



NOVEMBER DOMESTIC CHURCH PROJECT

You may notice that the title above uses a different font style this month. It is not because we celebrate Veterans' Day or because of Election Day. This month we are drawing special attention to *the first U.S. citizen to be proclaimed a Saint by the Catholic Church* – Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini! Her Feast Day is November 13th.



“Mother” Cabrini, as she has come to be known, came to the United States in the late 19th Century at the request of Pope Leo XIII (the last Pope to take the name Leo before our present Holy Father, Leo XIV) to minister to the fast-growing Catholic immigrant community in our country, particularly in New York City. St. Frances had already started an order of Sisters (nuns) dedicated to working closely with the poor, marginalized, and outcast in Italy. As a missionary to the US, she opened hospitals, orphanages, and schools with the goal of providing care, support, a way out of poverty, and greater social acceptance for immigrants. Her legacy still inspires millions of people around the world to continue to work for the betterment of the lives of immigrants and the marginalized in the US and elsewhere. Cabrini Hospital in NYC is named for her.

Mother Cabrini's mission was based in three important values on which **Catholic Church social justice teaching** later developed: the God-given dignity of every person regardless of where they come from; recognizing that all of us are connected one to the other; the call to love our neighbors and to share in both their joys and sorrows in life; following the example of Jesus by addressing the needs of the poor as a priority in the regular activities of our family; welcoming the stranger (*Gospel of Matthew 25:35*).



For this month's **Domestic Church At-Home Family Project**, take some time as a family to learn more about this trail-blazing American Saint and her important work (choose one):

1. **Watch the movie “Cabrini”** together as a family (rentable on Amazon Prime Video for \$5.39 – some scenes may not be suitable for very young children). Click [HERE](#) for a discussion guide and some questions to consider as a family after watching the movie.
2. **Look into your family's own immigrant history.** Where does your family come from? When did family members first arrive in the US? Is there someone in your family who can tell you stories about “the old country” and their immigrant experience? What faith traditions did they bring with them?
3. Learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches about **social justice**, click [HERE](#)

Choose a question on the next page and email us your answer.

Reflection Questions (Answer the question that relates to the project action your family chose):

- 1. What did you learn about Mother Cabrini and her work among the poor and forgotten? Did her service to those in need inspire you and your family to take action to help others? How and what do you plan to do?*

- 2. What did you learn about your family's immigrant history? What faith traditions from your family's country of origin do you still practice today? Does understanding your own immigrant past help you better connect with the needs of today's immigrant communities? How?*

- 3. What did you learn about the teaching of the Catholic Church regarding our call to social justice? Does knowing more about what the Church teaches inspire you and your family to see others in a different way? What steps can you and your family take to put these teachings into action now in our community?*
