

## ALPE CIMBRA: ROOTS TOURISM ROUND TRIP FROM VIGOLANA TO BRAZIL

ON SATURDAY, THE EXHIBITION TITLED “IL VIAGGIO DI AMABILE. UNA STORIA DI EMIGRAZIONE DI FINE ‘800” RE-OPENED IN VIGOLO VATTARO

DEPUTY MAYOR MICHELA PACCHIELAT DEFINES IT “A MUSEUM ON IMMIGRATION AIMED AT ENHANCING THE SACRED PLACES OF SANTA PAOLINA, PATRON SAINT OF TRENTINO MIGRANTS”

*“Sister Paolina – born Amabile Visintainer – was proclaimed Saint by Pope John Paul II on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002, and was the first one of the Trentino region and Brazil. Born in 1865 in Vigolo Vattaro on the Vigolana Plateau, which originally belonged to the County of the Tyrol, Amabile was the second daughter of Antonio Napoleone Visintainer and Anna Pianezzer’s 14 children. She lived in Vigolo Vattaro until the age of 10, when she migrated to the south of Brazil in 1875, together with 18 groups of people from her place. Between 1870 and 1889, the total count of Trentino “Tyroleans” who migrated to South America was over 34 thousand – namely almost 9% of the current population of the Provincia Autonoma di Trento – and today, their descendants are over 2 million. In Brazil, Amabile founded the Congregation of Piccole Suore dell’Immacolata Concezione to care for the sick and provide school education to the children of migrants and former slaves. The Congregation, currently composed of 450 Sisters, is established in 18 countries and built care facilities for child welfare, the sick and old people in Italy, Brazil, Chad, Cameroon, Argentina, Mozambique, Bolivia, Chile, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Peru. Today, Santa Paolina is addressed as the patron saint of the Trentino migrants”*

**The permanent exhibition titled “Il viaggio di Amabile. Una storia di emigrazione di fine ‘800” (free entrance from 15:00-18:00) opens on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.** The exhibition venue is located in the “Ex Biblioteca” room (Via Roma, 9, Vigolo Vattaro) of the former building of the Ospedaletto di S. Rocco, whose organization model (lay volunteers) and purpose (care for the sick, the poor, and for old people) inspired the first group of people of the Order of Santa Paolina. “It is the first nucleus of the museum on immigration and comprises a considerable amount of paper material, photographs, and videos on the subject. – **affirms deputy mayor of Vigolana Michela Pacchielat** – A new, bigger exhibition site is being defined to enhance her memory. This project is a top reference for **ROOTS TOURISTS**”.

**Alpe Cimbra aims, therefore, at ROOTS TOURISM through Santa Paolina, a symbolic figure of deep devotion** for the thousands of “Tyrolean“-Trentino people who migrated to South America and their offspring (who are over 2 million). **Director of the Alpe Cimbra Tourist Board Daniela AZIENDA PER IL TURISMO ALPE CIMBRA – SOCIETA’ CONSORTILE PER AZIONI**

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**Vecchiato states:** “We are in front of a market niche with high growth potential. **ROOTS TOURISM** is not subject of special promotion in Trentino; at the same time, many initiatives are catching on in Brazil, and we encourage cooperation and the creation of synergies. **ROOTS TOURISM** is a key resource for the Italian tourist sector, generating a stream of 10 million visitors each year, plus a potential pool of about 80 million people”.

**In Vigolana, the house of Santa Paolina is already place of pilgrimage** and can be visited by making a request to the Sisters. The relics of the Saint are in the main building of the Congregation in Sao Paulo and the Sanctuary dedicated to her in Nova Trento in Brazil. As for Trentino, they sit in the Cathedral of Trento and the church of Vigolo Vattaro. **The Vigolana offers a tour in 16 stages** through which visitors get to know Vigolo Vattaro in the days of Santa Paolina, as well as her history and the places related to her. The visitor sees the places through the child’s eyes of Santa Paolina: a journey through time that can be experienced by reading the information panels by the main points of interest, with a QR code to the webpage translated into three languages (Italian, Portuguese, and English).

“About one million eight hundred thousand tourists come to Italy each year. The Alpe Cimbra can easily become one leg of their journey through Italy thanks to Santa Paolina. – **says deputy mayor of the Vigolana** – In Trentino, at least 5 thousand Brazilians stay in or transit through the region. The birthplaces of Santa Paolina are places of pilgrimage, and the Piccole Suore located in Vigolana register 150 Brazilians visiting the place in private form. As for 2022, visits were 300, and one third of the people stayed in Vigolana”. Right now, **it is all about designing a cultural tourist offer based on “memory” which promotes family history and native culture to enable ROOTS TOURISM to thrive. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, the permanent exhibition “Il viaggio di Amabile. Una storia di emigrazione di fine ‘800” finally opens.**

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