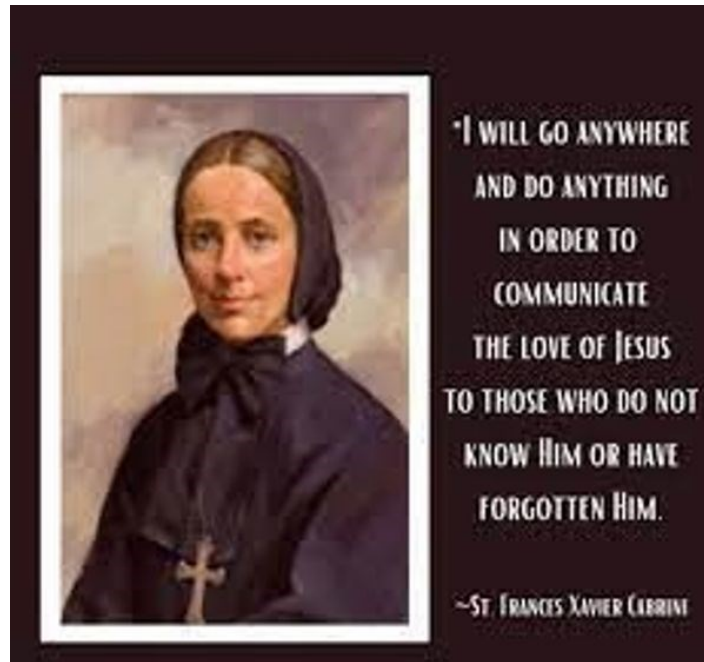


St. Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850- 1917)



Maria Cabrini was born in a village near Milan, the youngest of thirteen children, only four of whom survived. From an early age Maria wanted to be a missionary in China and the Far East. She became a teacher and studied with the Daughters of The Sacred Heart, but her poor health was a barrier to entry into two communities. So, at a Pastor's suggestion she ran an orphanage, which was failure through no fault of her own. Her dream of missionary work was a novel idea as in those times, only men were missionaries. After some resistance she was allowed to form the Missionary Sisters of The Sacred Heart. When she finally took her vows in 1877, she took the name Frances Xavier after the Spanish missionary in the Far East. She then went to Rome to explain her desire to travel. Pope Leo X11 listened carefully and knowing the sad state of Italian immigrants in Little Italy in New York State, asked her to go west, not east. With six sisters, Sister