

Today is the Memorial of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini ... sometimes known as Mother Cabrini. She was born in 1850 outside of Lodi, Italy. After completing her schooling, she desired to enter the convent, but was rejected due to her poor health.

She taught for a time, and was given charge of an orphanage in a nearby town. When the benefactors of the orphanage withdrew financial support, she was asked by the local bishop to start not only an orphanage, but a school as well. In this, she founded the Missionarie Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

On a trip to Rome, she asked Pope Leo XIII about her missionaries going to China and India. Instead he directed her to the United States.

Following his direction, she came to the US and worked with immigrants, orphans, and the poor.

She died in 1917, was beatified in 1939, and canonized in 1946.

On the website of her order, we read:

*It is not what she accomplished, or how far she traveled that made her a great missionary saint. It was how she allowed God to accomplish remarkable achievements in and through her.*

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us ask God to fill us with His grace, so that with the intercession of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, we too may work to build the Kingdom of God in our world.