

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910974523803321
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Titolo	The Lay Saint : Charity and Charismatic Authority in Medieval Italy, 1150-1350 / Mary Harvey Doyno
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, NY : , : Cornell University Press, , [2019] ©2019
ISBN	9781501740213 1501740210
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (329 pages)
Collana	Cornell scholarship online
Disciplina	282/.450902
Soggetti	Christian saints - Cult - Italy - History - To 1500 Laity - Catholic Church - History - To 1500 Sanctification - Catholic Church Italy Church history 476-1400
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 2019.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. From Charisma to Charity: Lay Sanctity in the Twelfth-Century Communes -- 2. Charity as Social Justice: The Birth of the Communal Lay Saint -- 3. Civic Patron as Ideal Citizen: The Cult of Pier "Pettinaio" of Siena -- 4. Classifying Laywomen: The Female Lay Saint before 1289 -- 5. Zita of Lucca: The Outlier -- 6. Margaret of Cortona: Between Civic Saint and Franciscan Visionary -- 7. Envisioning an Order: The Last Lay Saints -- Epilogue -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In The Lay Saint, Mary Harvey Doyno investigates the phenomenon of saintly cults that formed around pious merchants, artisans, midwives, domestic servants, and others in the medieval communes of northern and central Italy. Drawing on a wide array of sources-vitae documenting their saintly lives and legends, miracle books, religious art, and communal records-Doyno uses the rise of and tensions surrounding these civic cults to explore medieval notions of lay religiosity, charismatic power, civic identity, and the church's authority in this period. Although claims about laymen's and laywomen's miraculous abilities challenged the church's expanding political and

spiritual dominion, both papal and civic authorities, Doyno finds, vigorously promoted their cults. She shows that this support was neither a simple reflection of the extraordinary lay religious zeal that marked late medieval urban life nor of the Church's recognition of that enthusiasm. Rather, the history of lay saints' cults powerfully illustrates the extent to which lay Christians embraced the *vita apostolic*-the ideal way of life as modeled by the Apostles-and of the church's efforts to restrain and manage such claims.

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