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First Marian Postage Stamps

Brazil - *Our Lady of the Globe*

The first Marian Stamp issued by Brazil Post depicts Our Lady of the Globe. This stamp was issued on 31 May 1950 to commemorate the first centenary of the DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY in Brazil.

The Daughters of Charity are not “nuns” but “Sisters” - apostolic religious women who belong to a community, society, or company. Unlike nuns, who remained cloistered, the Sisters were to be “in the world but not of the world.”



Saint Vincent de Paul, their founder, wanted the Daughters to be free to walk the streets of Paris in response to the needs of the poor which were great - abandoned babies, the homeless and sick living in the streets, hungry beggars everywhere - all of which pointed up a widening gap between

the rich and the poor. Up to this point, all religious women were behind cloister walls, which meant they were enclosed within the monastery and performed a ministry of contemplative prayer. Vincent, in his shrewd wisdom, laid the foundation for the Daughters to maintain the necessary mobility and to live in the midst of those who were most abandoned.

Cuba - *The Virgin of Charity of Cobre*-Patroness of Cuba



Cuba issued its first Marian Stamp on 5 June 1956. The stamp printed in blue represents an image of The Virgin of Charity at Cobre, surrounded by a yellow sun and above NIPE BAY.

At the bottom of the stamp there are the words 'NTRA. SRE. DE LA CARIDAD DEL COBRE-PATRONA DE CUBA'.

According to legend, in 1613, two brothers of native origin and a black boy of nine or ten years old, went for salt to the Nipe Bay "in the northeast coast of Cuba", and they saw under the sea the image of the **Virgin Caridad del Cobre**. It is also said the image was taken to the town Real of Minas, very near **Santiago de Cuba**, where are the largest layers of copper outdoors in America.

The neighbors received the discovery as a good signal from heaven, and built a hermitage to act as the temple of the religious idol immediately. On the side of the mine, the miners built the sanctuary, in the same place where the church that preserves the idol found under the water is placed today. That was the beginning of Cubans devotion for this image. ♦

