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SENATOR
JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.
15TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF NEW YORK
MAJORITY DEPUTY WHIP

CHAIRMAN
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

COMMITTEES
AGING
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
DOMESTIC ANIMAL WELFARE
EDUCATION
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

August 22, 2019

First Lady Chirlane McCray
Gracie Mansion
88 East End Avenue
New York, NY 10128

Re: Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini

Dear First Lady McCray,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my concern regarding the selection process for the "She Built NYC" campaign and the glaring omission of one of the city's most prominent and active women, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini.

According to the "She Built NYC" public nominations, Mother Cabrini received 219 votes, more than double the second-place vote recipient, Jane Jacobs (93). However, Mother Cabrini was not included in those selected to have a statue built in their honor.

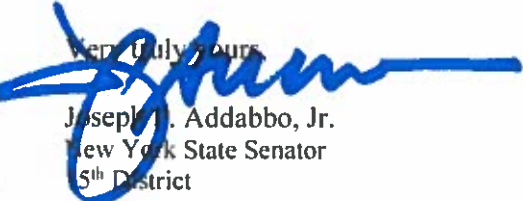
I am bringing this to your attention not only as the State Senator for the 15th District, but also as the President of the Conference of Italian-American State Legislators.

As I am sure you know, Mother Cabrini was an Italian-American, who founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which was a major support to Italian immigrants here in the United States. The people's decision to vote for Mother Cabrini certainly has merit. She is recognized as the first American saint, after becoming a naturalized citizen, and founded a total of 67 institutions that were vital in shaping not only New York, but other states as well.

I find it odd and questionable that "She Built NYC" would ask the public to nominate women they would like to see honored and then not include, but actually ignore, the public's overwhelming winner. I, along with some of those who voted for Mother Cabrini, would like an explanation as to why she was not part of the final selection and respectfully urge your reconsideration of Mother Cabrini.

If you have any questions with this request, you can reach me at my district office, 718-738-1111. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response on this matter.

Very truly yours,


Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
New York State Senator
15th District

