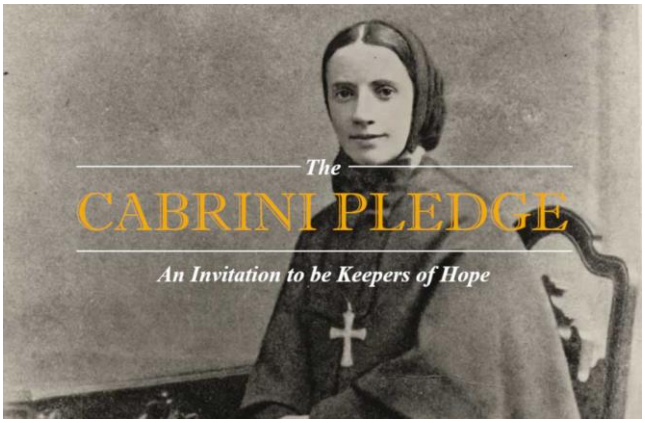


"Migrants and refugees remind the Church of her pilgrim dimension, perpetually journeying towards her final homeland, sustained by a hope that is a theological virtue."
—Pope Leo XIV, Message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The history of the U.S. Catholic Church, like the history of the United States itself, is very much intertwined with the phenomenon of migration. The first American citizen to be canonized a saint, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, was the embodiment of this. An immigrant from Italy, she adopted this country as her own. While often facing discrimination and seemingly impossible odds, she never succumbed to hopelessness. With relentless faith, she accompanied her fellow immigrants and others living on the margins of society with a great missionary zeal.

But Mother Cabrini's challenges, and the challenges of those she served, are not unique among the generations of Catholics and immigrants in general who have come to this land. This is not just a matter of history. It is a present reality in the life of our Church and nation.

As Catholics, we are called to recognize the face of Christ in each person we encounter, especially the poor and vulnerable. Jesus tells us in his own words: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35). The Gospel and the social teaching of the Church continually affirm the equal dignity of every person, irrespective of race, nationality, or immigration status.

The Cabrini Pledge is both a reminder of our immigrant heritage and a call to deeper engagement with our faith in response to current events. At a time when our culture is dominated by deep political divisions and reasonable disagreements about immigration policy, progress can feel impossible. But by witnessing to the God-given dignity of every person, including the migrants and refugees in our midst, we pave the way for an approach rooted in mercy, justice, and the common good. And together, like Mother Cabrini, we can be keepers of hope.

I PLEDGE:

- **To affirm, in word and deed, the inherent dignity of every person**, regardless of immigration status or country of origin, seeing each as a child of God before all else.

- **To engage with Scripture and the Church's social teaching**, reflecting on the role of migration in salvation history, the history of the United States, and the history of my own family.

- **To listen and learn about the circumstances facing migrants and refugees**, including those in my community, with an open heart and mind.

- **To seek opportunities for encounter**, so as to grow in deeper understanding and communion that leads to an authentic solidarity with those in need.

- **To consider what it means to be a good neighbor** and how I am called to reflect the love and hope of Christ to others.

- **To encourage civic dialogue that places the human person and the sanctity of families at the center of policymaking**, especially toward the end of meaningful immigration reform.

- **To join with Pope Leo in praying for all migrants and refugees** as fellow travelers on the journey to our true homeland.