Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Cabrini

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF SR. PATRICIA SPILLANE

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Sr. Lina and Sr. Patricia.



Sr. Patricia during her novitiate



1990
Elected General Assistant



2008
Elected General Superior

Margaret Theresa Kinneavy and Patrick Joseph Spillane were blessed with a daughter on January 15, 1940 at 5 AM at Royal Hospital in the Bronx, New York. The baby girl was baptized, Mary Ellen, on February 4, 1940 at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

After graduating from Mother Cabrini High School Mary Ellen entered the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on August 17, 1958 in the Mother Cabrini High School Chapel in New York City. As a postulant Mary Ellen taught fourth grade at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary School in Brooklyn, New York. On August 1, 1959, she made vestition and received the name Patricia of the Queen of Martyrs.

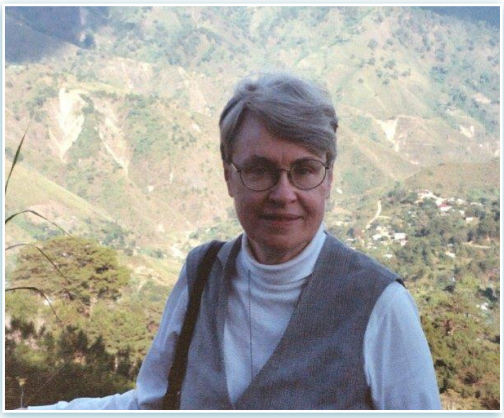
After professing her first vows on August 2, 1960 in the chapel at West Park Sr. Patricia was missioned to St. Donato School in Philadelphia to teach seventh grade. She taught sixth grade at Cosmas and Damian School in Conshohocken, PA for six weeks and then was missioned to Mother Cabrini High School in New York. There Sr. Patricia taught Biology and Religion and served as a Guidance Counselor. During that time she made her perpetual profession on August 8, 1966.



Sr. Patricia with her father and mother.

After one year at Fordham University Patricia continued at Cabrini College to earn her Bachelor's of Science in Biology. She took graduate courses at Villanova and Fordham Universities. She earned her Master's in Counseling at Iona College and a certificate in Pastoral Counseling at Blanton-Peale Institute in New York. In 1969

she served as Dean of Students at Cabrini College until 1971 when she was appointed Principal of Mother Cabrini High School.



Sr. Patricia in the Philippines.

Sr. Patricia spent 1974 at the Still Point House of Prayer before being appointed Novice Directress at Sacred Heart Novitiate in Philadelphia in 1975. She studied at the Gregorian University in Rome from 1978 to 1981 and earned her Licentiate in Psychology. When her studies were completed, Patricia went to Chicago to offer on-going MSC formation and initial formation in the areas of spirituality and psychology.

In 1984 Patricia was re-appointed Novice Directress and also served as Provincial Councilor. At the General Chapter in 1990 Patricia was elected Assistant General. She served in this capacity for twelve years and then in 2002 enjoyed a year sabbatical at Columbus Community in New York. Patricia then went to Baguio City in the Philippines where she did vocation and formation ministry as well as serving as a Board Member and liaison for Save Our School Children NGO.



Sr. Patricia and the Columbus Community.

In July 2008 Sr. Patricia was elected General Superior. She served in this capacity until her health began to fail. With great humility, Sr. Patricia understood that she could no longer continue as General Superior. Sr. Maria Aparecida, MSC, would complete her term of office.

In 2014 she spent some time back at Columbus Community working on translations and revisions of the "Journal of a Trusting Heart".



Sr. Patricia in 2002 during the General Chapter.

On January 25, 2016, she retired to Sacred Heart Convent in New York City where she continued some of her written work. Sr. Patricia became increasingly aware of her increasing limitations and offered herself to the Lord as she prayed Ignatius's "Suscipe" (a short but powerful prayer attributed to St. Ignatius Loyola, which is part of his Spiritual Exercises) which she saw as a grace from God.

On November 15, 2017, she was missioned to St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, New York conscious of the fact she was following in her father's footsteps (her father, too, suffered from Alzheimer's). Once there Patricia set about her daily routine - attending Mass, reading the New York Times and other books. She also lovingly watched over Sr. Regina Casey, MSC, who was on the same unit.



Sr. Patricia with Sr. Pietrina and Sr. Catherine.

Sr. Patricia inherited a great love of nature from her father and enjoyed long walks and visits to the botanical gardens. She was a creative and zealous woman who truly loved the Institute and gave of herself to fostering formative opportunities for the Sisters.

Over the years Patricia used her talents to develop various resources: the "Qualities of Discernment", the "Novena to the



Sr. Patricia points to a painting of Mother Cabrini.

Sacred Heart", the "Novena to Mother Cabrini", the publishing of Vita Cabriniana and the updating of "Journal of a Trusting Heart", to name a few. She offered workshops to both the MSCs and many Congregations on spirituality and formation.

During her years at St. Cabrini Nursing Home, the staff who ministered to her, Sisters and visitors were touched by her Mission of Presence". It spoke volumes to them of her acceptance of what God was asking of her on the last part of her "Journey of Life". It was truly her "Suscipe" and we are forever grateful for her witness of love.

Thank you, Patricia, for your total surrender to God's will and your generosity in sharing your gifts with us and all you encountered.

General Council 1990-1996



Sr. Candida Encarnacion Soto, Sr. Maria Barbagallo, Sr. Lina Colombini, Sr. Patricia Spillane.

General Council 1996-1999



Sr. Raphael Sharkey, Sr. Patricia Spillane, Sr. Lina Colombini, Sr. Thérèse Hope Merandi.

General Council 1999-2002



Sr. Patricia Spillane, Sr. Lina Colombini, Sr. Thérèse Hope Merandi, Sr. Loredana Manzoni.

General Council 2008-2014



Sr. Joan Mc Glinchey, Sr. Loredana Manzoni,, Sr. Maria Aparecida Castro, Sr. Patricia Spillane.

Words of Sr. Maria Eliane Azevedo Da Silva, General Superior MSC

Dear Sisters, lay people, friends and family participating through the media.
On behalf of the MSC Institute, I greet you with gratitude for your love and presence in the life of Sr Patricia Spillane. Life is a journey.
Patricia has made a journey with joy, listening, closeness and we can say that she has always sought to realize the culture of encounter proposed by Pope Francis. I remember some of Sr. Patricia's attitudes and virtues that I really appreciated: curiosity to know something new, joyful closeness to people, spirituality and humility.
She always spoke to us about Missionary Spirituality, Charism and Formation. This is an eternal legacy. Thank you Sr. Patricia for the good you have done and for your love of the Institute. I invite all of you to undertake this earthly journey of conversion until the day the Lord calls us. Patricia took on the mission of Superior General in 2008 and when she recognized that her health was failing, she had the humility to appoint a Vicar General to carry out her mandate. We give special thanks to Sr. Patricia, in memory, and to Sr. Aparecida Castro, as Vicar General at the time, who together with Sr. Joan and Sr Loredana continued the mission until the 2014 General Chapter. I believe that only those with greatness of soul are capable of humble gestures of love for a greater good. This is the testimony of our dear Patricia.



Sr. Maria Eliane Azevedo Da Silva with Sr. Patricia Spillane.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us keep alive the flame of hope for the future that belongs to God. God's future is eternal life. Patricia, may you rest in God's joyful and eternal embrace. Rest in peace.
To you our love and eternal gratitude. Amen.

Sr. Maria Eliane Azevedo Da Silva
MSC General Superior

Sr. Patricia meets John Paul II in 1996, during the General Chapter





Words of the Provincial Superior of the Santa Francisca Cabrini Province, Sr. Rosa de Lima, MSC

Sister Patricia, our eternal gratitude for the love you have given in mission, for your witness of joy and holiness, and for your love for each Sister of the Institute, expressed in the thought: "I have put all my trust in the Lord, and he has inclined to me ... 11 (Ps 40:1).

Sister Patricia was the person who intensely lived Mother Cabrini's thought: "Let go and take wing", manifesting it with a joyful witness, full of mercy. Sister Patricia, you heard God's voice and now you are in the eternai embrace of the One who has sustained you all your life!

Today, we, your Sisters of the Province of St. Francesca Cabrini, thank God for your life given with so much love and for the missionary commitment dedicated to the formation of so many young women that you led to our Institute with firmness, wisdom and kindness. You always told us: "Believe, don't be discouraged, but go forward with joy, serenity and full of hope."

We thank you for your great concern for the spiritual, academic and professional formation of each Sister, preparing us for the future. You were undoubtedly a woman of God, both in contemplation and in mission. Love for the Heart of Jesus took possession of your life, and every morning, at the moment of your personal prayer, you entrusted your mission to the Heart of Jesus, entrusting to Him what you could not accomplish in your limitations.

Today, we are called by your witness of life to continue with faith and missionary audacity on the journey towards the future of our Institute, being faithful to the charism that attracted us and that strengthens us every day to bring Christ's love to the world.
Sister Patricia, ask God for us, to send missionary vocations to the Church and to the Institute.
With eternal gratitude, rest in peace! Amen!
Your Sisters, St. Frances Cabrini Province
Sr. Rosa de Lima - Provincial Superior



MSCs during the farewell to Sr. Patricia Spillane.

SOME PHOTOS OF SISTER PATRICIA SPILLANE



Words of Sister Thérèse Hope Merandi, MSC

Patricia, your brilliant mind and your joyful spirit were put in bonds and quieted by Alzheimer's grip on you in these last 10 years.
As the loyal, loving, faithful daughter of your Daddy, Patrick, you knew the path ahead was one of diminishment, surrender and absolute weakness.
Patricia, you have lived and witnessed to us, to me, that:
"God's folly is wiser than human wisdom, that God's weakness is stronger than human strength". (1 Cor 1,25)
You willingly, consciously entered into this mystery, before any resistance would bridle your embracing Jesus' hold on your heart, the totality of your very person. -Your missionary consecration has been total, unflinching, because you had always known to Whom you had entrusted your existence, every bit of it, nothing has been left out.
Jesus and Mary, the Mother of Sorrows, who was your patroness when you received your religious name at Vestition: Sr. Patricia of our Lady of Sorrows, - both of them have accompanied you in this Way of the Cross that you lived in your diminishing mind, soul, spirit and body.
Mother Cabrini, from whom you received your inspiration and dynamism as a youngster, and from this very chapel and now shrine, you went forth with her to become a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Today, from heaven, you are telling me, telling us, your Missionary Sisters and friends: "It has all gone really fast and so quickly ... I am now in eternity and with whom I so yearned to please, to follow and to live for every day of my life. I am eternally His and He is eternally mine. Courage, my Dear Ones, it is all worth it, no matter the pathway you have been put on to follow. Jesus is right there ... Avanti!"

I, Thérèse Hope, truly believe that the Lord has made of Patricia for us, "a saint in our midst".
Thank-you Jesus, for the gift and life of Patricia!
Thank-you Patricia, for your example in following, in trusting His love to let go of all else into Him.
Thank-you, Sr. Arlene, Colleen and each and everyone of you, dear Ones of Dobbs Ferry, who have loved and accompanied Patricia to the end, which is now this glorious beginning which enlightens and frees our hearts and minds to perceive the great things that God has done in His humble, simple, loving daughter, Patricia, to the greater honor and glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!
Codogno, September 2, 2024
Therese Hope Merandi, MSC

SOME PHOTOS OF SISTER PATRICIA SPILLANE



Words of the Provincial Superior of the Mater Gratiae Province, Sr. Marta Maria Lopez, MSC

Dearest Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC
Provincial Superior of the Province "Guadalupe" and MSC Sisters.
In bidding a final farewell to our dearest Sister Sr. Patricia Spillane, MSC, we wish to assure you of our participation, our closeness, our affection, and express our gratitude for being able to enjoy the life, vocation and mission of Sr. Patricia.
Her presence among us, as a Sister, as a Formator, as a member of the General Council and as General Superior has always been of edification, example and of hope. Sr. Patricia was always in a good mood, optimistic, serene even when dealing with difficult situations or when painful situations had to be dealt with. She helped us to discern among the various options we could choose and sincerely wanted to mind helping solve small and big problems.
We always appreciated her love and dedication to personal, liturgica! and community prayer, her sensitivity to people's suffering, her contribution to formation and her sense of belonging to the Church and the Institute. She accepted cultural differences and knew how to include everyone in every context both at home and in the mission, and with people of any background ethnicity, appreciating everything that united and could be innovative and current.
Her ability in writing, translating, interpreting Mother Cabrini's thought led her to favor anything that could help with Cabrinian Identity and the sense of belonging.
We remember her commitment to Charismatic Identity, to formation at all levels, knowing how to look at the past with gratitude but leaning toward the present and the future.
With a sense of humor at times, she knew how to get out of conflict situations, but trying then to improve the things that were happening. Some of our memories are personal and we can make present to the Sacred Heart of Jesus our gratitude and our "GRAZIE" for having had the good fortune to know and love her.
Her love for Christian and Cabrinian spirituality, her adherence to the spirit of the Constitutions and together, her spiritual freedom in knowing how to live life with its sad but also joyful moments, helped us understand the importance of what is essential: Loving God and neighbor, and serenely serving the mission God has entrusted to us in the Institute.

We are so grateful to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for having Sr. Patricia who-with her suffering in her last years-was able to express that mystical Christian and Cabrinian that constitutes the lifeblood of our life and mission.

Rome, September 8, 2024
Sr. Marta Maria Lopez, MSC Provincia! Superior of the Province "Mater Gratiae" and all the MSC Sisters of the Province

TWO OF THE MESSAGES ARRIVED FOR SISTER PATRICIA



Sr. Patricia in the Philippines.

Sr. Patricia came to Baguio around 2005. She was sent by the Cabrini sisters to help oversee the Save Our Street Children Foundation operations. It was perfect timing because a few months after she arrived, we were asked to leave our office and find a new place. We moved to different locations, which hampered our operations, and significantly affected our programs. I was beginning to lose hope; I had sleepless nights, and of all the people I expected to help me solve our problem, only Sr. Patricia stood up. She met with the Board and requested everyone to come up with suggestions. Our main concern was finding a new office. But in the end, Sr Patricia did everything. She found individuals and organizations to help us raise the money to buy a house and lot in Camdas Subd.

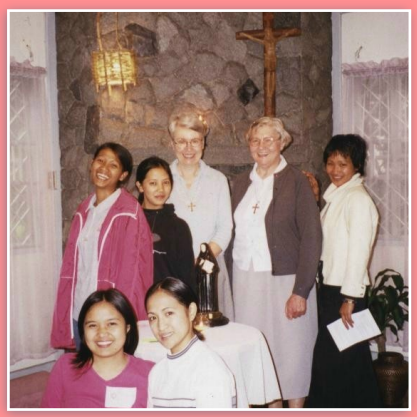
Through an interest-free loan obtained from these individuals and organizations, she found us a new place and gave us a new home. I wondered how I would pay all these loans if Sr. Patricia returned to New York. I was back with my sleepless nights for over a month; I had already applied for a second job to save in case I started paying our loan. I asked for her permission, and she agreed. Still, after four months, she told me not to worry anymore because the individuals and organizations who helped told her they were no longer collecting the money borrowed, while some asked only for 50%. As if this weren't enough, a fund proposal I sent to the Loyola Foundation, whom Sr Bernadette introduced to me, was approved, giving us $100,000. In a matter of months, we were able to completely pay our remaining loans, while the extra was invested for future use.

From Hoover Agyao, who worked with Sr. Patricia at Save Our Street Children in Baguio City, Philippines, from 2005 to 2010.

Dear Cabrini Family,

A heartfelt condolences to all for the passing of our dearly beloved Sr. Patricia.

I lived with Sr. Patricia for nearly 3 years in the Philippines and she was my spiritual counsellor for those almost 3 years. She offered listening ears and heart to me as I was going through my realization and outlook in life because of my childhood trauma. She held me as I cried and poured out my tears and emotions. That started my journey of healing. Truly, she is a blessing to the community and impacted many lives when she obeyed the Lord.



Sr. Patricia and the girls in the community.

Sr. Patricia will be remembered for how she lived impacting many and will be missed for her uniqueness in the way she is and how she gave her life for others.

Thank you Sr. Patricia.

The Lord is smiling welcoming you in Heaven saying, well done my good and faithful servant.

With love from the Philippines,

Cherry Minas-Montante



Sr. Patricia in 1996 during the General Chapter.

Thank you
Sister Patricia
for the gift of
your life and
for your life
given!

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rains fall soft upon your fields
until we meet again.
May God hold you in the Palm of His hand.



Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Viale Cortina d'Ampezzo, 269, Roma, Italia – info@cabriniworld.org

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