

Mother Cabrini: An Italian Immigrant, an Accomplished Servant Leader, and the First American Saint

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- 1850** Francesca Xavier Cabrini was born near Milan, in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Italy
- 1880** Founded Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC)
- 1889** By request of Pope Leo XIII, left for NYC to serve the Italian immigrants and orphans
- 1909** Obtained U.S. citizenship
- 1917** Mother Cabrini's death
- 1928** 2 miracles credited to Mother Cabrini (curing intestinal fever and saving the sight of a child)
- 1938** Beatified by Pope Pius XI (the first step towards canonization)
- 1939** Another 2 miracles credited to Mother Cabrini (both based in Italy - curing a chronic disease and burn victim through prayer)
- 1946** Proclaimed a saint by Pope Pius XII (1st American citizen to become a saint)
- 1950** Named Universal Patroness of Immigrants

Contributions to Italians

- ❖ Mother Cabrini *represented Italy with honor, respect, and dignity*, assessing and aiding Italian immigrants in their transition to America.
- ❖ *Transported aid from Italy to America* for additional assistance via the Italian congregation she founded.
- ❖ *Personally attended to many Italian families* in lower Manhattan and ensured continued MSC visits.
- ❖ *MSC later expanded* to the West, South, and Midwest, *providing religious ceremonies* such as baptisms, marriages, and prayer, as well as social aspects like *bringing groceries and clothes* to wear.
- ❖ *Established pro bono parochial schools* in Chicago, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Denver specifically *for local Italian immigrants*.

Examples as a Servant Leader

- ❖ Note: When Mother Cabrini arrived, there were around 13 million Italians who emigrated between 1880 and 1915, the greatest number of people to leave one country for another ever documented (Choate, 2008).
- ❖ In 1902, she founded the Columbus Hospital “to *serve the immigrants and poor* of Chicago,” (Horwath, 1999).
- ❖ She *founded 67 different charities* (Horwath, 1999) including orphanages, schools, and hospitals (Smith, 2012).
- ❖ She was personally invited by community leaders to replicate what she was doing across the United States – *aid the Italian immigrants and orphans* by providing them with education, basic needs, and a community support system in which to succeed.

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