

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY**TIMES**

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STATE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Msgr. Charles L. Sangermano

**THE POWER OF A NAME**

Most of us have heard of General Douglas MacArthur. He is especially associated with the Philippines from where, as the Japanese were closing in, the President ordered him to escape in order to command American forces in the Pacific. In leaving, the General handed over the command of the Filipino and American forces to General Jonathan Wainwright. Shortly afterwards, circumstances forced General Wainwright to surrender to the Japanese. Wainwright later wrote that during his three years of captivity, with no contact with the outside world, he was filled with shame and self-recrimination. What would the world think of his surrender? Most of all, what would the great MacArthur think of him? Wainwright writes that when liberation came, he was indeed happy to be free but he dreaded his first meeting with General MacArthur. General Wainwright had a nickname, 'Jim,' which was only used by those very close to him. As he entered MacArthur's presence, he began to stammer out an explanation for the surrender. MacArthur stopped him and said: "Jim, how wonderful to see you!"

General Wainwright writes that upon hearing himself called by that intimate name, which he had not heard for so long, all the shame and self-recrimination was lifted from him. He says that in that instant, all of his dignity and self-respect was restored! Such is the power of a name!

While many of us may not have had such dramatic experiences, we have all experienced the beauty and power of a name. Do we not look down at a baby lovingly and repeat over and over again his or her name? Don't lovers delight in saying the name of their beloved? Likewise, many times over the years I have experienced a dying person, practically with

*Continued on Page 6***From the Pen of the President****BROTHERS AND SISTERS,**

I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. A new year brings new hopes and fresh starts. A time for us as organization to start out fresh with new ideas, new thoughts and new ways.

My hopes and dreams for our organization for 2020 is that we are able to present ourselves to others in such a positive manner that those that see and hear what we are about want to join and be part of something positive.

We ended the year on a positive note and I wish to continue on that momentum for the New Year, Our organization is great, one with many accomplished members that make us a magnificent group.

We have much to be proud of and to expound upon when talking to others about our organization. First we have the C and E Trust which supports our scholarship program and our charities which we support through the generosity of our lodges. The Amazon Smiles program will enable the C and E to do so much more. Next we have our CSJ which defends us against the discrimination that we as a people still face today, it also was responsible for a gathering of our Italian Caucus in the state to allow us to voice concerns on many topics that affect us, and lastly it helps protect all of the positive elements of our culture and tradition.

We have many ideas for the upcoming year and I am excited to roll them out. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas for the upcoming year. Remember the new year means nothing if you stay with the status quo and never venture off course.

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