



**St. Frances
Xavier Cabrini**
November 13

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1850–1917 • Italy

The small, determined Italian nun disembarked from the ship in New York. She did not speak any English, but she was on fire with the love of God and ready to serve the Italian immigrant community in the United States.

Ever since she was a little girl, Frances Xavier Cabrini had wanted to be a missionary. At first, she wished to bring the message of Jesus' salvation to China and had brought her request to Pope Leo XIII. But the pope had told her, "Not to the East, but to the West." He knew that God had special plans for Frances Xavier Cabrini and that her pluck and common sense would help the Italian immigrant community, which was struggling to find its footing in the United States.

The first thing Mother Cabrini and her six Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart (the order of sisters she founded) did was establish an orphanage. They did not have enough money, so they had to beg door-to-door for donations before they could even open the orphanage. Mother Cabrini was untiring in God's service. She crossed the ocean thirty times in twenty-eight years to found hospitals, schools, and orphanages all over North and South America and Europe. Eventually, she became a U.S. citizen.

The sisters who worked with Mother Cabrini knew that she was especially blessed by God. One of the sisters had painful varicose veins in her legs. The doctor advised her to wear elastic stockings always to help relieve the pain. After several years of suffering, the sister snuck out a pair of Mother Cabrini's cotton stockings. When she put them on, her legs immediately improved!

The next day, Mother Cabrini noticed the sister walking about light on her feet. She asked the sister why her legs were feeling better, and the sister had to confess that she was wearing a pair of Mother Cabrini's stockings! Ever humble, Mother Cabrini told the sister not to be foolish enough to think that her stockings could have caused such a miracle. Instead, the sister's own faith must have healed her. Then, Mother Cabrini told the sister not to say anything about the miracle.

Mother Cabrini served the poor, the sick, and the orphaned until she died a holy death. She was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized a saint.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, help me to be untiring in God's service!