

**CHAIRMAN**  
CIVIL SERVICE & PENSIONS  
**COMMITTEES**  
CODES  
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES  
& COMMISSIONS  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR  
NYC EDUCATION



**SENATOR**  
**ANDREW S. GOUNARDES**  
22<sup>ND</sup> SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF NEW YORK

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
ROOM 902  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NY 12247  
OFFICE: 518-455-3270  
FAX: 518-426-6782

**e-mail:**  
gounardes@nysenate.gov

August 22, 2019

Mayor Bill de Blasio  
She Built NYC Commission  
City Hall, New York 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

I am writing to you regarding the decision to reject the public's choice of honoring Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini for the She Built NYC program honoring exceptional women. Mother Cabrini received an overwhelming majority of votes from the public, more than any other woman during the nomination process, and yet was passed over by the committee.

I share the deep disappointment many participants felt with this blatant disrespect for the will of the people. The public took the time to organize and make their voice heard, only to be told their vote did not matter. Mother Cabrini is the first canonized American saint who spent her life in New York City helping others and serving every community she was part of. Her work and legacy is part of our history, which is why it inspired people to participate and honor her legacy.

I urge you and the She Built NYC Committee to reconsider this decision, respect the process put in place last summer, and ensure the right of all New Yorkers to be heard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Gounardes".

Andrew Gounardes  
Member of Senate

**CHAIRMAN**  
CIVIL SERVICE & PENSIONS

**COMMITTEES**  
CODES  
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES  
& COMMISSIONS  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR  
NYC EDUCATION



**SENATOR**  
**ANDREW S. GOUNARDES**  
22<sup>ND</sup> SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF NEW YORK

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
ROOM 902  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NY 12247  
OFFICE: 518-455-3270  
FAX: 518-426-6782

**e-mail:**  
gounardes@nysenate.gov

August 26, 2019

His Most Reverend Excellency Bishop DiMarzio  
Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens  
310 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Dear Your Most Reverend Excellency:

As the newly elected State Senator from southern Brooklyn, I wanted to extend my appreciation for your consistently charitable statements about immigration, among other issues. I regret that we have not yet had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues that affect our community.

I am writing to you to share a letter I wrote to Mayor de Blasio and the She Built NYC Commission regarding the recent decision to not include Mother Cabrini in one of the upcoming statues. When I read the news reports of this snub, I was greatly disappointed. It is a shame that our Mayor can not see past his own political machinations to honor such a wonderful figure in our city's history.

There is much that we have in common and I look forward to working with you and the diocese on issues of mutual concern. I hope we will have an opportunity to meet in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew S. Gounardes".

Andrew S. Gounardes  
Member of Senate

CC: Monsignore Maloney, St. Anselm's Church  
Msgr. Haridman, St. Patrick's Church  
Father Gelfant, St. Finbar's Church

Pastor Kevin Noone, Our Lady of Angels  
Reverend Adamo, St. Ephrem's  
Father Sbordonne, St. Francis Cabrini  
Msgr. Cassato, St. Dominick's & St. Athanasius  
Father Maduri, Most Precious Blood  
Reverend Chirichella, Our Lady of Grace  
Msgr. Romano, Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Msgr. Marino, St. Rosalia Pacis  
Pastor Caserta, St. Bernadette's Church  
Reverend Mucci, St. Mark's Church  
Father With, Resurrection Church  
Reverend Lambert, St. Columba Church