

P.O. Box 1227  
580 Main Street  
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

**Church of the  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**

Website: [iccwhb.org](http://iccwhb.org)  
Parish email: [parishoffice@iccwhb.org](mailto:parishoffice@iccwhb.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/iccwhb](https://www.facebook.com/iccwhb)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@iccwhb](https://www.youtube.com/@iccwhb)



Amen  
I say to you,  
**TODAY**  
you will be  
with me in  
**PARADISE.**

LUKE 23:35-43

**OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**  
November 23, 2025

## STAFF

**Rev. Thomas Pers, Pastor**

Deacon Joseph Byrne  
Deacon Mark Herrmann

Shawn Pinson, Sacristan  
Bobby Peterson, Music Director  
Donna Cosme, Director of Religious Education  
Anne Dean & Mary Lou Giacobbe,  
Assistants to Director of Religious Ed  
Linda Geoghan, Parish Secretary  
Juan Vicente, Maintenance Manager

### Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday  
9:00am to 5:00pm

CLOSED Friday, Saturday, Sunday, & Holidays

**Parish Office** 631-288-1423  
Fax 631-288-5498  
parishoffice@iccwhb.org

**Religious Education** 631-288-4188  
Fax 631-288-8215  
religioused@iccwhb.org

**Queen of Apostles, Regional School** 631-878-1033

**Spanish Apostolate**  
**Rev. José Luis Tenas** 631-914-1538

## Celebration of the Eucharist

### Saturday

5:00pm Vigil Mass

### Sunday

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am  
6:00pm (Spanish Mass)

### Daily Mass

8:00am Monday through Friday  
The Rosary is recited immediately after daily Mass

### Holy Days

Vigil @ 7:00pm (Spanish Mass)  
Day @ 8:00am, 12:00pm, & 7:00pm

### Eucharistic Adoration

The FIRST FRIDAYS (Novena & silent adoration to Sacred Heart) of each month at 8:30am and the LAST MONDAYS of each month at 7:00pm in the Church.

### Confessions

Every Saturday 4:00pm to 4:45pm

## PARISH TRUSTEES

Beth Hard & Linda O'Brien

## PARISH COUNCIL

Michael Berdinka, Tom Day, Lori Francescani,  
Lisa Guzman, Tara Hudson, Verna Merkel,  
& Amabilia Estrada Ruiz

## PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Kevin Dwyer, Beth Hard, Daily Hill,  
Christine Lennon, Linda O'Brien, Scott O'Brien,  
Joe Sala, & Michael Strebel

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements should be made at least 1 year in advance. Marriage dates may be made only with the priest after he interviews the couple. Please call the Parish Office to set up an appointment. Pre- Cana classes are required.

**BAPTISMS:** Parents are required to attend one evening class before Baptism; and are encouraged to attend class during pregnancy. Baptismal class is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Baptisms take place the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. To register for Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

### **SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING THE SICK:**

Emergency calls for the Sacraments for the seriously ill may be made any time of the day or night, every day of the year. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will also be celebrated every second Friday of the month at the 12:00pm Mass. All those who are seriously ill, including those preparing for surgery or a hospital stay, are invited to receive the Sacrament.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Monday:** Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6;  
Lk 21:1-4

**Tuesday:** Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10-13; Lk 21:5-11

**Wednesday:** Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1-3ab, 7-9;  
Lk 21:12-19

**Thursday:** Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a;  
Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21:20-28

**Thanksgiving Day (suggested):**

Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

**Friday:** Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a;  
Lk 21:29-33

**Saturday:** Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-7ab; Lk 21:34-36

**Sunday:** Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14;  
Mt 24:37-44

## TODAY'S READINGS

**2 Samuel 5:1-3:** The shepherd David is anointed king.

**Psalms 122:** "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

**Colossians 1:12-20:** God has made us worthy to share the lot of the saints in light.

**Luke 23:35-43:** "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Our first reading today takes us back to when the elders of the twelve tribes of Israel anointed David king. In the second reading we hear an early church prayer, extolling Jesus in words like the ones we recite today in the creed. The Gospel offers two very different ways in which the men condemned with Jesus viewed the inscription on his cross. In harmony with the good thief, may we sing out in today's responsorial psalm, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

## MASS ATTENDANCE

DATE	5pm	8am	9:30am	11am	6pm	TOTAL
10/26/25	155	181	277	169	160	<b>942</b>
11/02/25	267	180	244	120	226	<b>1037</b>
11/09/25	137	166	140	162	195	<b>800</b>
11/16/25	160	157	187	178	180	<b>862</b>

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT
11/16/2025	Weekly Collection	\$5,340.00
11/17/2024	Weekly Collection	\$5,520.00

**Thank you for your continuous support!**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 22</b>
5:00pm	Intentions of Sr. Catherine Teresa (Fr. Tom)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 23</b>
8:00am	Thomas Maguire (Fr. Peter)
9:30am	Morgan Evan Leary (Fr. Peter)
11:00am	Karl Bonawandt (Msgr. Mirro)
6:00pm	The People of the Parish (Fr. Jose)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>November 24</b>
8:00am	Jean Ann McAward
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>November 25</b>
8:00am	Patricia Jacob
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 26</b>
8:00am	(Guild Mass) Intentions of Joan B.; AnnaMarie Grinnell; Justin Coleman
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>November 27</b>
10:00am	The People of the Parish
<b>Friday</b>	<b>November 28</b>
8:00am	Maria C. Nobisso
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 29</b>
<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
5:00pm	Akbar Lari & Anthony Leness (Fr. Tom)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 30</b>
8:00am	The People of the Parish (Fr. Peter)
9:30am	Florence Herrmann (Fr. Peter)
11:00am	John Dackow (Fr. Tom)
6:00pm	Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Jose)



**THANKSGIVING DAY MASS**  
**Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00am**  
in the Church

All Parish Offices are **CLOSED**  
Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>  
in observance of Thanksgiving Day

## CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

### The 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal is happening in our parish and in parishes across the Diocese. Please give prayerful consideration to help fund the essential ministries and services supported by this appeal.

Goal	\$ 62,100.00
Total Pledged	\$ 26,930.00
Payments Received	\$ 25,999.00

Donors: 79 % of Goal: 43.37%

The parish will receive 20% of the goal once all pledged payments are received. The parish will receive an additional 80% of monies pledged & received over goal.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

The kingship of Jesus Christ has been affirmed going back to when Jesus was called the Messiah, but the actual feast was only added to the liturgical calendar one hundred years ago, in 1925. In the wake of World War I, history's first truly global war, Pope Pius XI created the feast as the antithesis of the divisive nationalism that led men to take up arms against their brothers, as well as an antidote to the growing secularism that denied the world's unity under God. One hundred years later and nearly two thousand years after Jesus began his public ministry, we still recognize his kingship over all the earth.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK



As Christ is king of both this world and the next, how do I allow him to rule my life right now? What can I do to model the self-sacrificing love he proved on the cross?

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

**Monday:** St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions;

**Tuesday:** St. Catherine of Alexandria

**Thursday:** Thanksgiving Day

**Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary

## INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Saint Paul urges us to give thanks to God, who has made us fit to share in the inheritance of the saints. At this table we join our hearts with the angels and saints in an endless prayer of praise and thanksgiving to Jesus Christ our King.

## eGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

eGiving makes it easy to give, anytime, anywhere. To continue lifesaving ministries and outreach in our parish community, we depend on generous online donations from our church family. We prayerfully invite you to use eGiving from your computer, smartphone, or tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.



### FAITH DIRECT

Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide Immaculate Conception with consistent support and simplify your giving without the use of envelopes. Visit:

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY66>

Thank you for your continued support!

## REFLECTIONS

### Living Stewardship

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, think of the less fortunate in the world and in our community. Perhaps you can donate some time at a soup kitchen. You can even donate some goods to a food pantry and help a family in need.



### Bulletin Reflection

Jesus Christ is our God, our King and our Savior. Turn to Him—give Him everything you have and love Him as much as you can. He loves us more than we can ever imagine.

## SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, November 22/23, our second collection will be for the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

## SACRAMENTALS

### BREAD & WINE, ALTAR FLOWERS, and SANCTUARY LAMP

To arrange a sacramental in loving memory of or for the intentions of your loved one, please visit the Parish Office.

Available Dates:

**Sanctuary Lamp:** December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Bread & Wine:** December 1, 8, 15, 22

**Altar Flowers:** January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Cathy Burch, Deacon Joseph Byrne, Noelle Ciolino, Claire Cowcer, Jeffrey Davis, Millie Ferrin, Rev. Dan Fitzpatrick (& fellow Jesuits in Nursing Home), Gerri Martin, & Barbara Storer

Please call the Parish Office (631-288-1423) to add/delete a name to the sick list. This list will be cleared occasionally.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a great power in prayer. It is our lifeline to God. Through it we communicate with God, and people are strengthened, helped, and made whole.

Do you know of some concern, or of some person with a special need for whom we ought to pray? We have 29 prayer warriors praying, please call Charles Schmidt at 631-288-4243 and leave a message with your prayer request.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Religious Education Office Hours are:**  
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday  
9am to 5pm  
631-288-4188

“Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his mercy endures forever!”

~ Psalm 107:1

### DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER:

**November 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>**

NO CLASSES – Happy Thanksgiving!!

Wishing all a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!!



### MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

Tuesdays at 2pm in the Parish Center  
Try this spiritual practice, it will surprise you!

### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

**NAVY:** Ethan Bentley, Julia Blake, Michael J. DiLeo, William Robesch, RJ Ruggiero, Matthew Worden, & Cameron Worden

**MARINES:** Christopher Fencel

**AIR FORCE:** Joseph Ferraro III

**USSF:** Thomas Hellman

Please contact the Rectory @ 631-288-1423  
to add a loved one to the military list

## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



### FOOD PANTRY

**Some items our Food Pantry needs are:**  
RICE (2, 3, or 5 lb. packages), BLACK BEANS, CANNED VEGETABLES, HEARTY-TYPE SOUPS, CONDIMENTS, & #6 DIAPERS. But ANY food/toiletry is welcomed!

On behalf of the many families in need that we serve here at Immaculate Conception Parish ... THANK YOU and may God bless you in your giving!

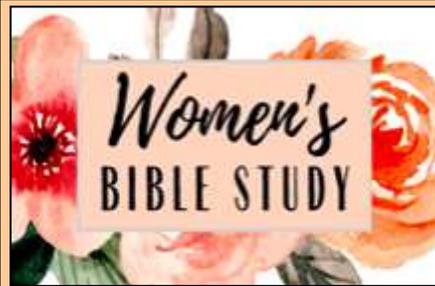
On Thanksgiving Day  
we acknowledge our dependence.  
~ William Jennings Bryan

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Among the Catholics seeking religious freedom in America were the Carrolls of Maryland, who arrived in 1649 from Ireland via England. Charles Carroll, born in Annapolis in 1737, was the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, and was the longest-surviving signer. As was the custom for English Catholics, he attended English schools in Belgium and later university in France. By the time he signed the Declaration, he was the richest man in America, and his decision to sign would hardly go unnoticed by the king.

Because Carroll was so wealthy and because he was a Catholic, he had more to lose than the others. Those who signed became traitors to the Crown and risked losing everything. It is said that someone grumbled that there were many men in the world named Charles Carroll, and he could dodge responsibility if he had to. For that reason, he added a flair to his signature, “of Carrollton,” making it clear that he put everything at risk.

His cousin John, also an ardent supporter of the American Revolution, was ordained a Jesuit priest and returned to Maryland at the outbreak of hostilities. Upheavals in Europe forced the Jesuit order to dissolve, leaving Carroll a secular priest. Ultimately, it was John Carroll who was asked to organize the Catholic Church in the new nation. No one was better positioned for this task, a cultured man from an esteemed family, a cherished friend of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, and a man so thoroughly attuned to an undercurrent of anti-Catholicism in the colonies that he could charm powerful people to a new point of view.



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays in Our Lady's Hall

Now thru December 4<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Chat/Coffee/Tea

10:00am Bible Study Program starts promptly

Zoom is also available for those unable to attend in person

### KINGSHIP

The book of Samuel recounts for us today the anointing of David as king of Israel. It was the elders of Israel who declared David king that day, but it was God who called David to shepherd Israel. Thus mandated by the citizens of his kingdom and by his God, David took his place in a long line of kings.

The apostle Paul speaks to us of kingship as well, but on a much higher plane: the kingship of Jesus our Lord. As great as David was, he and all earthly monarchs who came before and after him in their kingdoms around the world are minor kings by comparison to the true King. And lastly, we hear the story of that true King in perhaps his weakest moment: near death, hanging on a cross, taunted by a common criminal and by the world at large.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A LECTOR?

Do you like to read? Volunteer your time and talents to join the Lector group! You'll receive a Lector book that gives you a deeper dive into the day's readings as well as pronunciation guides. You will be scheduled for the Mass time you prefer, and you'll read on average 2 Masses a month, possibly more during holidays and holy days. You'll read the announcements, the readings, and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Please contact Beth at 631-495-5931 or [bethflanagan@optonline.net](mailto:bethflanagan@optonline.net) if you'd like to participate in this ministry.



# EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

7:00pm

The Last Monday of each month  
(Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>)





★ *You're Invited!!*

Join us to celebrate

## A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Presented by

★ Our Religious Education Children ★

Come and celebrate the joy of the season  
as our young stars bring the story of  
Christmas to life through scripture & song.

DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> | 6:30 PM

Parish Center



Immaculate Conception Church

# FATHER CHARLES AND LAURIE MANGANO PRESENT

## *A Christmas Concert*



## Immaculate Conception Church

580 Main Street, Westhampton Beach, NY  
631-288-1423

*No tickets will be sold only  
a Free Will Offering*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> ✦ 7:00 P.M.**

*We hope you can join us for a wonderful evening of beautiful Christmas music, featuring many of the classics we have come to treasure as we focus on the true meaning of Christmas, as well as some "new" favorites. Please invite a friend, as it will be an uplifting evening for all.*



Father Charles and Laurie have united their gifts to praise God and minister to His people in a very special way. They have been singing for the Lord since childhood, and together they have touched the hearts of thousands with their meditative and inspirational music. In addition to producing 13 albums, a DVD and music video, Father Charles and Laurie have also co-hosted their own TV show on Telecare for many years. They have sung at countless venues and benefit concerts. In addition, through their music ministry, they continue to donate to many charities. This beautiful Christmas Concert on Friday, December 12th is *guaranteed to be most uplifting!* It is our hope that through this experience we will come to know, love and trust the Lord Jesus in a deeper and more intimate way, leading us to serve the Lord with gladness.

# 2025

*Catholic Ministries Appeal*  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Announced by Pope Francis  
Sent on Mission



The Eucharistic Revival has enkindled a missionary fire in the hearts of the American faithful. Going out on Mission - for the life of the World is the most important phase, where we go out and share the love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist to transform the world.

Faith is alive in our parishes and schools, soup kitchens and housing programs, on street corners and in churches. It is lived through people of all backgrounds, from every neighborhood. People everywhere come together to support one another.

It is in this spirit that the Catholic Ministries Appeal exists: to bring support and build strong communities through faith and your generosity. Every year, the annual Catholic Appeal provides us an opportunity to realize the difference we can make when we act together in God's love.

Please consider joining us again this year by making a gift to the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal.



**100% of every dollar raised is restricted to fund the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal.**

## 2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

PO Box 4000 • Rockville Centre, New York 11571-4000 • DRVC.org/CMA/

To provide funds I/we agree to make a gift of: \_\_\_\_\_

To charge your credit card, please check here and see reverse side of this form. \_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

All pledges must be received by December 31 and final payment is due January 31, 2026.

**THANK YOU FOR  
SHARING  
YOUR BLESSINGS  
WITH OTHERS!**

Please send me information about Wills and Bequests

Please make checks payable to:  
Catholic Ministries Appeal

APP-PC-0121



Open to all students across the East End of Long  
Island in **Grades 3-7**

**8 Sessions: Fridays 5:30-6:30pm**

December 5, 12

January 9, 16, 23, 30

February 6, 13

**@ St. Rosalie's, Old Church Hall**  
31 E Montauk Hwy, Hampton Bays

**\$125/player**

**FOR PROGRAM DETAILS &  
TO REGISTER VISIT**

**[cyolieastend.org](http://cyolieastend.org)**

(under Sports & Programs - Chess)

**Registration  
Closes Nov 26th**





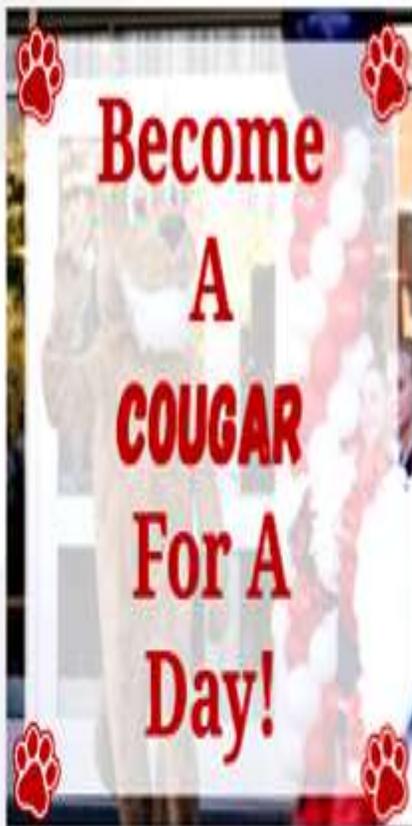
St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School



# MISSED OPEN HOUSE?

Visit our website & complete the *Inquiry Form* to experience SJB!

<https://stjohnthebaptistdhs.net/visitsjb>



Warm wishes for the  
upcoming holiday season!

# *For You Too Were Once Aliens...*

A STATEMENT BY THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF NEW YORK STATE

November 13, 2025 | Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini



## **Leviticus 19:33-34**

*"When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt."*



In September, a striking mural depicting immigrants of the past and present was dedicated at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan. Among the multitude of those immigrants now gracing the narthex walls of our venerable metropolitan cathedral - nameless men and women who came to this land often "tired...poor...[and] yearning to be free" - stands a young Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Mother Cabrini, a woman consecrated to the Lord, was an indefatigable advocate, protector, and educator of newly arrived immigrants to New York. A native of Italy, she overcame anti-Italian prejudice in her adopted country of America and established, with God's grace, numerous charitable institutions and schools to serve those finding their way in a new land.

Mother Cabrini reminds us of the Church's longstanding care and concern for immigrants, as the mural itself, stunning in its scope, illustrates an indisputable fact: New York was and is a land of immigrants whose contributions have enriched and transformed, indeed built, our society.

Contemplating this magnificent mural at a moment when our nation considers again the plight of the immigrant, we recall that Christian charity, as lived so powerfully by Mother Cabrini, demands we welcome the stranger and treat every individual with respect and dignity.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* makes this clear.

*"The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him."*

*"Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens."* (n. 2241)

Pope Leo XIV, like his predecessors, has already taught this truth and shown particular solicitude towards migrant refugees—those who leave their homes not simply to seek a better life abroad, but who are forced to take flight because of violence and oppression in their own nations. In his first apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te*, proclaimed on October 4, 2025, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, he wrote:

*"The Church, like a mother, accompanies those who are walking. Where the world sees threats, she sees children; where walls are built, she builds bridges. She knows that her proclamation of the Gospel is credible only when it is translated into gestures of closeness and welcome. And she knows that in every rejected migrant, it is Christ himself who knocks at the door of the community." (Section 75)*

In recent years, many such refugee migrants have come to New York. Some have arrived from war-torn countries like Ukraine and Afghanistan; others from Central or South America have fled poverty, authoritarian governments, and drug cartels that made life in their country of origin dangerous for themselves and their families. Some have been granted refugee or temporary protected status, while others have no legal status. Most of these migrants – the majority, our neighbors – are good people who arrived on our shores seeking a better life.

Sadly, as in any group, some have exploited the system and committed serious crimes and other misdeeds. Those immigrants or refugees who commit crimes should face the appropriate criminal and civil penalties, including deportation. At the same time, general enforcement of the immigration laws must be carried out in a humane manner that does not target the hard-working and law-abiding; that does not permit the wanton and unnecessary separation of families; and that does not rely on campaigns of fear that cripple whole communities.

As such, we do not support the sweeping revocation of the temporary protected status that was granted to many migrants who arrived in this country to escape the horrors occurring in their own, and who have justifiably relied upon the legal protections our government offered to them. Such persons should not be subject to the arbitrary cancellation of their legal status and threatened with a sudden return to the troubled and dangerous nations from which they fled. At the same time, while we support the right to peacefully protest and witness opposition to political policies, we can never condone violence against immigration and law enforcement agents.

Before the complex questions of immigration, we maintain, without question, that our government has a duty to secure our borders and ensure that those who wish to enter the United States do so lawfully. In union with our brother Bishops across the United States, we have consistently urged our civil leaders to craft immigration laws that respect our borders and create an orderly process for those who wish to enter our nation, while offering a measure of forgiveness towards those who arrived here without legal status but who have proven their contributions and loyalty to our country over a period of time.

These are all good points to ponder. However, most important to recall is the law of Christ set down in the Great Commandments: To love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbor as ourselves. All other imperatives are subject to this law of charity, and it is concerned neither with legal status nor country of origin. As individuals and as a society, we are bound to follow this supreme command and to make all our actions consistent with it, to the best of our abilities, even in difficult circumstances.

Returning to the example of Mother Cabrini, the Bishops of the United States have called on Catholics in all walks of life to stand in solidarity with immigrants and refugees by signing *The Cabrini Pledge, an Invitation to be Keepers of Hope*. We encourage New York Catholics to sign the pledge. By doing so, you will follow in the footsteps of our beloved Mother Cabrini in acknowledging our duty to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate immigrants in accordance with the guidance proclaimed by Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church.

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## ***The Cabrini Pledge***

Sign the pledge today by scanning the QR code or visiting this link: [www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge](http://www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge). Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini is the patron saint of all migrants. We seek her intercession for the concerns we have mentioned. By joining us in signing the Pledge, you commit your prayers and energy for the welcome, protection, promotion, and integration of migrants.



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**Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan**, Archbishop of New York  
**Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger**, Apostolic Administrator of Albany  
**Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan**, Bishop of Brooklyn  
**Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher**, Bishop of Buffalo

**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley**, Bishop of Ogdensburg  
**Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano**, Bishop of Rochester  
**Most Reverend John O. Barres**, Bishop of Rockville Centre  
**Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia**, Bishop of Syracuse

**And the Most Reverend Auxiliary and Emeritus Bishops of New York State**



# Porque ustedes fueron extranjeros...

DECLARACIÓN DE LOS OBISPOS CATÓLICOS DEL ESTADO DE NUEVA YORK  
13 Noviembre de 2025 | Conmemoración de Santa Francisca Javiera Cabrini



## **Levítico 19, 33-34**

*"Cuando un extranjero resida en tu tierra, no lo molestarás. Él será para ustedes como uno de sus compatriotas y lo amarás como a ti mismo, porque ustedes fueron extranjeros en Egipto".*



En septiembre, se presentó oficialmente en la Catedral de San Patricio, en Manhattan, un impactante mural que representa a inmigrantes del pasado y del presente. Entre la multitud de inmigrantes representados en el mural que hoy adorna las paredes del nártex de nuestra venerable catedral metropolitana - hombres y mujeres anónimos que llegaron a esta tierra, a menudo "cansados... pobres... [y] anhelando ser libres" - se encuentra una joven Santa Francisca Javiera Cabrini.

Madre Cabrini, una mujer consagrada al Señor, fue una incansable defensora, protectora y educadora de los inmigrantes recién llegados a Nueva York. Nacida en Italia, superó los prejuicios contra los italianos en su país adoptivo, Estados Unidos, y fundó, por gracia divina, numerosas instituciones benéficas y escuelas para acompañar a quienes buscaban abrirse camino en una tierra nueva.

Madre Cabrini nos recuerda el sostenido compromiso y cuidado que la Iglesia ha tenido por los inmigrantes, como lo ilustra el propio mural - impactante en su magnitud - al transmitir una verdad indiscutible: Nueva York fue y sigue siendo una tierra de inmigrantes, cuyas contribuciones han enriquecido, transformado y, en efecto, forjado nuestra sociedad.

Al contemplar este magnífico mural, en un momento en que nuestra nación vuelve a reflexionar sobre las dificultades que enfrentan los inmigrantes, recordamos que la caridad cristiana - vivida con tanta fuerza por la Madre Cabrini - nos exige recibir al extranjero con hospitalidad y tratar a cada persona con respeto y dignidad.

*El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica lo expresa con claridad:*

*"Las naciones más prósperas tienen el deber de acoger, en cuanto sea posible, al extranjero que busca la seguridad y los medios de vida que no puede encontrar en su país de origen. Las autoridades deben velar para que se respete el derecho natural que coloca al huésped bajo la protección de quienes lo reciben".*

*"Las autoridades civiles, atendiendo al bien común de aquellos que tienen a su cargo, pueden subordinar el ejercicio del derecho de inmigración a diversas condiciones jurídicas, especialmente en lo que concierne a los deberes de los emigrantes respecto al país de adopción. El inmigrante está obligado a respetar con gratitud el patrimonio material y espiritual del país que lo acoge, a obedecer sus leyes y contribuir a sus cargas". (n.º 2241)*

El Papa León XIV, como sus predecesores, ya ha enseñado esta verdad y ha mostrado una atención especial hacia los migrantes y refugiados - no solo hacia quienes buscan una vida mejor en el extranjero, sino especialmente hacia quienes se ven obligados a huir debido a la violencia y la opresión en sus propios países. En su primera exhortación apostólica, *Dilexi Te*, proclamada el 4 de octubre de 2025, día de San Francisco de Asís, escribió:

*"La Iglesia, como madre, camina con los que caminan. Donde el mundo ve una amenaza, ella ve hijos; donde se levantan muros, ella construye puentes. Sabe que el anuncio del Evangelio sólo es creíble cuando se traduce en gestos de cercanía y de acogida; y que en cada migrante rechazado, es Cristo mismo quien llama a las puertas de la comunidad". (Sección 75)*

En los últimos años, muchos de estos inmigrantes y refugiados han llegado a Nueva York. Algunos han llegado desde países devastados por la guerra, como Ucrania y Afganistán; otros, provenientes de América Central o del Sur, han huido de la pobreza, de gobiernos autoritarios y de los cárteles de droga que hicieron peligrosa la vida en su país de origen, tanto para ellos como para sus familias. Algunos han sido reconocidos como refugiados o acogidos bajo protección temporal, mientras que otros no cuentan con permiso legal para residir. La mayor parte de estos inmigrantes – nuestros vecinos, en su gran mayoría – son personas de bien que llegaron a nuestras tierras en busca de una vida mejor.

Lamentablemente, como puede ocurrir con cualquier grupo humano, algunos han abusado del sistema y han cometido delitos graves y otras faltas. Los inmigrantes o refugiados que cometen delitos deben enfrentar las sanciones penales y civiles correspondientes, incluida la deportación. Al mismo tiempo, la aplicación general de las leyes migratorias debe llevarse a cabo de manera humana, sin perseguir a quienes trabajan con esfuerzo y respetan la ley; sin permitir la separación arbitraria e innecesaria de las familias; y sin recurrir a campañas intimidatorias que paralizan a comunidades enteras.

Por lo tanto, no apoyamos la revocación masiva del régimen de protección temporal otorgado a muchos migrantes que llegaron a este país huyendo de los horrores que ocurrían en el suyo, y que han confiado legítimamente en las garantías legales que nuestro gobierno les ofreció. Estas personas no deberían estar sujetas a la cancelación arbitraria de su permiso legal para residir ni ser amenazadas con tener que regresar repentinamente a los países convulsionados y peligrosos de los que huyeron. Al mismo tiempo, si bien apoyamos el derecho a manifestarse pacíficamente y expresar oposición a las políticas públicas, nunca podemos justificar la violencia contra los agentes de inmigración ni contra las fuerzas del orden.

Ante las complejas cuestiones migratorias, sostenemos sin reservas que el gobierno tiene el deber de proteger nuestras fronteras y garantizar que quienes deseen ingresar a los Estados Unidos lo hagan conforme a la ley. En unión con nuestros hermanos Obispos de los Estados Unidos, hemos instado con insistencia a los líderes civiles a elaborar leyes migratorias que respeten nuestras fronteras y establezcan un proceso ordenado para quienes deseen ingresar al país, al tiempo que ofrezcan una medida de clemencia a quienes llegaron sin permiso legal pero han demostrado, con el tiempo, su aporte y lealtad a esta nación.

Son todas cuestiones importantes para tener en cuenta. Sin embargo, lo más importante es recordar la ley de Cristo expresada en los Grandes Mandamientos: Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón y Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo. Todos los demás imperativos están subordinados a esta ley de la caridad, que no se basa en la situación migratoria ni en el país de procedencia. Como individuos y como sociedad, estamos llamados a cumplir este mandato supremo y a orientar todas nuestras acciones conforme a él, en la medida de nuestras posibilidades, incluso en circunstancias difíciles.

Volviendo al ejemplo de la Madre Cabrini, los Obispos de los Estados Unidos han convocado a los católicos de todos los ámbitos de la vida a solidarizarse con los inmigrantes y refugiados firmando el *Compromiso Cabrini, una invitación a ser Custodios de la Esperanza*. Animamos a los católicos de Nueva York a firmar el compromiso. Al hacerlo, seguimos los pasos de nuestra querida Madre Cabrini, reconociendo – como ella lo hizo – nuestro deber de acoger, proteger, promover e integrar a los inmigrantes, conforme a las enseñanzas de la Sagrada Escritura y el Magisterio de la Iglesia.

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## **La Promesa Cabrini**

Firme el compromiso hoy escaneando el código QR o visitando este enlace: [www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge](http://www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge). Santa Francisca Javiera Cabrini es la patrona de todos los inmigrantes. Pedimos su intercesión por las cuestiones que hemos presentado. Al firmar el Compromiso se estará uniendo en oración y servicio a la misión de acoger, proteger, promover e integrar a los inmigrantes.



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