



May 12, 2022

Pope Francis Embraces Limitations of Aging

~ Nicole Winfield, Associated Press, National Catholic Reporter

VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis’ willingness to work despite knee pain that has made walking nearly impossible shows other older adults that they have wisdom and experience to offer younger generations, a top Vatican cardinal said.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell offered the assessment as he introduced Francis’ message for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. In the message released on Tuesday, May 10, the 85-year-old pope urged older people to consider advanced age a blessing.

Pope Francis is struggling to cope with strained ligaments in his right knee that have greatly limited his mobility. Last week, he was seen in public for the first time using a wheelchair. He recently said he can no longer walk and must rest his knee on doctor’s orders.

Farrell, the head of the Vatican’s office for laity and a trusted papal adviser, said that Francis’ willingness to acknowledge and display his limitations while continuing to hold audiences could encourage others to continue contributing as they age.

Pope Francis instituted the day honoring elderly people (World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, July 24th) to drive home his belief that younger generations should value older ones as a resource and not treat them as part of modern “throwaway culture.”

In his message, Pope Francis noted that advanced age is a time of life that isn’t understood even “by those of us who are already experiencing it. Even though it eventually comes with the passage of time, no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise,” he wrote.

But Francis urged all his contemporaries to embrace their advanced ages as a gift and not to lament the diminishment of their strengths or sense of usefulness.



Pope Francis arrives in a wheelchair to attend an audience at the Vatican on May 5, 2022.
(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino, file)

“Along with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil,” he said. “Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!”

Francis closed the message by noting that the war in Ukraine has brought another conflict to Europe as the generation that experienced World War II is dying out.

He prayed that all elderly people are made into “artisans of the revolution of tenderness, so that together we can set the world free from the specter of loneliness and the demons of war.”

Cabrini University names Interim President

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Interim President Selection Committee, it is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of **Helen Drinan**, MBA, as Interim President of Cabrini University.



Helen Drinan

Her robust experience and leadership in higher education and finance made her the perfect candidate to guide Cabrini for the foreseeable future as we undertake a search for a permanent president. Helen will begin her appointment after Cabrini University’s 2022 Commencement, on May 23.

When told of her appointment, Helen said, “I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead Cabrini University while we search for the next president, and my husband David and I, along with our dog Kipper, are delighted to join the university’s vibrant residential community.”

Most recently, Helen served as the President of Simmons University, a nationally ranked women’s college with 1,500 employees, for 12 years. During her tenure, she established financial discipline as an essential organizational competency; introduced strategic planning as the basis for organizational redirection and resource allocation; and championed women’s education and empowerment.

Many thanks to the Selection Committee, Trustees, Vice Presidents, Cabinet, and select faculty, alumni, and students who were able to meet with both Interim President candidates and provide their insights on the suitability of each candidate. ~ announcement from Board of Trustees Chair Amy Lambert



Celebrating Nurses Day at Sacred Heart Convent



From left: Missionary Sisters and nurses Sr. Aloysia Morelli, MSC, Sr. Lucy Panettieri, MSC and Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC join with Nurse Persad at Sacred Heart Convent in celebrating and giving thanks for nurses who serve others with compassion and expert care.

On May 5, 2022, in addition to celebrating Cinco de Mayo with traditional Hispanic food, there was plenty of ice cream and lovely flowers in gratitude for the sisters who continue to exercise their nursing skills with our senior sisters. National Nurses Week is celebrated from May 6 to May 12. We give thanks for all nurses!
~ submitted by Sr. Renee Kittelson, MSC



From the Guadalupe Province Vocations Promotion Team...

Leadership Makes the Difference

~ by Sr. Mary Rowell, CSJ for HORIZON the Journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference

Leading an Internal Culture of Vocations

Building a culture of vocation throughout the church truly enriches all vocations. But what of a culture of vocation *within* our religious communities? Internal vocation ministry is a vital context in which urgent and dedicated leadership is now needed.

We have long known that for a vibrant vocation ethos in religious communities, everyone (and not just the vocation minister) has a responsibility. Revitalizing an internal culture of vocation is urgent if we are to invite new membership. A vocation minister exercises leadership through the gift of animation of individuals and of charism and community.

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Look at the Bigger Picture

The vocation minister as leader is also called, as proponents of adaptive leadership would say, to “get on the balcony.” This calls the leader to view the larger landscape and to see emerging patterns that yield essential questions concerning the whole:

- What is the essence and gift of the charism of the community?
- What is the call to live it fully today?
- What are the unmet needs in the church and world that invite change and transformation in how we understand and live the charism with relevance and renewed passion?



To do this the leader builds warm and sometimes challenging individual relationships and facilitates conversation, shared reflection, and storytelling.

The leader recognizes his or her personal gifts and limitations and thus affirms others in their contributions. For this task the leader is gifted by “the wisdom of the ages” – all that he or she receives from the community’s history, spirit, expertise, and witness.

At a practical level, communal gifts identification can be achieved through reflective questionnaires, workshops, or spirituality days designed to intentionally call forth the gifts of all to enhance community and contribute to the vocation climate.

Motivated by a need to discern and help create conditions for inviting and attracting new life, the vocation leader may initiate processes of communal discernment that seek to refine understandings of identity and role in light of call and charism.

Group discernment first invites the contributions of all in order to surface existing good and build upon them together. It entails creating prayerful opportunities that inspire individuals and communities to “dream a future” whatever that future may look like, under the guidance of the Spirit.

As Marty Linsky of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government says in *Transformational Leadership: Conversations with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious*, “Our experience is that when you are inventing the future and searching for next practices, rather than looking for best practices, the more voices that you can bring to bear in that conversation, the more likely it is that you will be able to generate ideas and options that will be accepted broadly and deeply and will get you where you want to go.”

Of course, communal discernment of this kind already takes place at community assemblies and General Chapters. When such discernment is initiated as part of the work of vocation ministry, however, its primary intent is to energize the community and thus to create an invitational environment for new membership.

Next week: General Chapters are key moments



*The Cabrini Lay Missionaries-Guadalupe Province
invite you to join us for an
Afternoon of Reflection*

**Saturday, June 4, 2022
1:00-3:00 PM EST**

**Join us in-person at the Cabrini Shrine, NYC or via Zoom
(Spanish/English available via Zoom)**

Theme: Hope



Speaker: Lucille Larrivee Naughton

Please register for the program by emailing:
Cabrinilaymissionariesgp@gmail.com

Please indicate if you will be joining us in-person or via Zoom

If attending in-person, lunch will be served at 12:00 Noon.



PLAY BALL!

New York has a new professional baseball team the Staten Island Ferry Hawks of the Atlantic League. The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Cabrini Mission Foundation want you to join us for a day at the ballpark! Get your team together and meet us behind home plate in the stadium's big event suite. Hotdogs, burgers bottomless popcorn, and soft drinks are included.

Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022

Game Time: 11:00 AM

Where: Staten Island University Hospital,
Community Park, 75 Richmond Terrace, Staten
Island, NY 10301

(Easy to get to by car, ferry, train or bus)

Sponsorships Available!

- Tickets for the game \$100
- Sponsor a Sister \$100
- Beverage Sponsor: \$350
- Base Hit Sponsor: \$750
- Stolen base Sponsor: \$1,000
- RBI Sponsor: \$1,500
- Double Sponsor \$2,000
- Triple Sponsor \$3,000
- Homerun Sponsor \$4,500
- Grand Slam Sponsor: \$5,000
- Team Captain Event Sponsor: \$10,000



Please contact:

Ellen 212-228-8608 or ecunningham@cabrinifdn.org



Prayer Requests

Rob Breeser

Prayers are requested for Rob Breeser, husband of Maria Valente Breeser, Cabrini (College) University, Class of 1973. Rob will be undergoing hip replacement surgery today. Please pray that the surgery and recuperation are successful.

Prayer for Nurses



During this National Nurses week, May 6 – 12th and always, we offer our prayers and give thanks for nurses. We ask that they be granted good health, courage and strength. May they be accorded the gratitude and respect they deserve. Protect and bless them as they care selflessly for others.

Rose Valente Zaccaria

Please pray for Rose Valente Zaccaria, aunt of Maria Valente Breeser. Rose is a dynamic 98-year-old, who is experiencing some health issues at this time. Rose and her family would be most grateful for our prayers.

The Month of May is the Month of Mary, Our Blessed Mother



The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but, in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.