



Ydina
Wood

ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

PATRON SAINT OF IMMIGRANTS, ORPHANS
AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS

1850 – 1917

“Let your voice resound and I will go to the ends of the earth to do all that you want of me.”

ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

‘Journal of a Trusting Heart’

As we stop to reflect on our work to serve as a ministry of the Church, take a moment to listen to the story of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, a founder of schools, orphanages and hospitals all over the world.

As a child in Italy, Francesca Cabrini dreamed of spreading the word of God to the people of China. After training as a teacher, she was not received into her chosen religious order. The rector of the nearby parish, Fr. Serrati, saw great promise and sent her to make right a disorganized and badly administered orphanage. Although the orphanage eventually closed, Frances was not deterred and started an order of missionary women to serve at a bishop’s request. With her fellow Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, they received orphans and opened a day school. The new order attracted many postulants and in seven years, Mother Cabrini, as she became known, had created seven institutions to meet critical needs.

A new opportunity came when she heard of the cruel situations for many Italian immigrants in the United

States. Although confusion caused financial issues, she and her sisters endured and secured funds to open an orphanage. Supported by Mother Cabrini’s tenacity, perseverance and deep faith, she and her sisters opened 67 ministries of the Church including schools, orphanages and hospitals, across the United States from Scranton, Pennsylvania, to Seattle and around the world in places such as Argentina, France, England, Spain and Brazil. Mother Cabrini became the first U.S. citizen to be elevated to sainthood.



Although she faced countless barriers to her dream of spreading the word of God — rejection from a religious order, lack of funds to serve those in need, dangerous travel — she persisted. Rooted in her deep faith, Mother Cabrini acted with boldness, audacity and creativity to ensure the longevity of Jesus’ work.

- ✦ How does your health system remind you that we are more than a health care institution but also a continuation of the healing ministry of Jesus?
- ✦ As a ministry of the Church, what barriers does Catholic health face from your perspective?
- ✦ How do you turn to others and to God in uncertain times?

O HOLY MYSTERY OF LOVE,

As we lead and serve in ministries of your Church, may we act with the tenacity and endurance of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini who dedicated her life to founding ministries to serve critical needs.

Although we may not travel the world in our service, help us to remember the influence and impact we have on those we serve and those who serve alongside us.

Help us find strength in our faith to carry out your ministry.

Recommit us today to serve you earnestly

With our hands, our eyes, our thoughts, and our hearts.

All you Holy Men and Women: pray for us.

AMEN.