



CARMELITE MISSIONS

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CARMELITE



MISSIONS



"Children helped by Carmelite Missions"

Your offering
and your support
are needed NOW
more than ever.

Hope for Future continued...

Throughout the years, Carmelite Missions has encouraged these seminarians, and with your generous help now and in the future, we will strive to support their theological training and their missionary activities. **Thank you for helping.**

Again this year, as a token of my gratitude for your kind gifts to our missions, I will be offering Mass each day during November for your loved ones who have died, and will also remember them daily in prayer. May all of our beloved family and friends enjoy peace and joy with our Risen Savior in His kingdom.

Love and peace,

F. John Malley, O. Carm.

Director of Carmelite Missions

~ Words of Thanksgiving ~ Deeds of Service

(Thoughts to Ponder...)
A good friend dies, and suddenly we discover how much he meant to us.

Our water becomes too polluted to drink, and suddenly we appreciate pure water.

Why is it, Lord, that we take for granted the uncounted blessings of life until they are removed from us?

We take for granted, the mind you have given us, the beauty of the earth around us, the rain and soil combining to produce our food, the love of family and friends surrounding us.

TODAY, we thank You for being patient with us, for not forgetting when we forget You, for loving and forgiving us, for music and singing, for rest and leisure, for those who understand us, for laughter and joy, for being with us now.

Most of all we thank You for not withholding the blessings of life from us even though we take them for granted.

Take us from worship into the world where we turn words of thanksgiving into deeds of service.

— Author Unknown



Father John Malley, O. Carm.
Director of Carmelite Missions

Hope for Future Carmelite Vocations

In the United States and Canada, many of us are often concerned about the lack of candidates for religious life and the priesthood. This will be a major challenge for the Church during the coming years, but hopefully it will not lead us to become discouraged. In this November newsletter, I want to tell you about four countries – Kenya, Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Vietnam – where vocations to the Carmelites are increasing and where there is great hope for the future.

For Carmelites, these four countries have one thing in common; lay Third Order women were the key reason why there are presently young men studying for the priesthood. In 1950, a group of laywomen, the Missionary Workers of the Immaculate (Donum Dei) began in France. Their ideal was to live like Carmelites, imitating the values of St. Therese, but not in a monastery; instead they would work as laywomen in jobs, like running their own restaurants, or as secretaries and teachers. Later, they founded missions and similar work in Burkina Faso, Vietnam, Cameroon and Kenya.

Almost 25 years ago in Rome on February 22, 1987, this group became affiliated to the Carmel as Third Order members. They have always been extremely grateful for this blessing. Because there were no male Carmelites in their four mission areas, they encouraged the General Council of the Order to consider the possibility of establishing seminaries there. The Missionary Workers would act as the first vocation promoters!

Fortunately, different Carmelite Provinces accepted the responsibility to begin formation programs in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya and Vietnam; major theology seminaries were founded...and there have been vocations! As an example, in Vietnam, where the first contact with potential seminarians took place in April 1995, there are now ten Carmelite priests.



Missionary Workers



Gathering of Parish Community

Letter continued on back page

Remember the Carmelite Missions when you write your will.

Saint of the Month

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini ✿ Feast Day – November 13



St. Frances Cabrini, stained glass window, St. Jude Catholic Church, NJ.

The life of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini is a remarkable story, one that recalls the great missionary journeys of St. Paul. Just as the Apostle to the Gentiles traveled back and forth on the Mediterranean, establishing churches as he went, so Mother Cabrini crossed and re-crossed the Atlantic, founding schools, orphanages, hospitals and other homes for the poor almost everywhere she set foot. She made 25 sea voyages and opened 67 religious houses in her native Italy, and also in France, Spain, England, Central and South America. Mother Cabrini's hardest work, however, was done in the land she adopted as her own. She became a United States citizen in 1910, and so ranks today as the first American to be named a saint of the Church.

“Not to the East...”

This valiant woman was born on July 15, 1850, the youngest of thirteen children. Even as a child she wanted to be a missionary to China, but her wish

never came true. Instead God planned for Frances to found a Congregation of Sisters – the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart – who would work for the Lord in many nations, but not in China. Pope Leo XIII, who had received reports about Italian immigrants in the United States, challenged her in September 1887: “Not to the East, Mother, but to the West. Go to America. There you will find a great field of labor.”

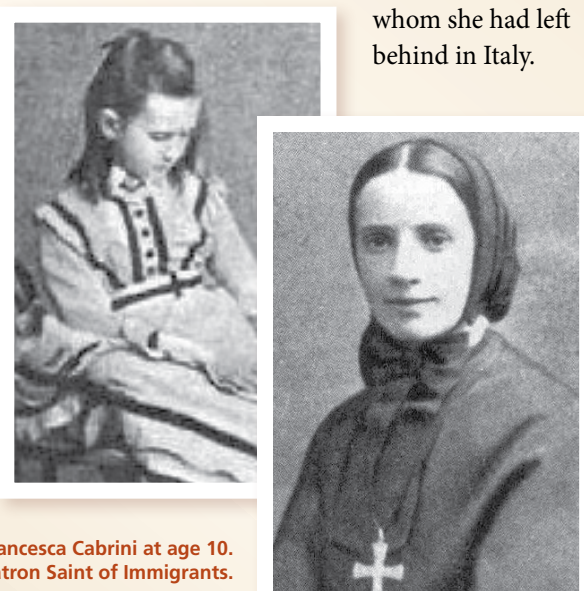
Eighteen months later, Mother Cabrini and six Sisters arrived in New York City. When their ship docked on March 31, 1889, the only welcome they received was from the Statue of Liberty! Archbishop Corrigan was not quite ready for them. No convent

had been prepared, and they had to stay in a dingy boarding house on the edge of Chinatown. These initial disappointments did not dampen Mother's determination. Within months she and her Sisters established an orphanage and a school for four hundred girls in the part of lower Manhattan called then as now “Little Italy.” A year later she organized a training center and novitiate for Italian-American young women who wanted to join her Sisters.

From the beginning, Mother Cabrini had the “common touch.” She walked the streets of Little Italy and visited the homes of the people. Her neighbors were poor. She knew in her heart that God wanted her to be with them. What she may not have realized then was that He wanted her in many other places too.

A Call to the Sick

Once missionary activity in New York was underway, Mother Cabrini decided to visit the Sisters whom she had left behind in Italy.



Pictured above left: Francesca Cabrini at age 10. Pictured right: Mother Cabrini, Patron Saint of Immigrants.

While she was there, the Holy See urged her to help immigrants in the New World in yet another way. She should undertake work in hospitals where the poor and the sick would have loving care.

Until then Mother Cabrini felt that the teaching apostolate was to be the scope of her Institute. She was not ready for this new challenge. She prayed earnestly about it, and confided a dream that she had at that time: She saw Our Blessed Lady passing through a hospital ward. Her gown was pinned back as she attended the sick. Mother Cabrini approached her and asked if she could help, but Our Lady answered: “I am doing what you refused to do.” Now Mother Cabrini knew that hospital work was really the will of God. She no longer hesitated.

When she returned to New York, she rented two houses and started a ten-bed makeshift hospital. For this tremendous undertaking, she had the grand sum of \$250 dollars. She and her Sisters begged soup for their patients from nearby restaurants, and from wherever they could, such things as blankets, sheets, medicine and bandages, and – most importantly – the volunteer services of physicians, nurses, and other health care personnel. In this modest way, Mother Cabrini launched the first of her “Columbus Hospitals,” a fete to be repeated in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Seattle and New Orleans.

Beggars for the Poor

By 1909 Mother Cabrini's congregation had one thousand Sisters working in fifty foundations in eight countries. In the United States besides caring for the sick, the children and the elderly, they regularly visited prisoners locked up in the New York and Chicago jails. They even ministered to condemned men on Sing Sing prison's death row.

Mother Cabrini's deep trust in the loving care of God was contagious. It gave her Sisters strength and inspiration in doing the work of Christ. They begged most of the money to pay their bills and to care for the immigrants they were called to serve. Most of the money was donated by the immigrants themselves – poor people who often gave nickels and dimes to help people even poorer than themselves. A story with an amusing twist is told that in one Chicago jail the prisoners took up a collection among themselves and bought the Sisters a horse and wagon. Mother Cabrini herself took the first ride around Lincoln Park!



St. Frances Cabrini, founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart (1880).

Saint for her Times

At her canonization on July 7, 1946, Pope Pius XII said of the saint: “Although her constitution was frail, her spirit was endowed with such singular strength that, knowing the will of God in her regard, she permitted nothing to impede her from accomplishing what seemed beyond ordinary strength.” Indeed, as one biographer puts it: “the adjectives come easily when thinking about Mother Cabrini – bold, risk-taking, committed, tireless and so forth. She represented many of the values that we look for in humanitarians, and more so, in saints. Her single-mindedness was awesome,

her executive abilities the envy of any manager, and her prayerful love just the tonic we wish for in religious leaders today. Italian Americans could not be happier than to have a woman like this reflect their ethnic greatness. The rest of us are pretty proud too.”

For 35 years Mother Cabrini's ministry was geared to meet the need of her times: the education of youth, the care of the immigrants, the sick, the orphan, the prisoner. The mission that Pope Leo XIII gave her was fulfilled beyond the Holy Father's fondest dream. During the last six years of her life, however, Mother Cabrini's health gradually worsened. Still this did not stop her. She continued her steady pace of work and travel.

She arrived in Chicago from her foundations in California in the spring of 1917 suffering from an old ailment – malaria. At first her condition improved, but in the days before Christmas she seemed especially tired. On December 21st she made her usual hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and spent much of the day preparing candy for the children of Assumption School (she had bought the candy because the local pastor lacked funds due to the war). The next day in her own Columbus Hospital, she died peacefully.

In the chapel of Mother Cabrini High School in the Washington Heights section of New York City, the saint's body rests under the main altar. The first American citizen to be canonized is known as the Patroness of immigrants and hospital administrators. Along with her namesake, St. Francis Xavier, and with St. Therese, she is also a Patroness of the foreign missions. Her feast day is celebrated on November 13th. ✿

