

**Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini**  
**Feast Day: November 13**



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# The Life of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was born in Sant'Angelo, Lodigiano in the province of Lombardy, Italy on July 15, 1850.



On the day of her birth, a flock of snow-white **doves** encircled her farmhouse. Because the appearance of these doves was a unique event, the townspeople always believed that God had sent the flock as a sign that the child born that day was special.



From an early age, Francesca had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a growing desire to be a missionary. One of her favorite games was to make paper boats and place wild **violets** in them, pretending that the violets were her missionary sisters who she was sending to China.



One day, as she was standing on the river's bank, she suddenly lost her balance and fell into the icy rushing water. A few minutes later, she found herself on the riverbank with her uncle standing over her. He asked her who pulled her out, Francesca replied, "It was my guardian **angel** who picked me up and put me on the riverbank." Francesca developed a lifetime fear of water.



Despite this fear and because she put her trust in Our Lady **Star** of the Sea, she was able to make more than 24 crossings of the sea to open her missions in the West.



When no religious order would accept Francesca because of her poor health, the bishop suggested that she found her own order. In 1880, Pope Leo XIII gave his blessing for her newly established order, which was the first missionary order of women. She called her order "**The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.**"

Mother Cabrini requested permission to go to China, but the pope sent her "not to the East, but to the West," because he knew of the great need of Italian immigrants in the United States.

In 1889, Mother Cabrini and her six sisters arrived in New York. She continued to travel into New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and eventually Colorado, California, Washington, Louisiana, and into Central and South America, establishing orphanages, hospitals, and schools.

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Mother Cabrini arrived in New Orleans in 1892. At that time, there were many Italian immigrants in the city in search of a better life. They were poor and unskilled people who could not speak the language. Mother Cabrini and her sisters bought and established an orphanage in an old building on St. Phillip Street in the French Quarter.

In 1905, because of the Yellow Fever epidemic, Mother Cabrini bought a plot of ground on Esplanade Avenue, where, through the generosity of Captain Salvatore Pizzati, a new three-story orphanage was constructed. The Missionary Sisters were the mothers and teachers to hundreds of orphan girls for more than 54 years.

Mother Cabrini died in Chicago on December 22, 1917 from malaria which she had contracted many years before. She was 67 years old and had established 67 orphanages, hospitals and schools around the world.

Mother Cabrini was canonized on July 7, 1946, the first American citizen to be declared a saint. She is the Patroness of Immigrants. Her feast day is celebrated on November 13.

## End of the School Day Prayer

We thank you Father for this school day  
as it comes to an end.

We thank you for the blessings and inspirations  
that You bestowed upon us.

May the Holy Spirit aid us to be Christ-like  
to everyone we encounter.

May we be caring and compassionate to our families  
and may we make wise choices and decisions  
that assure our dignity and integrity.

May the angels guide us on our way  
And see us safely home. Amen.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini  
Pray for us.

# St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Green & Gold Word Search

K Z R A A B Y O P H T G Y M S K P L E P  
G O I N M H J M V J O C G U P B V B C M  
U P X V I P O I T O Q S M K Z D G B J U  
Q H T I T T X S V B K R P O T O A S N J  
Y W L O A M H S V G N T F I S V C J U H  
J I K L L Q E I R B U F G U T E E Q C V  
U I D E I O X O P V X F M E C A N F M R  
P P L T A Q B N W Y W W N Q T P L I P E  
O U Z S N D Y A J T J H J S Z X K S S B  
B P H M S K U R W B K N C C Y N U M I Y  
S H G A M C J Y U L L X W H I D K E L B  
L H E A R T F G C W O W L O Z O P U X U  
S U B F V J P S H M J U R O N P U N R O  
X Z J F M A Q T Z M A F I L V Q H L O W  
U Q J A B A E C C T S X H S V Z Z F T R  
K A O R N V X V H P I C S X I V T O T L  
F Q K T C G R I N I E Z T A Z A M H P N  
W S G I H D E N U Q N C A A A M N S U O  
P C F X Z N L L W G Y A R U G S C A V W  
Y O D N O R P H A N A G E S K S L P G M

orphanages

missionary

Louisiana

hospitals

Italians

schools

China

heart

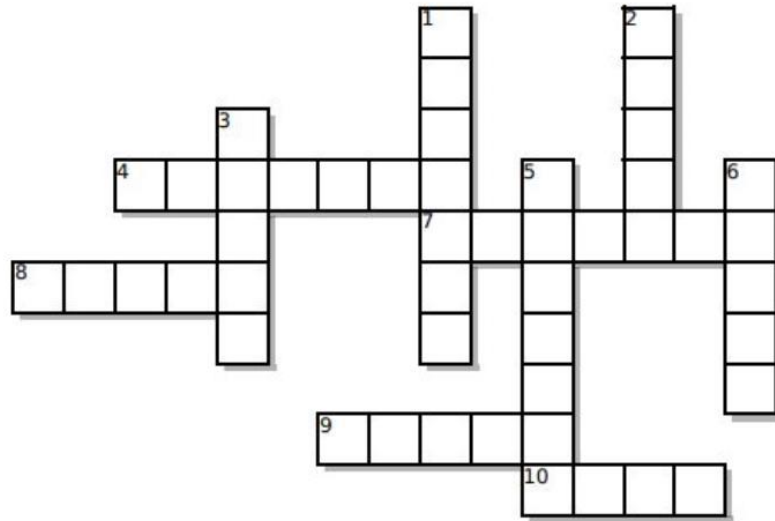
angel

violets

dove

star

# St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Green & Gold Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- 4 Mother Cabrini became the first American \_\_\_\_ to be declared a saint.
- 7 Mother Cabrini died in \_\_\_\_ on December 1917.
- 8 Who saved little Francesca when she fell into the river?
- 9 Mother Cabrini always had a great devotion to the Sacred \_\_\_\_ of Jesus.
- 10 Our Lady \_\_\_\_ of the Sea helped Mother Cabrini in her many trips across the ocean.

## DOWN

- 1 What was Mother Cabrini's first name?
- 2 When Mother Cabrini asked the Pope to go to \_\_\_\_\_, he told her to go not to the East, but to the West.
- 3 In what country was Mother Cabrini born?
- 5 What represented Mother Cabrini's missionaries when she was playing with paper boats?
- 6 On the day of Francesca Cabrini's birth, snow white \_\_\_\_ were seen around her farm house.

**WORD BANK:** ANGEL, CHICAGO, CHINA, CITIZEN, DOVES, FRANCES, HEART, ITALY, STAR, VIOLETS