

FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Wednesday, November 13th, the Church will celebrate the Memorial of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. I did not know much about her until I entered the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Kearny, NJ in October of 2010. I quickly found out that she, in 1903, after having been informed of the needs of the many orphans that were living in the area, purchased on credit the Ludlow Mansion on Passaic Avenue (then known as Arlington), which became St. Anthony's Villa Orphan Asylum. Fifty young girls were welcomed in this house, which in time became too small for them. Therefore, in 1912 a new dormitory was erected, able to house 125 orphan girls. In 1913 a Chapel and a School were added to the existing structure. In September 1967, the orphanage was converted into an elementary day school using the Montessori System and started to enroll private students whose parents had difficulties raising their children. This institution remained as such until the late 80's when the school closed and the Sisters put the property up for sale. In 1990, few days had passed after St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was chosen as patron of the seminary project, when this very building was offered through an unknown benefactress to become what is now the Redemptoris Mater Seminary Newark, where I was formed as a priest. That was the first miracle she did that I learned about, and it helped me to understand 'the communion of the saints,' that we profess in the Creed. I encourage you to investigate some of the other miracles associated with her. I am sure they will call you to Faith, as they call me.

The following excerpt is from 'A homily by Pope Pius XII,' the Second Reading from the Office of Readings for her Memorial. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, pray for us!

"Inspired by the grace of God, we join the saints in honoring the holy virgin Frances Xavier Cabrini. She was a humble woman who became outstanding not because she was famous, or rich or powerful, but because she lived a virtuous life. From the tender years of her youth, she kept her innocence as white as a lily and preserved it carefully with the thorns of penitence; as the years progressed, she was moved by a certain instinct and a supernatural zeal to dedicate her whole life to the service and greater glory of God.

She welcomed delinquent youths into safe homes and taught them to live upright and holy lives. She consoled those who were in prison and recalled to them the hope of eternal life. She encouraged prisoners to reform themselves and to live honest lives.

She comforted the sick and the infirm in the hospitals and diligently cared for them. She extended a friendly and helping hand especially to immigrants and offered them necessary shelter and relief, for having left their homeland behind, they were wandering about in a foreign land with no place to turn for help. Because of their condition she saw that they were in danger of deserting the practice of Christian virtues and their Catholic faith.

Where did she acquire all that strength and the inexhaustible energy by which she was able to perform so many good works and to surmount so many difficulties involving material things, travel and men?

Undoubtedly she accomplished all this through the faith which was always so vibrant and alive in her heart; through the divine love which burned within her; and, finally, through constant prayer by which she was so closely united with God from whom she humbly asked and obtained whatever her human weakness could not obtain. In the face of the endless cares and anxieties of life, she never let anything turn her aside from striving and aiming to please God and to work for his glory for which nothing, aided by God's grace, seemed too laborious, or difficult, or beyond human strength."

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.