

# Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini



Date of birth: July 15, 1850  
Birthplace: Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Lombardy, Italy  
Date of death: December 22, 1917  
Canonization: July 7, 1946  
Feast Day: November 13

**Patron Saint of: Hospital administrators, Immigrants,  
and Impossible causes**

## About Frances:

Frances Cabrini was born the youngest of 13 children, 2 months premature and in poor health. After surviving a near drowning accident as a young child and attributing her survival to divine intervention, Frances attended a school to become a teacher. She graduated *cum laude* with a teaching certificate at age 18, and returned home to teach at the parish school. Feeling called to religious life and missionary work, Frances sought entrance into two different religious orders but was denied due to her health struggles. It was only after taking over a poorly-run orphanage at the request of a priest, and through perseverance and faith in God, that Cabrini was allowed to take religious vows with the Sisters of Providence.

A few years later, her religious order dissolved, and Cabrini was encouraged to start her own religious order focusing on missionary work. Her order would be called the Salesian Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC). Mother Cabrini and several other religious sisters were sent by the Pope to New York to help the Italian immigrants in 1889. Upon her arrival, she was met with adversity and difficulties: the building she was promised for an orphanage was unavailable and there was no housing for her or her fellow sisters. Though they suffered through racism and prejudice due to their heritage, the MSC sisters opened the orphanage, along with a school and a hospital, and would go on to open a total of 67 institutions serving the poor and impoverished across the world. Frances Xavier Cabrini sailed across the Atlantic Ocean around 24 times.

Mother Cabrini's health began to fail, and in 1917, she traveled to an MSC hospital in Chicago to receive care. She died on Dec. 22, 1917. Many miraculous healings have been attributed to Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, and she was canonized just 29 years after her death, becoming the first United States citizen to be canonized a saint.

## A word from Mother Cabrini:

"Prayer and interior silence are great necessities for the person who is occupied with a thousand concerns: speaking, listening, hearing, giving of herself even to many good things...Prayer and silence bring her to that mystical rest."

## Find out more:

**Websites:** [mothercabrini.org](http://mothercabrini.org)

**Books:** *Too Small a World: The Life of Mother Frances Cabrini* by Theodore Maynard

**Formed.org:** November 13 - St. Frances Cabrini