



# THE TIMES

## SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY



PHILADELPHIA PA, APRIL, 2020

# Hope Amidst Tragedy: How Italy Will Overcome COVID-19

The devastation being caused by COVID-19 is not new news for anyone. Italy is seemingly being hit the hardest, with new cases and death tolls increasing daily. However, Italians are known for having a contagious positive energy and nothing has changed during this tragedy. Italians express their emotions through food, art and vocals.

While being quarantined to their homes, Italians still find a way to keep spirits up.

### Customs in Siena

In Siena, Italians have been singing harmoniously out on their balconies, all together as one beautiful voice. The song they were singing in the now viral video, is called "E metre Siena dorme", which means "And while Siena sleeps".

It has come to be known as "la Verbena" amongst the Siena natives. This is a traditional song, sung in Siena that has the meaning of pride for their city, similar to an alma mater for an entire city.

Once the video was posted, comments poured in

from all over the world in unwavering support for Italy. This pandemic is hitting hard all over the world, especially in Italy, but singing through brings a small beacon of light amidst the dark-

ness we are in right now. also taken to singing from their balconies. The songs range from the Italian National Anthem to songs of comfort and hope.

The streets are empty, but the balconies are alive with-

that has come out of this dark moment in our history.

Venice, a city where water travel predominates, has seen clear waters for the first time in 60 years. Out of the absence of daily commutes and constant travel, the normally dirty-looking waters are clear. Schools of tiny fish can be seen swimming along the currently empty canals.

### Spirits Remain High

While Italy is locked down and darkness has seemingly loomed over, Italians are keeping spirits up and finding a way out of this darkness. We can offer nothing but support for them right now, during this time of tragedy.



"Lungo Lario Manzoni, Bellagio - Italian flag"

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Siena is not the only Italian city where residents are singing from their balconies. Balcony singing has been a long-time Italian tradition. Videos are circulating the internet of many other cities following suit. Those in Naples, Rome and Milan have

the sound of music. Italians are singing, playing tennis, and finding nothing but positive things to do from their balconies. Every post is loaded with comments of love and support.

The love and support of these "musical balconies" is not the only positive news



"Skyline" Photo of Siena

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# Where Have You Gone, Joe DiMaggio?

While we are in the midst of this global crisis, one of the few things that has ever been able to halt the march of fans to the ballpark, it seems that baseball-described as "the most important unimportant thing there is," has been taken like so many other things we took for granted.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Sure, there aren't any games right now-there will be again, though-but we can take our time to remember our favorite players from years ago.

### The Yankee Clipper

Italian-Americans have contributed to the great American pastime as well

as any other community; the lore of the game is colored by the contributions of great Italian-American players like Joe DiMaggio, who's 56 game hit-streak in 1941 became the seemingly unreachable zenith of baseball excellence. No major league player has come within 11 games of DiMaggio's record.

DiMaggio's parents were Italian immigrants who settled in California. His father, Giuseppe, was descended from a long line of Sicilian fishermen, a trade he continued in America and which he wanted his five sons to continue.

Young Joe had no interest

in carrying on in the family business, dropping out of school prior to graduation, and picking up odd jobs around the San Francisco area.

### Vince DiMaggio First

It wasn't until Joe's older brother, Vince, who would also become a major leaguer, convinced the manager of the Pacific Coast League San Francisco Seals to let Joe fill in for a game that his career took off in earnest.

In a precursor of what was to come, DiMaggio hit safely in 61 straight Pacific Coast League games, the second-longest hit-streak in minor league history, at-

tracting the attention of the baseball world.

Despite a non-baseball injury, DiMaggio signed a \$50,000 contract with the New York Yankees, ending as the Pacific Coast most valuable player with a league-best .398 batting average, 34 home runs and 154 runs batted in.

### Career with Yankees

DiMaggio's Yankee's career started the following season, assuming the third spot in the batting order ahead of legend Lou Gehrig, that had previously been held by the iconic Babe Ruth. DiMaggio did not disappoint-hitting 29

(Continued on Page 6)

## Charitable And Education Trust Needs Support

In these unprecedented times leaving us to remain in our houses and changing our daily routines. I understand that many of us will be utilizing Amazon more than usually to help get through this profound time in our lifetime.

One way to continue to help our C and E Trust and assure our children that our commitment to them through our scholarship and mentor program will continue, is to utilize our Amazon Smile program.

This is a great program in that a donation is made from Amazon based on your purchase.

### How do I shop at Amazon-Smile?

To shop at Amazon Smile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at Amazon Smile.

### Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on Amazon Smile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

### Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

### How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a

(Continued on Page 7)

**SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY****TIMES**

OFFICIAL ORGAN

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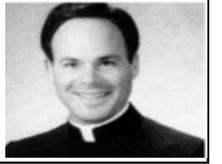
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**STATE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

by Msgr. Charles L. Sangermano

**NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL**

As I write this, we are in the midst of the world's response to the coronavirus. It is natural that we react to a threat to our bodies and physical health, even if we suspect that some of the hysteria has been induced. The defense of our bodies is such a part of our nature that there is a longstanding concept in common law called: "Self defense." A beloved former pastor of mine, Monsignor Peter Cavallucci, used to sum this concept up well when he would say: "God gave us the doctor." In other words, the God Who created the wonderful mind and technical expertise of physicians and research specialists, puts those abilities at the service of people who are in need of them. The Gospels tell us, concerning Our Lord Jesus Christ, that "healing went out from Him." That healing goes out also from those who are His instruments and we are grateful to them.

However, our concern with this "natural" life of ours, understandable as it is, sometimes obscures the reality of a supernatural life. Super being the Latin for "above" or "beyond." As a parish priest, I am often confronted with families faced with life decisions concerning their loved ones. They often find it helpful when I explain that, while we love and care for this earthly life of ours, and that of those we love, and we take advantage of the marvels of medical science, we do not only believe in this life. We believe in its value, and defend and cherish it, but we do not believe that it is everything. It is said that as the first Queen Elizabeth of England was dying several hundred years ago, she said: "All my kingdoms for one more moment of time." She didn't get it. More importantly she "didn't get it," as the young people would say!

The Easter Season, which we are in right now, is the great reminder of that which goes beyond the natural. God the Son took on a human nature, and through it He won for us a share in His divine nature. Sometimes we say: "He came down so that we may go up." The life of grace, which is a sharing in God's life here on earth, is the beginning of eternal glory. It is a reality, and one we should be conscious of and work towards. We do this by a life that includes prayer, the living out of the Commandments, and a constant awareness that this life is not everything. We pray that when our lives are coming to an end, we will "get it." Not the extra moment of time on this earth, but the reward for the faithful, Godly life we have lived: the eternal happiness of Heaven. If it's so important to get every moment out of this earthly life, it surely should be as important to win the reward of everlasting life!

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**From the Pen of the President****BROTHERS AND SISTERS,**

I hope and pray this finds everyone well. I want to take a minute to update all members of what we are doing at the Grand Lodge with our daily operations.

As of this writing, we are still maintaining the office (remotely) and making every effort to meet any member's needs. The hours will continue to be 8:30-4:30 pm (permitting). As I'm sure you are aware the telephone number is still 215-592.1713. As I'm sure you are also aware, the email is still [info@sdoitaly.com](mailto:info@sdoitaly.com) and my personal email address is [mike@sdoitaly.com](mailto:mike@sdoitaly.com).

This is an unprecedented time we are going through but one that we will get through together. We are meeting and making changes to our operations as dictated by changes we face with different mandates from local, state, federal agencies.

I do understand that our local lodges are facing great challenges and I want to make assurances that the Grand Lodge will be here to help in any way we can because we are all in this together, but by remaining together we will continue with communication and helping each other.

I ask for patience and understanding at this time. If there are any questions or concerns that you may have please don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

*Mike Cerruti*

# Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge Members Remember Joe Galati

By  
Edward Carabin

Joe Galati was a unique individual. He was born into an Italian Catholic family, and was a great defender of both heritages all his life. I met Joe in 1994 when Jane & I joined the Capital City Lodge #272.

He and Peter Panza had been carrying the lodge on their shoulders for at least 20 years. Whatever needed to be done, they enthusiastically got it done. Peter served as President and/or Treasurer, while Joe served as President and/or Financial Secretary.

## Devoted to Church

Joe was a wonderful helper to each pastor at his Holy Family Church. He served as Eucharistic Minister; Ecclesiastical Lay Minister, Lector and Pastoral Assistant. He also applied to become a deacon, but at age 65 was considered too old to be admitted to training for deacon.

But no deacon could have done more for his church. He wrote the altar server schedule, and personally called parishioners for the Lenten Appeal, and organized and participated in all the activities of his church.

He served at almost every mass, and he will be sorely missed by the Holy Family Church.

## Panza Retires

In 2007 Peter Panza's wife, Virginia, was scheduled to have a life altering operation, so he excused himself from the duties of State Trustee of District 7 at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and I was elected to complete his term of office.

The meetings were conducted in the Grand Lodge Office in Philadelphia, so Joe, who was the President of the Mortuary Fund, and I caught the 4:30pm Amtrack train to the 30th Street Sta-

tion in Philadelphia, and then a cab to the office for the meetings.

## Gave Briefings

On the way down Joe talked to me about the history of the Grand Lodge "from 1946 to present." On the train ride back to Harrisburg, he would go over the events of the meeting, explaining how and why they mattered to the Grand Council.

I received a thorough history of the Grand Lodge during the first seven years as an officer of the Grand Lodge. Joe was my mentor.

At each State Convention everyone wanted to sit near Joe, because he would be telling a constant stream of jokes, one after another.

When he couldn't remember one, Camille would give him a key word and he would be off, and the room was filled with laughter again.

## Missed Train

Then there was that fateful evening in 2010 when the main clock in the 30th Street Station was running slow. We were talking at a side table for a very long time.

I got up and went to the men's room across the hall. When I finished I opened the door, and despite the clock indicating we had 45 minutes until boarding, I heard the "final call" to board the Harrisburg bound train!

I ran across the hall to the table and yelled for Joe to grab his stuff and get going. Joe grabbed his coat and briefcase and we sprinted across the room, down the escalator stairs, and managed to see our train pull out...without us.

We then realized that there were no busses available, and that the next train heading west was at 6:00am. So we looked at each other

and decided to spend the night on the hard oak benches where we were sitting.

That night was a lesson in patience and street smarts. We spent the rest of the evening watching the mice scurry around running in and out beneath the benches, and then these shady characters started showing up.

They would look around then sit down and start a conversation with two elderly women on the bench opposite us. After the women showed no interest in them, they would move on to their next potential victim.

We took turns sleeping, but "I kept one eye open all night. What a long night! When we finally got back and talked to our friends, several of them including our funeral director, Mario Billow, said, "If you had called me, I would have come and picked you up".

And come to think of it, it would probably have been better to ride in the back of a funeral hearse for two hours, than sleeping on those oak benches. Our families still will not let us forget that fateful trip. I will never forget Joe Galati.

# Joe Galati, Grand Lodge Leader Dies; Devoted Husband, Ex-GI, Public Servant

Joseph Galati of Harrisburgh who was born on August 24, 1929, passed away Saturday January 4, 2020, peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, at age 90.

## Born in Italy

He was born in Santa Nicola, Calabria Italy. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Camille (Barbush) Galati; a daughter, Maria (Mia) Galati; a sister, Rose Keffer and many nieces and nephews.

## Education

He was a graduate of William Penn High School Class of 1948; graduate of Penn State with a degree in Political Science.

He attended Northwestern University where he studied Traffic Engineering and graduated from University of Pennsylvania School of Wharton with a Masters Degree in Government Administration.

## Air Force Veteran

Joe was an Air Force Veteran serving as a Military Police Officer. In 1960 he took the state civil service examination in traffic engineering and placed first in the entire Commonwealth of PA.

He worked for the PA Dept. of Transportation (PennDot) for



Joseph Galati: 8-24-1929 to 1-4-2020

33 years. At PennDot he was head of the Research and Studies Section of the Bureau of Traffic Engineering.

## Lodge Memberships

He was a member of the Capitol City Lodge #272 Sons and Daughters of Italy, the founding member of the Sons and Daughters of Italy Joseph V. Galati Lodge in Harrisburg.

He was the acting state chaplain for the meetings and sessions of the Sons and Daughters of Italy; President of the Mortuary Fund; and a recipient of the Gold Medal of the Grand Lodge at the 2013 state convention.

## Community Service

He attained the title of 4th Degree Knight in the Knights of Co-

lumbus; President of the Latshmere Manor Civic Association; President of the Izaak Walton League; President of the March of Dimes for 20 years.

He served as resident of the Institute of Traffic Engineers and authored 12 textbooks that are still being used to teach engineering published by the National Academy of Science Federal Highway Research Board.

## Kennedy Award

He was the only recipient of the John F. Kennedy Library for Minorities American Heritage Award.

He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church where he served as Eucharist (Continued on Page 7)

## In loving memory of Mr. Joseph V. Galati....

My wife Luanne and I have known Joe and Camille Galati and their families for almost 50 years. We shared many many good times together throughout these years and had many laughs and unforgettable moments, which we will always cherish.

Joe loved his Lord and Catholic faith; loved his family and many friends, and last but not least his Italian heritage. Joe was also my mentor, and was very instrumental in my becoming a member of the Capitol City Lodge #272, of which he was the President of the Lodge at the time. He encouraged me to become an active member, and also helped pave the way for me to take on more leadership roles in the Lodge. I have assumed many leadership roles throughout the years, and am now the current President of our Capitol City Lodge. It was due to the assistance and great example of Joe's leadership.

Since Joe was very active at the state level of the Sons and Daughters of Italy Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, he encouraged my involvement as well. I am currently President of the Dante Commission on the Grand Council, all due to Joe's guidance and mentoring.

On a personal note, to Camille and Maria, we will never forget the fun times, laughs, get-togethers at your home, and also the Penn State football games and dinners at the Penn State alumni events.

We are sure that Joe is having some good times in Heaven with Joe Paterno too!

It is always difficult to synopsize someone in a few paragraphs when there is a lifetime of memories for a very special man. He gave so much of himself to his church as well as the Organizations that he loved. We will miss him and his sense of humor too...

RIP Joe and fly with the Angels....You earned your Angel wings!

Stephen M. DeFrank, President Capitol City Lodge #272 Harrisburg, PA



# LODGE NEWS



## L.A.M. Valley Forge Holds Dinner Meetings January Meeting

Our dinner meeting held at Peppers was once again well represented. We were honored to have our State President, Michael Cerruti, serve as our guest speaker. As a newly elected president, he presented some of his recent accomplishments, including improvements to the state office in reducing waste, publishing a monthly newsletter, visits to many of the state lodges and the Amazon purchase donations



President Bernadette Wesler presents State President Michael Cerruti with a Certificate of Appreciation at the January Dinner Meeting

## February Meeting

Our guest speaker at the February meeting, held at Peppers, was Patrick Walsh of Catholic Social Services. He services Martha's Choice Marketplace which is a choice model food pantry of Catholic Social Services, serving 2,700 different families, (about 9,000 different individuals in the past year) and about 1,000 families per month. Families in need typically leave with 70-100 pounds of fresh healthy food. Donors span from concerned individuals to state food programs, Philabundance, local grocers and food producers as well as school, church and food drives.



President Bernadette Wesler presented Patrick Walsh of Catholic Social Services with a Certificate of Appreciation at the February Dinner Meeting

## Easter in Italy

By Courtney Costanzo, Custodes Pacis Lodge 2085

Easter is second only to Christmas in important dates on the Italian calendar. Easter in Italy is more about the religious celebration of the holiday and is less commercialized than in the U.S. However, the tradition of coloring Easter eggs can be traced all the way back to the ancient Romans, who believed "omne vivum ex ovo" – all life comes from the egg."

### Roman Traditions

There is evidence that ancient Romans used beets, carrots, and onion skins to dye eggs which were given as gifts during spring festivals. In Italy, Easter eggs were originally colored red, inspired by the story of Mary Magdalen who, when traveling to Italy to spread the word of the resurrection, pulled out an egg which astonishingly turned red to symbolize the blood of Christ.

Today, chocolate eggs have become more popular than

died eggs in Italy and are given as gifts. These eggs are elaborately decorated and hollow so that gifts may be hidden inside. The gifts may be something simple or elaborate. Hiding engagement rings inside chocolate eggs has become a popular tradition with the new generation in Italy.

Chocolate eggs range in price from a few dollars to over \$300. In 2009, a chocolate egg weighing over 5,000 pounds was created in Rome. The egg was later broken into smaller pieces and sold to benefit the victims of the Abruzzo earthquake.

### Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, each Italian town holds its own procession through the streets with depictions of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. The Scoppio del Carro, or explosion of the cart, can be seen in Florence on Easter morning, when the

Archbishop lights a dove-shaped rocket which sets off a spectacular fireworks display. Easter mass held by the Pope at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome attracts over 15,000 people each year. Traditional Easter dinners consist of lamb or goat, lots of artichokes, and sweet cakes in the shape of doves, known as Colomba Pasquale.

### Easter Monday

Easter Monday is also a huge celebration in Italy, with many cities and towns holding free concerts, dances, or unusual games. In Panicle, a game called Ruzzolone is played, where participants roll giant wheels of cheese around the village walls using the least number of strokes possible.

Although you will not find any Easter bunnies in Italy, the history and customs of Easter in Italy are like no other. If given the opportunity, every Italian should experience Easter in Italy at least once in a lifetime.

Buona Pasqua!



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# LODGE NEWS



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\$1000			\$3000			\$5000			\$7000			\$10,000		
Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female
30-34	\$2.50	\$2.40	30-34	\$7.50	\$7.20	30-34	\$12.50	\$12.00	30-34	\$17.50	\$16.80	30-34	\$25.00	\$24.00
35-39	\$2.70	\$2.60	35-39	\$8.10	\$7.80	35-39	\$13.50	\$13.00	35-39	\$18.90	\$18.20	35-39	\$27.00	\$26.00
40-44	\$2.80	\$2.60	40-44	\$8.40	\$7.80	40-44	\$14.00	\$13.00	40-44	\$19.60	\$18.20	40-44	\$28.00	\$26.00
45-49	\$3.00	\$2.80	45-49	\$9.00	\$8.40	45-49	\$15.00	\$14.00	45-49	\$21.00	\$19.60	45-49	\$30.00	\$28.00
50-54	\$3.20	\$3.00	50-54	\$9.60	\$9.00	50-54	\$16.00	\$15.00	50-54	\$22.40	\$21.00	50-54	\$32.00	\$30.00
55-59	\$3.60	\$3.40	55-59	\$10.80	\$10.20	55-59	\$18.00	\$17.00	55-59	\$25.20	\$23.80	55-59	\$36.00	\$34.00
60-64	\$4.50	\$4.30	60-64	\$13.50	\$12.90	60-64	\$22.50	\$21.50	60-64	\$31.50	\$30.10	60-64	\$45.00	\$43.00
65-69	\$5.00	\$4.70	65-69	\$15.00	\$14.10	65-69	\$25.00	\$23.50	65-69	\$35.00	\$32.90	65-69	\$50.00	\$47.00
70-74	\$6.20	\$5.80	70-74	\$18.60	\$17.40	70-74	\$31.00	\$29.00	70-74	\$43.40	\$40.60	70-74	\$62.00	\$58.00
75-79	\$8.20	\$7.70	75-79	\$24.60	\$23.10	75-79	\$41.00	\$38.50	75-79	\$57.40	\$53.90	75-79	\$82.00	\$77.00

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Age	Male	Female	34	\$253.00	\$227.00	Age	Male	Female	65	\$609.00	\$550.00
19	\$163.00	\$142.00	35	\$262.00	\$234.00	50	\$412.00	\$371.00	66	\$622.00	\$564.00
20	\$166.00	\$145.00	36	\$270.00	\$242.00	51	\$424.00	\$382.00	67	\$635.00	\$576.00
21	\$172.00	\$150.00	37	\$278.00	\$249.00	52	\$436.00	\$394.00	68	\$648.00	\$590.00
22	\$176.00	\$156.00	38	\$287.00	\$258.00	53	\$449.00	\$405.00	69	\$662.00	\$603.00
23	\$182.00	\$160.00	39	\$296.00	\$265.00	54	\$462.00	\$417.00	70	\$676.00	\$617.00
24	\$187.00	\$166.00	40	\$305.00	\$274.00	55	\$474.00	\$428.00	71	\$690.00	\$630.00
25	\$193.00	\$170.00	41	\$315.00	\$283.00	56	\$487.00	\$440.00	72	\$704.00	\$644.00
26	\$199.00	\$176.00	42	\$325.00	\$291.00	57	\$501.00	\$451.00	73	\$718.00	\$658.00
27	\$205.00	\$182.00	43	\$335.00	\$301.00	58	\$514.00	\$463.00	74	\$732.00	\$672.00
28	\$211.00	\$188.00	44	\$345.00	\$310.00	59	\$528.00	\$476.00	75	\$746.00	\$686.00
29	\$218.00	\$193.00	45	\$356.00	\$319.00	60	\$542.00	\$488.00	76	\$759.00	\$700.00
30	\$224.00	\$200.00	46	\$367.00	\$330.00	61	\$555.00	\$501.00	77	\$772.00	\$714.00
31	\$231.00	\$206.00	47	\$377.00	\$340.00	62	\$568.00	\$512.00	78	\$785.00	\$728.00
32	\$238.00	\$213.00	48	\$388.00	\$350.00	63	\$582.00	\$525.00	79	\$798.00	\$742.00
33	\$246.00	\$220.00	49	\$400.00	\$360.00	64	\$595.00	\$538.00	80	\$811.00	\$756.00

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- Policy will remain in force as long as premiums are paid The low rates shown in this brochure are member rates only
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\$1000			\$3000		
Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female
30-34	\$3.00	\$2.85	30-34	\$9.00	\$8.55
35-39	\$3.05	\$2.90	35-39	\$9.15	\$8.70
40-44	\$3.15	\$2.95	40-44	\$9.45	\$8.85
45-49	\$3.40	\$3.20	45-49	\$10.20	\$9.60
50-54	\$3.55	\$3.30	50-54	\$10.65	\$9.90
55-59	\$4.05	\$3.80	55-59	\$12.15	\$11.40
60-64	\$4.85	\$4.60	60-64	\$14.55	\$13.80
65-69	\$5.40	\$5.05	65-69	\$16.20	\$15.15
70-74	\$6.70	\$6.25	70-74	\$20.10	\$18.75
75-79	\$8.60	\$8.00	75-79	\$25.80	\$24.00

(Tables Continue on Page 8)

# Monte Cassino

By  
Peter Tarfuri

One of the great things about modern libraries that is sometimes taken for granted is the access to books of many cultures and ages that they make available. Such was not always the case. With the fall of the Roman Empire in the west and the unsettled conditions of the ensuing centuries an unspeakable amount of books were lost either through the deliberate destruction by zealots, the depredations of ensuing waves of invaders, or sheer neglect. What books there were consisted mostly of religious texts which were relatively few and far between and so valuable that they had to be literally chained down to avoid their theft.

## Rise of the Benedictines

Fortunately, the seed of change was planted in the year 529 when St. Benedict founded the Monastery of Monte Cassino in the mountains between Rome and Naples. The monks were called the Benedictines after him, and followed the Rule of St. Benedict which emphasized, among other things, care for the sick, learning and labor. They soon established the first hospital in Europe since the days of Rome's glory; the Order soon spread throughout the continent.

Unfortunately, the Monastery was burnt in 580 by invading Lombards; it wasn't until 718 that it was rebuilt, only to be destroyed again by the Saracens in 884. Reconstruction began in the ensuing years and rose to new heights in the 11th century under the Abbot Desiderius.

A man of culture and appreciative of his position, he enlisted the services of architects and artists from Amalfi, Lombardy, Constantinople and elsewhere to aid in the building. It was here that Gothic architecture with its characteristic pointed arches had its naissance.

Most important for posterity was the great attention paid of the library. Owing to the closeness of the major seaport of Naples, books both sacred and secular, ancient and contemporary were imported

from throughout the known world and translated from the Arabic, Greek, Hebrew and other languages into Latin.

## Scholarly Importance

It soon became the most important library of the time, known not only for the quantity of books, but also for their high quality as the scores of monks who labored in the Scriptorium produce illuminated manuscripts of striking beauty.

The vast collection of medical and scientific works combined with the Benedictines' care for the sick made the Monastery the world's most important medical center, attracting students and physicians from the four corners of the earth.

Eventually the world's first real university, the School of Salerno, was spun off, which set the standard for the study of medicine for centuries afterward.

Sadly, a period of decline started to set in in the 13th century which was greatly exacerbated by the so-called Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy, which began in 1309 when the French Pope Clement IV moved it from Rome to Avignon, thus becoming a virtual vassal of the King of France.

With the center of papal power thus located, seven French Popes in all were chosen. They had the power to appoint cronies to important positions, including that of Abbot of Monte Cassino. Despite the post, they remained at home in France and totally neglected the Monastery, the worst effect of which was the confiscation of its revenues for themselves. The number of monks dwindled and the lack of funds caused the maintenance of the place to be neglected.

## Natural Disasters

That was not all; in 1349, during the time of the Black Plague, there was an earthquake that destroyed a good portion of it. Thus in 1355 when the great author and humanist Giovanni Boccaccio journeyed there in hopes of having access to the once great library it is said he burst into tears upon arrival. The doors were gone, the windows broken and weeds

were growing in it. Worse yet, the books were covered in layers of grime and dust; many were missing covers, margins and leaves.

Upon inquiring, he discovered that some of the impoverished monks had caused the damage in order to reuse the expensive parchment to create breviaries and books of psalms which they were able to easily sell. Fortunately, he was able to salvage some of the works of Tacitus, Apuleius and a few other ancient authors; he brought them back to Florence, where they now reside in the Laurentian Library.

Although eventually repaired, the Monastery was but a shadow of its former self. Yet another calamity occurred in 1799 when invading French soldiers sacked it. That was not all. During World War II the surrounding area was occupied by German troops. The commander, who was a devout Catholic, kept the Monastery off limits.

## Modern Times

Owing to its strategic location, the Allied forces viewed it as a prime target during the liberation of Italy. In anticipation of the impending battle, what was left of the library was shipped to the Vatican for safekeeping. What followed was one of the great blunders of the War, the bombing of the Monastery itself. The ruins provided a perfect defensive position and the ensuing Battle of Monte Cassino was one of the most difficult fought, with heavy casualties on both sides.

Happily, the Monastery was rebuilt during the postwar period and is now a popular tourist spot. Happier still, the lesson of history has been well learned, at least in Lackawanna County, where a modest library tax helps maintain our invaluable institutions. Unhappily, unlike most other developed countries, the federal government only provides a pittance, if anything, for our libraries, hence the need for fundraising activities, one of the most important of which are the book sales run by the Friends

# Steps In Preparing For Spring Planting

By  
Mike Cerruti

As I get ready to prepare for my garden in the spring, I wanted to see if there were seeds from Italy available. To my surprise there is a company which is called Seeds from Italy. It is the exclusive U.S. distributor for Franchi Seeds, Italy's oldest family-owned seed company, founded in 1783.

## Personal Conversation

I recently spoke with one of the owners of this family run company and learned a lot during our conversation. The seeds that they sell come only from Italy and come from all the regions of the country. The Franchi seed company is 7th generation operated; Giovanni Franchi started selling seeds around the market squares of Parma from his horse-drawn cart. The company is still in the same family 235 years later.

## Seed Variety

The seeds come from different regions of Italy, for example there are over 23 types of zucchini, depending on the region it will depend on the color of the vegetable. When it comes to tomatoes, they have 30 different types. Franchi buys 70% of its seed from Italian farmers. Someone from the company visits those farmers regularly to ensure

## Joe DiMaggio

(Continued from Page 1)

home runs, then a Yankees' rookie record.

The Yankees won nine World Series titles during DiMaggio's 13-year tenure, a feat almost as remarkable as his 56-game hit streak.

## The Streak

On May 15, 1941, DiMaggio went 1 for 4 in a loss against the Chicago White Sox, certainly inauspicious beginnings for such a venerable feat. DiMaggio would hit safely in every game from May 15 until July 17, 1941.

The statistical likelihood of hitting in 56 straight games has been scientifically proven to be such a rare occurrence that it will probably never be reached again. To put the record into context, Nobel-prize winning physicist Edward Mills Purcell, himself a die-hard baseball fan, concluded that

the seed crops are healthy and quality standards are observed. The small percentage of seeds that are not purchased from known contractors are grown out in the trial gardens to ensure their quality.

Seeds from Italy have more than 400 varieties of vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruits. These seeds have been passed down from generation to generation. They also have a pole bean the Lamon, that is grown in northern Italy that can be traced back to 1500's, the bean was brought to Italy by Spaniards and they presented the bean to the Pope as a gift. The Pope gave the bean to a local priest to grow and it has been handed down since.

When planning your garden and you want to grow seeds that your family used from Italy, look no further than this family run company.

## Seeds Natural

The seeds are mostly heirlooms with some being hybrids, none of the seeds are GMO or treated.

The company's website is growitalian.com or they can be reached at 1785-748-0959. When inquiring let them know you heard about them from the "Times".

in order to have a chance of a player hitting safely in 50 straight games at any point over the last 50 seasons, professional baseball would need 52 players with a career batting average of over .350. Thus far in major league history, three players have reached that mark.

## Career Feats

DiMaggio finished his career in 1951 with 361 home runs, 1537 RBIs, and a .325 batting average, three American League Most Valuable Player awards, and 9 World Series Championships. He was an all-star every year of his career.

Making DiMaggio's achievements all the more impressive was the fact that he spent his most productive years serving our nation during World War II. A true hero and example of courage.

# Local and National Responses To Crisis

By

Frank Palumbo, State Historian

As of Monday morning of March 23rd, while I am assigned to represent the Philadelphia Police Department at Philadelphia's Emergency Operations Center, America and the World are engaged in a battle with COVID 19 (Coronavirus), an outbreak that is adversely impacting our societies in a manner not experienced since the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 & 1919. According to the US CDC, over 500 million people were infected by and about 50 million died from that virus; far more than those killed in World War 1 that had just concluded with over 20.5 million military and civilian deaths. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

The illness and death toll are not even close so far, and hopefully won't be due to recognition of the magnitude of this virus and the efforts of our governments, medical and law enforcement professionals, scientists, working people, and service providers in every profession.

## National Statistics

According to the Center for Systems Science & Engineering, the most adversely impacted countries thus far are China, with over 81,000 confirmed cases and over 3,100 deaths and Italy with over 59,000 cases and over 5,400 deaths. The U.S. is third with about 35,000 cases and 470 deaths. Spain, Germany, and Iran follow closely. To get a grasp on how bad Italy is suffering, consider that China has about 1.4 billion people, compared to Italy's population of about 61 million! That means Italy has more CV deaths than a country with about 23 times its' population!

The two hardest hit states in the U.S. so far are New York and California. On Saturday morning, Fox and other major news outlets were reporting that New York City has had more than 24 deaths in 24 hours. This shows how dangerous CV can be, especially in highly and densely populated places! And as of Monday morning, New York State has at least 4,600 cases and 50 deaths, while California has at least 1,400 cases and 23 deaths. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania so

far has about 470 cases and 2 deaths, with the highest concentrations of those infected in Philadelphia.

## Local Response

So here's where the Philadelphia Police and other law enforcement agencies come in: Here at the Emergency Operations Center, we coordinate efforts and share information daily with the Office of Emergency Management, Fire Department, other police agencies, medical professionals, and various State and City representatives to ensure effective messaging and public service.

In Philadelphia, we are complying with Governor Wolf's orders prohibiting operation of non-essential businesses and public gatherings for events and ceremonies.

Very sadly, the PPD can't yet honor our fallen hero Corporal James O'Connor with the proper funeral ceremony he deserves for being killed in the line of duty, and that his family wants!

As of this weekend Philly residents are under a stay at home order from Mayor Kenny, and we are getting a large degree of cooperation so far with no discernible increase in crime.

Our officers are obviously considered essential workers and must perform their jobs as always, but under an enhanced personal protection protocol that seems to be working so far.

If only we could convince young people all over to stop going to beaches, playing basketball, and having parties, we might all get through this quicker by playing it safe and thinking of others!

In Italy, the average person dying from CV is about 81 years old, with similar average fatality ages elsewhere, so our elders require and deserve the greatest consideration and protection from exposure! According to a brother of a Custodes Pacis member living in Naples, Italy, the country is on lockdown.

People need to go online to get permission to travel from their homes to get food and other necessities. Cops can fine people for violations, but most people are complying with the rules. I was glad to get a Facebook

message from a friend of mine in the Lombardy region of Italy where he is an assistant state police chief.

His region was the first to record a CV fatality and is among the hardest hit in Italy. He and everyone in his family are fine so far, but he feels that eventually he and other cops will become ill since they can't avoid public service contact. He also fears that Italy's economy will be devastated if this goes on much longer.

In that regard, news reports show that Italy's tourist areas are ghost towns. If there are any silver linings to this black cloud, fish and even dolphins can be seen in the now clear canals of Venice since there is almost no boat traffic.

## Italian Perserverance

Across Italy people are gathering on balconies and harmonizing to songs like "Livin' on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi and, perhaps soon, Bono of U2's "Let Your Love be Known," his song of love and support for Italy. The Italian flag, and it's green, white, and red colors, which many say represent faith, hope, and charity, is being flown and projected on bridges and buildings around the world from New York to Dubai.

It's even atop the Empire State Building and over Niagara Falls! Hopefully Italy and its' magnificent sites and culture will be soon again be open to the World. So until then Brothers and Sisters of the Grand Lodge, let's hope, pray, give, and try to find out what we can all do to make sure we never again experience Coronavirus and its' terrible impact on our lives and our economies. Maybe soon our kids can all go back to school, church doors will open, and weddings and graduations can go on.

## Charitable Trust

Continued from Page 1

charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. There after every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. AmazonSmile will occasionally contact you about donation amounts disbursed to your chosen charity or about the program.

# THE VIEW FROM BEHIND THE CHAIR

By

Joseph T. Ferruzza

Frank Ricco Lodge #731 Brownsville

*As a retired Second Generation Barber of 66 yrs, (where the fourth generation Grandson is now Barber Shop owner), I thought it might make interesting reading to relate memories, along with some Italian philosophy that I have collected, from behind the Barber chair, over the years.*

It was a simpler time and life. Remember when you and your dad walked to the local Barber Shop together? You don't remember the name of the shop exactly, but knew the name ended in either of the vowels, A-E-I-O-U. You took your dad's hand and stepped into an all-male world, with the essence of "Lilac Vegetal" in the air, the snap of shoes being shined, and the sight of the mustachioed Barber waving his towel over the face of a gentleman, who had just been shaved. You hear the radio playing "That's Amore" as you look

up to the ornate tin ceiling, and then noticed the many different colored hair tonic bottles and the etched glass decorated panels, and you knew you were in an establishment that valued heritage, while embracing the present. You are awakened from your trance by the words, "okay son, you're next!", as the barber invites you to his chair. How handsome and proud you felt, as he cut your hair, and combed in the Pompadour which made you look all grown up!

Oh! to find that place in time again....

## Galati

(Continued from Page 3)

tic Minister, Ecclesial Lay Minister; a Lector, a Pastoral Assistant, and a member of St. Michael's Guard.

## Last Rites

A viewing was held on Thursday January 9, 2020 from 5-8PM at the Dailey Funeral Home 650 S. 28th St. Harrisburg PA 17103

and on Friday, January 10, 2020, from 10-11AM at Holy Family Catholic Church 25th & Berryhill Sts Harrisburg PA.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday at 11AM. Burial immediately followed at Resurrection Cemetery with military

# Letter From The Editor

## How Are You Making Use of the Time?

Certainly we are all concerned with the challenges the COVID-19 outbreak brings before us. Never in our lifetime has something so thoroughly disrupted our way of life and caused so much uncertainty as the continuing pandemic. However, there is some good coming from this situation. All over the world, we are seeing people pull together in ways we did not think possible.

Hopefully, we will, as a society, take the lessons of the this tragedy and create a more equitable and kinder society. But what should we do until we can leave the house again?

That's what we want you to tell us! How are you spending this time? Are you trying new recipes, catching up with members from other lodges over the phone or internet? Are you brushing up on your Italian language skills? Let us know! While it seems lodges won't be

able to hold their meetings and events in the near future, that doesn't mean there isn't news to publish! What are members of your lodge doing to keep up with lodge business? What kinds of events are you planning once social-distancing is no longer required?

This is the time to get creative. Hold meetings on Zoom and send us pictures! We want to know what your doing and share your ideas, activities, and meetings with your fellow lodges. Now is the time for connecting and sticking together, and the Times wants to help keep our community vibrant and connected.

And remember: we're always looking for lodge news, recipes, pictures, and stories about our Italian heritage. Please send anything you'd like to see included in the The Times to the Lodge Office. If you have an idea but would like some help putting it together, contact us.

Insurance Tables  
(Continued from Page 5)

		\$5000		\$7000		\$10,000		
Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female
30-34	\$15.00	\$14.25	30-34	\$21.00	\$19.95	30-34	\$30.00	\$28.50
35-39	\$15.25	\$14.50	35-39	\$21.35	\$20.30	35-39	\$30.50	\$29.00
40-44	\$15.75	\$14.75	40-44	\$22.05	\$20.65	40-44	\$31.56	\$29.50
45-49	\$17.00	\$16.00	45-49	\$23.50	\$22.40	45-49	\$34.40	\$32.00
50-54	\$17.75	\$16.50	50-54	\$24.85	\$23.10	50-54	\$35.50	\$33.00
55-59	\$20.20	\$19.00	55-59	\$28.35	\$26.60	55-59	\$40.50	\$38.00
60-64	\$24.25	\$23.00	60-64	\$33.95	\$32.20	60-64	\$48.50	\$46.00
65-69	\$27.00	\$25.25	65-69	\$37.80	\$35.35	65-69	\$54.00	\$50.50
70-74	\$35.50	\$31.25	70-74	\$46.90	\$43.75	70-74	\$67.00	\$62.50
75-79	\$43.00	\$40.00	75-79	\$60.20	\$56.00	75-79	\$86.00	\$80.00

Advertising Information

Deadline for advertising: Two weeks before issue date

Ad Size	Inches	Flat Rate
Full Page	10" X 14"	\$600.00
Half Page	10" X 7"	\$325.00
1/4 Page	5" X 7"	\$165.00
1/8 Page	5" X 3 1/2"	\$85.00
	4" X 2"	\$50.00

For 4 color advertisements add 25%  
For further information please call Linda Mondelli at (215) 592-1713. Issue dates vary, time sensitive ads cannot be guaranteed due to material available for sufficient content to publish paper, call to confirm date of issue each month.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

Advertising material must be camera-ready. (We do not design and advertisements.) IF you prefer to e-mail the material, please send a TIFF or JPEG format. Send all artwork in PDF format.

Email address: [info@sdoitaly.org](mailto:info@sdoitaly.org)

If you are changing your address, please notify the Grand Lodge at the following email address:

**[info@sdoitaly.com](mailto:info@sdoitaly.com)**

1518 Walnut Street, Suite 1410

**Our Email Addresses Have Changed:**

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Linda Mondelli  
[lindam@sdoitaly.com](mailto:lindam@sdoitaly.com)

Please email our main address if your contact information has changed.

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