



SISTER MARY LOUISE SULLIVAN

A 1963 graduate of Cabrini, Sister Mary Louise Sullivan received a master's degree from Villanova and taught 7th and 8th graders at Notre Dame Academy and Saint Donato's parish before accepting a position as associate dean at Cabrini College in September 1970. At the time, she was pursuing a Ph.D. at Bryn Mawr, and was still finishing her courses when promoted to academic dean at Cabrini in 1971. The fall of 1972, she once wrote, "was to have been spent working on my doctoral dissertation," but another opportunity came up. For the next 10 years, Sister Mary Louise would serve as the president of Cabrini College. Her dissertation would have to wait.

As president of Cabrini, Sister Mary Louise made decisions quickly. She knew when to delegate. She always knew what she didn't know – and didn't hesitate to hire consultants with expertise on recruitment, enrollment, retention and admissions. Granted, she hated surprises and she wouldn't tolerate board members who couldn't pull their weight – through expertise or financial contributions. But she trusted the faculty to run their own departments and relied on them to come to her when they had problems.

After 10 years in the president's office, Sister Mary Louise completed her Ph.D., revising her dissertation topic as a look at the life and impact of Mother Cabrini. This work resulted in a book about the saint called "Mother Cabrini – Italian Immigrant of the Century," published in 1992.