

Save the Saint Fundraising Campaign



A look inside the Duomo di Milano's restoration workshop.

New York and Milan are two important cities divided by an ocean, yet similar in their respect for culture. A new project, Save the Saint, is bringing the two closer by revealing an interesting element of shared history.

Save the Saint is a crowd-funding campaign launched by International Patrons of Duomo di Milano on ForItaly.org in collaboration with Eataly NYC which is hosting a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition called "Eataly per Duomo." The exposition showcases original architectural elements that were temporarily removed from the Duomo and moved to Eataly's New York store through May 2015.

The campaign was created and brought to the public through International Patrons of Duomo di Milano, a charitable NYC-based organization whose mission is to help restore the Duomo. One of the 135 spires of the Milanese Cathedral, specifically the one that holds the statue of the first American Saint, Frances Xavier Cabrini, is dedicated to American supporters.

Centuries before the advent of the Internet, the Duomo di Milano represented an extraordinary example of crowdfunding that included the humblest people to kings and emperors, artisans and great artists, believers and non-believers, the Milanese people and travelers from every corner of the Earth.

All restoration operations are supervised by experts on the Cathedral and executed in the laboratory of the Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano, the historical Italian institution charged with the conservation and enhancement of the Cathedral since 1387. Furthermore, the Duomo is the

only monument in the world to have direct access to a quarry for the supply of its construction material. The pink marble is sourced from the Candoglia quarry and used in all its restorations.

To bridge the gap between Milan and New York, The International Patrons of Duomo di Milano are dedicating a special part of the Cathedral to its American supporters. The history behind the statue of the first American Saint is a true testament to the shared values of these important cities. Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini arrived in New York in 1889 from Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, in Lombardy. During her first years in the United States, she worked with the Italian American community and cared for orphans and the less fortunate while helping in the construction of schools and hospitals. She later went on to found the Catholic Institution of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to aid all Italian immigrants in New York. In her later years, she opened 67 more institutions around the country. Mother Cabrini became an official American citizen in 1909 and the first American Saint in 1946. Her statue was later placed in the Duomo Cathedral in 1956 in remembrance of her sanctification. Since then, she has looked down upon the city of Milan from up high, bridging the gap between Italy and America, Milan and New York.

The crowd-funding campaign was launched last month with the aim of raising \$150,000 by April 30, 2015, of which more than a third has been already funded. The campaign also offers the opportunity of being a part of what is considered one of



Duomo di Milano

the biggest open sky museums in the world, with over 3,400 statues built in the span of seven

centuries. With a \$50 donation you can have your name engraved on a plate and placed



Detail of the spire of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

nearby the spire of Saint Frances Cabrini.

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