we are close to the hidden ones, offering low cost for all patient healthcare, and for those who have nothing. All maternity cases are free to encourage mothers to deliver in hospital. **Cabrini Ministries Ethiopia** runs a Malnutrition Rehabilitation Program for children under 5 years in rural areas and a livelihood program for mothers of malnourished children to become financially independent. We also run **3 kindergartens**, with students from impoverished families having fees waived (majority of students); plus a breakfast & lunch program for impoverished students. In **Dubbo & Wallacha Parish** we have pastoral visiting to families, especially the lonely elderly, handicapped & sick.

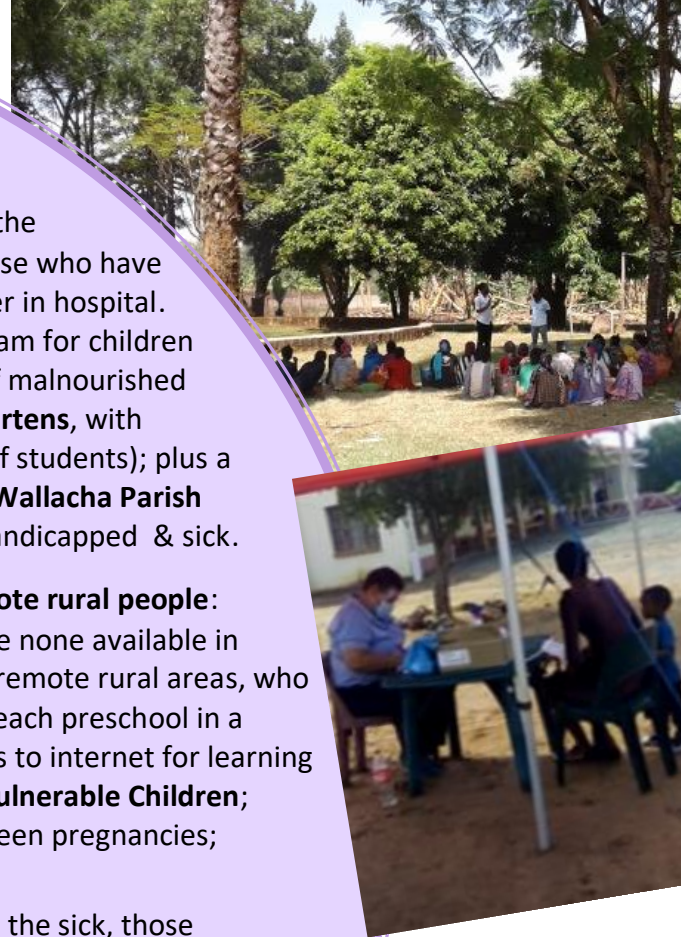
In **Eswatini**: **Healthcare facility and Health Care Outreach for remote rural people**: essential medications available for the sick & elderly, when there are none available in many health facilities in the country. **A kindergarten** for children in remote rural areas, who would otherwise not have access to early years foundation; an outreach preschool in a remote and poor area. Resource Hub supporting learning and access to internet for learning for disadvantaged children & youth. Reaching out to **Orphaned & Vulnerable Children**; supporting women experiencing gender-based violence (GBV) and teen pregnancies; advocating for people without IDs.

In **Uganda** within the settlements the more hidden are the elderly, the sick, those who cannot walk anymore & so they stay lying on the ground, inside or outside the tukul (house), trying to survive any way they can.

When we visit them, many times, they cry and say, **"No one come to see and pray with us..."**. The **children treated as a number**, without any rights, just work to be done; the **women who alone** take care of the house and provide everything for their children. We try to **be close to them** by visiting, praying, taking the Holy Communion, gathering the women together to share their experiences, prayer and develop some skills, handicrafts.



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GUADALUPE PROVINCE

The residents at **Cabrini of Westchester** have faced a variety of changes because of the restrictions put into place due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Attending daily Mass in Cabrini of Westchester's chapel has typically been a highlight for many residents. Unfortunately, because of the restrictions, this has not been possible and instead, residents have been participating through an in-room TV channel streamed from the chapel. Many find solace in the daily visits from Fr. Thomas Vadakemuriyil, CMI, Director of Pastoral Care. Father Tom offers **comfort and an apostolic presence** and he helps to energize those individuals who are weary because of the feeling of isolation. Father Tom also acts as a communicator between residents and their families, who were not able to visit with their loved ones in person, until recently. Seen here, Father Tom shares a spiritual visit with Sr. Rose Golden, RDC.



From our mission in **Nicaragua**, in our educational works, we MSC reach out to the most defenseless and hidden ones through welcoming, visiting and listening attentively, supporting and praying. We transmit our charism to the neediest and the rejected as St. Frances Xavier Cabrini