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## Mother Cabrini, The Immigrant Saint

### Mother Cabrini Statue Unveiled in New York

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*A statue of Maria Francesca Saverio Cabrini, one of the more remarkable human beings of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, was unveiled on Columbus Day 2020 on the southern tip of Manhattan by the Governor of New York.*



### THE FIRST AMERICAN SAINT

***This dynamic woman -- better known as Mother Cabrini -- had been honored before.*** In fact, she received what many would consider the ultimate tribute on July 7, 1946, only 29 years after her death, when she was canonized a Saint by Pope Pius XII, as the first American Saint.

She was born in Sant' Angelo Lodigiano, a suburb of Milan, Italy. Mother Cabrini came to the United States in 1899, when she was 49 years old at the urging of the Pope to help the Italian immigrants who were then emigrating to the United States in large numbers and other countries.

She became an American citizen 10 years later, and died in Chicago in 1917 at the age of 67.

### SERVING THE ITALIAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Mother Cabrini founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, an order of nuns, and labored with them for 18 years throughout the United States, helping Italian immigrant communities. She founded orphanages, churches, hospitals, schools, libraries, summer camps and other charitable institutions in cities across the country including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, New Orleans, Colorado and other places. In all she established over 70 institutions.

When she arrived in Denver, Colorado to help a colony of Italian miners working under very harsh conditions, she set up a parish school and orphanage for the Italian children who had lost their parents. A shrine to Mother Cabrini is located at Lookout Mountain near Golden, Colorado where she created summer camps for the children. A house of worship, a museum and statue of Mother Cabrini is located at the site which is a popular tourist destination. Mother Cabrini Day is a State Holiday in Colorado. There is also a shrine to her

in Burbank, California.

In order to provide a parochial education for Italian Children she opened parish schools wherever Italian immigrants had formed communities. In New Orleans, Louisiana, she opened an orphanage and school to address the needs of the largely Sicilian population that settled there.

### THE MOTHER CABRINI SHRINES

There are many shrines and statues honoring this remarkable woman throughout the world. But the latest statue erected in New York, sculpted by Giancarlo Biagi and his daughter Jill Biagi, was created following a controversy.

New York City was putting up statues to honor women and in a 2019 nominating contest Mother Cabrini received the most votes. Nevertheless, the city did not choose her. The Italian American Governor of New York intervened and promised to have one built and erected in a prominent place. That place, Battery Park, faces Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty – an ideal location for a statue honoring the woman known **as “The Immigrant Saint.”**

In December, the congress passed a bill, signed into law by the President, to rename the Federal Post Office in Brooklyn, New York as the Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building.

### A CHAMPION OF THE ITALIAN AMERICAN PEOPLE

During the heyday of Italian immigration to the United States in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Mother Cabrini stands out as one of the Champions of the Italian American people.

*This article was prepared by ICS member Bob Masullo*



#### MOTHER CABRINI PHOTO CAPTIONS:

*PHOTO AT TOP OF ARTICLE: Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini in 1880*

## Italian-American Hero: A. P. Giannini



**In California, the Banker to the Italian-American communities of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Amedeo Pietro Giannini, – “The Giant Of The West” -- stands out as an Italian American hero.**

**Giannini started the Bank of Italy {*Banca d' Italia*} in San Francisco, California in 1904 in a one room remodeled saloon in the Italian area of North Beach to serve the Italian American immigrant community.** He opened branches of his Bank of Italy to serve the burgeoning Italian communities across the cities of California and established the first branch banking system in the United States. By 1928 he had established over 300 branches and changed the name of the Bank of Italy to Bank of America. Under his leadership, Mr. Giannini's Italian American Bank soon rose to become the largest bank in the world. Italian American savings built the Golden Gate Bridge and financed the first Disney movies. San Francisco, California recognizes A. P. Giannini Day on May 6th for his contributions to San Francisco history.

**Italian immigrants and their descendants have made significant contributions to nearly every aspect of California history.** Their contributions to the country and to California cannot be overstated. In large part, Italian Americans defined California with their hard work, intelligence, creativity and spirit of enterprise. Italian immigrants arrived early to the Golden State and established themselves in the wine, fishing, lumbering, farming, canning and banking industries. They enhanced the state's culture with their food, art and musical and film entertainment. Their positive influence endures and continues as recent Italian immigrants make significance contributions to California's new frontiers in technology and medical research.

The contemporary Italian American community can look to Mother Cabrini and A.P. Giannini for inspiration on continuing the Italian American contributions to Italian America and America.

[Click Here To Read More About A.P. Giannini...](#)

Diana's back in the kitchen showing you how to make *Italian Sausage and Peppers*, an Italian Family Favorite!



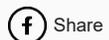


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