

To Labor and To Love

A prayer on the Feast of Saint Frances Cabrini

Though thought frail in body,
 You embodied the strength
 Of the immigrant women
 You served for so many years.
 Compassion and concern
 Moved you to labor and to love
 In new and challenging places.

Deeply rooted in your faith,
 You longed to proclaim the Good News
 Through service and encounter.
 You traveled as the way opened
 Across the Atlantic to a new ministry.

Deeply devoted to your community,
 You provided schools and health care
 To so many
 Who were often not welcomed
 In the new country,
 To so many
 Whose voices and needs were ignored.

St. Francis Cabrini, we ask that
 You bring our prayers for all immigrants
 To the heart of Christ;
 May we see them as you did,
 With compassion and concern,
 And may we serve them as you did,
 With a recognition that they, too,
 Are our beloved community.

- Jane Deren, Ph.D.



St. Frances Cabrini, the first U.S. citizen to be named a saint, is the patron saint of immigrants.

Her feast day is November 13th and a day on which the Justice for Immigrants Campaign, an effort of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, is sponsoring a call-in to Congress in support of immigration reform.

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