

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has long been a beacon of hope and refuge for immigrants, dating back to the Harold Washington administration's early commitments to sanctuary, formally reaffirmed through the passage of the Welcoming City Ordinance in 2006 and strengthened by this current City Council;

WHEREAS, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini was canonized in 1946, becoming the first American citizen to be recognized as a saint, and named the Patron Saint of Immigrants for her tireless humanitarian work on behalf of the poor, the sick, and the displaced;

WHEREAS, 2025 marks the **175th anniversary of Mother Cabrini's birth**, and her life's work remains deeply relevant in this moment when immigrant communities once again face systemic exclusion, and millions of people are being denied access to care and dignity;

WHEREAS, Mother Cabrini spent a significant portion of her life in the City of Chicago, which she considered her home base, where she founded Columbus Hospital in the Lincoln Park neighborhood in 1905, opened a nursing school, and created schools for immigrant children, orphanages, and boarding houses for at-risk youth — often living and working on-site to serve those most in need;

WHEREAS, she later established Columbus Extension Hospital near Taylor Street to serve Chicago's West Side Italian community, extending her mission of care and compassion across neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, in 1909, Mother Cabrini became a naturalized U.S. citizen, and in 1917, she died in Chicago at Columbus Hospital, while preparing bags of candy to be distributed to children — a final act of love emblematic of her lifelong devotion to serving others;

WHEREAS, in 2022, a statue honoring Mother Cabrini was installed at Holy Name Cathedral, a place where she frequently worshiped, now standing in the heart of the city as a reminder of our shared responsibility to advocate for justice and care for immigrants and the most vulnerable among us;

WHEREAS, by honoring Mother Cabrini's legacy, the City of Chicago affirms its identity as a welcoming city — one that proudly stands in solidarity with those who are marginalized, and commits to living out its values of compassion, inclusion, and justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timmy Knudsen, Alderperson of the 43rd Ward, do proclaim July 15, 2025, to be MOTHER CABRINI DAY IN CHICAGO in recognition of her profound impact on our city and encourage all Chicagoans to honor her legacy by welcoming and caring for those most in need.