

My Italian Heritage

Alina Roell

My Italian heritage goes back to a small village called Filetto. In that village lived my great great grandparents, Vito and Chiariana. Vito was born in Philadelphia but moved to Filetto, as an infant when his mother fell ill. They were very poor, but Vito was an extremely hard worker to provide for his family. Vito packed up and moved to Pennsylvania in search of a better life. He saved up for two years to bring his wife and new baby, Patrick, to the United States. They started their new life in Pennsylvania, but then found their way to Price Hill, Cincinnati where he had a relative who helped him find housing and a job. There they had three more children Jeannette, who died as a child, Mary, and my Great grandmother Grace.

Being an Italian descendent and incorporating Italian roots is very important in my life. Being with family is very important to me and our Italian roots bring us together. My great grandma also loved family and started a tradition of serving homemade Italian lasagna on Christmas Eve. She used the recipe she learned from her mother and has passed it to both my grandma and mother and one day to me. We have a very large family so the process of making the lasagnas and meatballs involves all the women and some of my great uncles. It is our chance to connect with our Italian roots and make sure our traditions continue. With her being gone we have continued this tradition because family is so important to us.

I hope to follow in my great grandma's footsteps of kindness, selflessness, and compassion. Her family went through some hardships throughout her whole life, but she still started each and every day with a huge smile on her face. She showed up for her family first and put the good in everyday with the people she loved. There was a reason why her house was never

empty, her house was a safe open place to laugh, cry, and feel loved. Being Italian means to cherish family first. My great grandmother did that and I hope to continue that.

I currently attend Seton High School and will be graduating in 2023. I maintain a 3.63 GPA. I am a part of the National Honor Society, a student ambassador, and am on the varsity tennis team. As a part of the National honor society we have to maintain high honors in all four quarters. While being a student ambassador we have to help out with events around the school, some including open house, grade school nights, and seton camps. We practice tennis three days a week and play around three matches a week. While being on the tennis team I have won the end of the year tournament three years in a row and was Cincinnati Enquirer athlete of the week. I help spread my talents through coaching volleyball in the winter and softball in the spring at St. Jude grade school three days a week. I also volunteer at St. Teresa of Avila one Sunday a month to help lead a youth group. Where we help children open up in their faith through games and activities.

My current goals are to maintain a high GPA, win the tennis tournament for the fourth year in a row, get more involved for my last year of high school, and to not hold back on anything that I want to do. After I graduate high school I would like to get into a good college with a lot of scholarships, as I have to pay for most of college on my own. I would like to study education, so I can hopefully be a teacher one day. I hope to help change children's lives for the better and help shape them into people who will make our world a better place.

Mother Cabrini

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Mother Cabrini was born outside Milan in 1850. She grew up inspired by the stories of missionaries and decided that she wanted to join a religious order. Mother Cabrini had bad health, and because of this she was not able to join the Daughters of the Sacred Heart. But with their guidance she was able to get her teaching certificate. In 1880, with seven other women, Frances founded the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Mother Cabrini was very resourceful as well as prayerful. Along the way she found people who would donate what she needed, some things being money, time, labor and support. She moved to the United States in the late 1880s to serve the millions of Italian immigrants who were coming over to the United States.

In the United States, Cabrini organized religion and education classes for the Italian immigrants and provided for many orphans. She eventually established schools and orphanages despite the odds being against her. Not after long, she was getting requests through Frances Cabriniher to open schools from all over the world. She established sixty-seven institutions divided between schools, hospitals and orphanages. Her actions continued until her death in December of 1917, in Chicago. In 1946, Cabrini was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XII and was named Patroness of Immigrants in 1950.

I chose to research Mother Cabrini because I hope to one day be a teacher. I want to make a difference in children's lives inside and outside of the classroom. I want to make a safe place for children to come to to expand their minds and help them flourish to people who will spread kindness in our world. Mother Cabrini started as a teacher but expanded from that to change so many other people's lives. I can use her as an example to follow my heart and never give up on what I truly want to do.