



Giuseppe Garibaldi

FRANK DIMINO, ITALIAN AMERICAN

# SPORT CLUB



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## A Cultural Icon



The League Party has introduced a bill in the Italian Parliament to make the Vespa scooter a part of Italy's official cultural heritage. The Vespa, patented in 1946, is already on show in many museums around the world, from Milan's Triennale Design Museum to New York's MoMA (Museum of Modern Art).

The name means "wasp" in Italian. Originally conceived as a utility vehicle by Piaggio, it came to symbolize freedom and imagination. By 1956 one million had been sold. To date, 15 million have been sold. The Vespa reached international stardom when famously ridden by Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn in the 1953 classic film *Roman Holiday*.



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## FAMOUS QUOTES



*"Wars are made by people who kill each other without knowing each other...for the interests of people who know each other but do not kill each other."*

**Pablo Neruda**

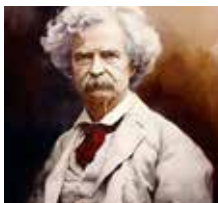
(Chilean Poet, 1971 Nobel Prize in Literature)



*"They have led young people to seek nothing but luxury and idleness, both physical and moral, they have made them soft and lazy, incapable of resisting pain and pleasure."*

**Plato** (Greek philosopher 5th century BC)

Republic - Book VIII



*"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."*

**Samuel Langhorne Clemens,**

known by the pen name **Mark Twain**  
(American writer, humorist, and essayist)



*"Dietro ogni problema c'è un'opportunità."*

(Behind every problem, there is an opportunity.)

**Galileo Galilei**

(Great Italian scientific and philosophical mind)

## FOR DOG LOVERS



*A dog is a smile and a tail that shakes.*

*What's in between is not really that important.*



# Message from the President

*"The woods are lovely, dark and deep  
But I have promises to keep  
And miles to go before I sleep.."  
- Robert Frost*

Dear Members:

To begin with, I would like to thank the Officers and Board Members for their hard work. We continue to have great leadership at the club.

Winter means one thing: It's cozy season! Welcome cold weather with fuzzy blankets and nights spent by the fire. And even though the days get darker, you can keep things light by coming to your club. It's a time to be cherished by members and friends.

Don't forget that each first Friday of the month is the General Membership dinner meeting. Guests are always welcome. Come and join us for good food, drinks, and dancing. Every other Thursday at noon we hold the popular club luncheons.

For all the club activities, make sure you check the "2025 Calendar of Events" in this Newsletter, and announcements on our Facebook and Website.

This past year we received a \$550,000 donation from the Frank DiMino Family Foundation for improvements at the club and for scholarships.

The current construction is visible at the entrance to the club. We have added a canopy over the patio in the back, and we are putting up a fire pizza oven in the back.

The holiday season has been and will be on us. I hope everyone will enjoy themselves and have a happy season. The holidays are the best times to remember and cherish your loved ones and friends.

August 12 to the 16 we held our 17th Annual Hope Hall Soccer Camp. 30 children participated. A big thanks to all the volunteers and to major donors for the camp, Peter and John Mendick.

In December we held the Christmas gala. Thanks go to the co-chairmen, Fino Pavone and Rino Altieri and all the volunteers who decorated the hall and for a wonderful party.

Italian American Sport Club • January - February - March 2025



Santa shows up at the club and gives all the children a gift for Christmas. Thanks go to Tina Altieri for heading our annual "Kids with Santa." The last party of the year was the New Year's Eve party which ended the year with a bang. Thanks to Connie and Luciano Barbone and all the volunteers.

Our 2024 Annual Charity Golf Tournament was very successful. A big thank you to all the committee members and volunteers who made it possible. A big thanks also goes to the major sponsors. Next year all our proceeds from the tournament will be matched by the Frank DiMino Family Foundation.

On December 21, we held a special event honoring Frank DiMino, and awarded a total of \$25,000 Frank DiMino Scholarships presented by the IASC to six deserving students of Italian language and culture. That evening we also honored the IASC Premier League soccer team for winning the 2024 RDSL League Cup and Championship.

As we enter 2025, we continue to look for new ideas on how to improve the way we function. If you have any ideas that you would like to share with us you can call on me at 585-760-3420.

Reminder: For the members who joined the club before 2006, your annual dues are to be paid during January. For those that joined after 2006, your due dates are at the anniversary date of your joining the club. You will be notified by letter. Please help Joe Sirianni, our Comptroller with the dues.

"For the good of the club,"

Fino Pavone, *President*



## ITALIAN AMERICAN SPORT CLUB 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dinners are at 6:30pm • Lunches at 12:00 Noon

### JANUARY

- 6-Board of Directors Meeting
- 10-General Meeting with Guests
- 16-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 24-Polenta and Tripe Dinner
- 30-Thursday Club Luncheon

### FEBRUARY

- 3-Board of Directors Meeting
- 7-General Meeting with Guests
- 13-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 14-(Friday) Valentine Party
- 27-Thursday Club Luncheon

### MARCH

- 3-Board of Directors Meeting
- 7-General Meeting with Guests
- 13-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 16-St. Joseph Table
- 27-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 31-Board of Directors Meeting

### APRIL

- 4-General Meeting with Guests
- 10-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 12-Wine Tasting
- 13-Easter Egg Hunt
- 24-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 26-Hope Hall Taste of Italy
- 28-Board of Directors Meeting

### MAY

- 2-General Meeting with Guests
- 8-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 22-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 24-Spring Dance

### JUNE

- 1-(Sunday) Festa Della Repubblica
- 2-Board of Directors Meeting
- 6-General Meeting with Guests (Caricchio Scholarship)
- 12-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 26-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 30-Board of Directors Meeting

### JULY

- 10-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 11-General Meeting Members Only
- 13-Annual Picnic 12 Noon to 5:00pm
- 24-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 28-Board of Directors Meeting

### AUGUST

- 1-General Meeting with Guests (Santilli Scholarship)
- 11-15-Hope Hall Soccer Camp
- 7-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 21-Thursday Club Luncheon

### SEPTEMBER

- 3-(Wed) Board of Directors Meeting
- 5-General Meeting with Guests
- 6-Annual Golf Tournament
- 11-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 25-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 29-Board of Directors Meeting

### OCTOBER

- 3-General Meeting with Guests
- 9-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 23-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 24-Sea Food Dinner

### NOVEMBER

- 3-Board of Directors Meeting
- 7-General Meeting with Guests
- 13-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 20-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 30-Christmas Concert 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

### DECEMBER

- 1-Board of Directors Meeting
- 5-General Meeting (Election, No Spouses, No Guests)
- 11-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 13-IASC Christmas Gala
- 18-Thursday Club Luncheon
- 21-Christmas with Santa (Kids) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- 27-Scholarships Award presentations event
- 31-New Year's Eve Gala





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# The Sign of the Cross: A Powerful and Sacred Gesture in Catholic Tradition

Original article appeared in the "Catholic Online" | by Joe Larizza

The Sign of the Cross is one of the most fundamental and recognizable acts in Catholic worship and prayer. It is a simple yet deeply meaningful gesture that carries profound spiritual significance. But why do Catholics make the Sign of the Cross?

This sacred act is not merely a ritual gesture but a powerful proclamation

of faith, invoking the Holy Trinity and the redemptive power of Christ's sacrifice. It is both a prayer and a visible sign.

The Sign of the Cross dates to the early centuries of Christianity. Its origins lie in the early Christian understanding of the Cross as a central symbol of faith.

In the early Church, Christians would trace a small cross on their foreheads as a sign of their belonging to Christ. This practice was rooted in the words of Christ Himself, who called His followers to take up their crosses daily (Luke 9:23). The Cross, once a symbol of death and shame, became for Christians the symbol of Christ's victory over sin and death through His Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Centuries later, the practice had evolved into a more formalized gesture, with Christians marking themselves on the forehead, chest, and shoulders while invoking the Holy Trinity: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." This Trinitarian formula, rooted in Christ's command to baptize all nations (Matthew 28:19), became inseparable from the gesture, reinforcing its connection to the central mysteries of the Christian faith.

## The Meaning of the Sign of the Cross

- Invocation of the Holy Trinity: The words spoken while making the Sign of the Cross--"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"--are a declaration of belief in the Triune God. This is the central mystery of Christian faith: that God is

One, yet exists as three distinct persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- Remembering Christ's Passion: The Cross is the ultimate symbol of Christ's love for humanity. Catholics remember Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary and His victory over sin and death.
- A Prayer of Protection: It is a powerful prayer for divine protection. Through Christ's sacrifice, the faithful are under the protection of God's grace.
- Mark of Belonging: The Sign of the Cross is a visible sign of Christian identity. Catholics affirm their membership in the Body of Christ.
- A Reminder of Baptism: In baptism where they are first marked with the sign of Christ.
- In the Latin (Roman) Catholic Church, the faithful make the sign by touching the forehead, then the chest, and then the left and right shoulders. In the Eastern Catholic Churches, the order of the shoulders is reversed: right shoulder first, then left.

## The Power of the Sign of the Cross

- A Sacramental Gesture: The Sign of the Cross is a sacred sign instituted by the Church that prepares individuals to receive grace and grow in holiness.
- A Reminder of the Paschal Mystery: Catholics recall the Paschal Mystery--Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.
- A Spiritual Weapon: It is a powerful defense against the attacks of the devil.

As one of the most fundamental and enduring practices in the Catholic Church, the Sign of the Cross is a prayer in motion--a simple yet profound gesture that invites the faithful to live in the presence of God, to trust in His protection, and to follow Christ with courage and conviction.

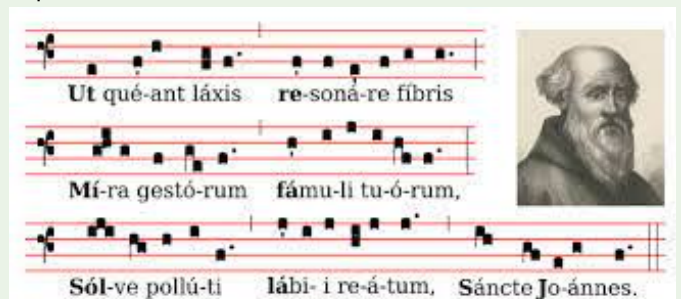
## Musical History

Written by Melanie A. Savidis | by Guido d'Arezzo

Many people think of Italian singers such as Andrea Bocelli when they think of Italian music. However, music in Italy goes back much farther than that, and we owe a great debt to early Italian musicians and composers.

In fact, in the 11th century, there was a Benedictine monk named Guido in Arezzo who invented the musical staff we use to read notes today! His method of writing down music replaced earlier, more simplistic systems of saving musical compositions.

Guido d'Arezzo wrote four books to teach the singers at the Arezzo Cathedral. His new system of notation made it easier for singers, but it stirred up controversy in the music world. Prior to his work, notes were usually written above or below a single line; sometimes there were two lines. Guido added more lines and colors to aid his singers to be more precise. His design of horizontal lines complete with treble or bass clef is still used to teach young musicians everywhere.



Guido d'Arezzo also named the notes in the scale C-D-E-F-G-A as "ut-re-mi-fa-sol-la." The note "ti" (originally "si") was added into the scale later, and "ut" was renamed as "do." These syllables are also still used today, as you probably recognize from the famous song in *The Sound of Music*!

Music students young and old benefit today from the work of Guido d'Arezzo, a monk in Italy hundreds of years ago.

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# Seafloor Drone Garages? Italy Weighs New Tech to Protect Vital Cables

Source: Defense News | by Joe Larizza



In the near future, undersea naval drones patrolling crucial Internet cables and gas pipelines may be able to stop off at charging stations on the seabed to top up their battery and drop off data, letting them stay submerged for months.

The concept is one of a range of ideas Italy is mulling over for inclusion in a new EU-backed scheme to protect vulnerable undersea infrastructure – a pressing issue following the mysterious attack on the Nord Stream gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea in 2022.

“We envisage underwater stations on the seabed that are able to recharge batteries, change configurations and download data collected by the unmanned vehicles,” said Italian Navy commander Alessandro Consoli.

The idea is one of a number presented by Italian firms to the Italian Navy which in turn shared them at a meeting it held with other European navies in June 2023 as Italy takes charge of a new project in EU’s Permanent Structured Cooperation, known as PESCO.

The project launched in May, known as Critical Seabed Infrastructure Protection, teams Italy with Germany, Spain, France, Portugal, and Sweden. Bulgaria and Finland have observer status on the program and Ireland said this month it would like to join them.

The seabed recharging station plan is the brainchild of Italian oil and gas infrastructure firm *Saipem*, which operates its own drones and is testing “garages” to charge them.

As an alternative to bringing drones to the surface, the solution saves time and resources, and *Saipem* is planning to keep its drones underwater for 12 months in trials and sees no limits to the depth it can position stations.

In a current operation in Norway, the firm’s drones are monitoring undersea oil and gas extraction and using another company’s station at a depth of 400 meters to recharge and extract data from the drones.

The station, a metal framework which the drones can slot into, is connected to the surface by cables which act as a conduit for power and data.

A second initiative discussed at the June 2023 meeting involves turning undersea cables from potential victims of sabotage into vast

sensors that can keep an eye on underwater traffic and spot saboteurs.

Consoli said the concept is based on analyzing the “phase delay in the signal transiting through fiber optic cables which is altered by acoustic signals in the water around the cable.” Research underway in Europe suggests the technique can be used to register movement in the water up to 150 kilometers from a cable.

Setting up European industrial consortia to push concepts was on the agenda. “The intention is to create synergies and implement solutions at lower costs,” he said, adding, “We have got the ball rolling by proposing these ideas and we expect partners to pitch theirs.”

Apart from *Saipem*, other Italian firms involved are *Leonardo*, *Fincantieri*, *Intermarine*, *Elettronica*, *Graaltech* and *Wsense*.

“The underwater dimension is now seen by the Italian Navy as a fifth physical operational domain, besides air, land, maritime and space,” said Consoli.

“The Nord Stream incident clearly demonstrated how fragile the offshore supply energy system can be.”

## Kudos



On December 21, 2024, the IASC awarded six \$4,150 Frank DiMino Scholarships in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and dedication to future pursuits of Italian language and culture studies.

The recipients of the awards were:  
**Rebekah Louge; Ashley Trelease;  
Emily Rose Bub; Alexandra Gill;  
Michael Giordano; and Matteson Cacia.**

To these six outstanding young people, the IASC extends its warmest regards. May your future be bright and full of success.

# Totò Schillaci: “Salvatore della Patria”

## The striker of “Notti Magiche” and Messina of fairy tales.

Source: *Gazzetta del Sud* | by Joe Larizza

Salvatore “Totò” Schillaci is a name that resonates deeply with Italian football fans, especially those who witnessed the 1990 FIFA World Cup. His meteoric rise during the tournament made him a national hero and an international sensation. Although his football career was relatively short-lived at the top level, Schillaci’s name will forever be associated with one of Italy’s most memorable football summers.

Salvatore Schillaci was born on December 1, 1964, in Palermo. Growing up in the streets of Palermo, a city not known for producing many football stars, Schillaci’s journey to football fame was far from easy. Sicily, traditionally overlooked by Italy’s top football scouts, didn’t offer many opportunities for young footballers. Nevertheless, Schillaci’s passion and raw talent shone through. His early career began at the local Messina club in Serie C, where he gradually made a name for himself as a relentless forward with a keen eye for the goal. After having conquered the hearts of all the people of Messina since 1982 when he had arrived from an amateur club in Palermo, Alfredo Ballarò, the coach noticed him immediately. From there Totò spread his wings.

After scoring 11 goals in his first 3 seasons, he scored the same number in the fourth, making a decisive contribution to the Sicilians’ promotion to Serie B. In the second division, led by Franco Scoglio, he played for another three seasons, scoring 13 goals in 1987-1988 and even 23 in 1988-89, when he was top scorer with Zdenek Zeman on the bench. It was that season that launched him into the football that counts, towards Juventus who bought him for millions of dollars. Already in the first season he became a starter, scoring 15 goals in 30 league games. He contributed decisively to the victory of the “black and white” club in the Italian Cup and the UEFA Cup. These excellent performances convinced coach Azeglio Vicini to call him up for the ‘90 World Cup. Schillaci started from the bench as a reserve.

In the second half of the opening match against Austria, the match was still 0-0. Totò entered the field and after four minutes scored a header that allowed the “Azzurri” to win the match. Inevitably, Schillaci became the starter of the Italian attack with Roberto Baggio and scored in all the subsequent matches played by the “Azzurri.” In short, he became the symbol of “Italia ‘90, Salvatore della Patria.” But in the following seasons his star faded. He began to score less and less, also tormented by a tabloid-like separation from his first wife, Rita Bonaccorso: in a match against Bologna, he threatened the opposing player Fabio Poli by telling him “I will have you shot.”

At the end of the 1991-1992 season, with the arrival of Gianluca Vialli in “black and white,” Schillaci found less and less space and left the Turin club. He then moved to Inter, scoring 11 goals in 30 games in two seasons and participating in the “Nerazzurri’s” victorious journey in the



UEFA Cup. He transferred to Japan to “Júbilo Iwata” where he became the first Italian footballer to play in the Japanese championship. In 1997 he won the “J League” with his team, but also suffered a serious injury that relegated him permanently away from the playing fields, until his official retirement in 1999.

After hanging up his boots, Schillaci returned to Palermo where, in 2001, he ran for city councilor with “Forza Italia” party.

Recently, he was diagnosed with intestinal cancer that had made him go through terrible times, as he himself recounted: “The world fell on me, I went into depression; I was afraid of dying. Everything came to mind, but fortunately this terrible disease was limited to the colon, it did not damage other organs and was removed. I no longer had a rectum and sphincter. I had two operations, then six months later they found a small spot on my neck, they burned it with radiotherapy. Despite the difficulties, life goes on.” But evidently that damned disease had not left him completely. He died on September 18, 2024 at the age of 59. *Ciao Totò, resta in pace.*





## Italian Expression of the Day:

### There is one place you never want an Italian to send you

Source: *The Local* | Edited by Joe Larizza



If someone tells you they've been *mandato a quel paese* – literally 'sent to that land/town' – don't imagine they're packing for a nice holiday.

It means they were told to get lost, go to hell, or worse – in this case the Italian phrase is much less vulgar than its range of possible English counterparts.

*Le ho chiesto se qualcosa non andasse e mi ha mandato a quel paese!*  
I asked her if something was up and she told me to go to hell!

*Avrei dovuto mandarlo a quel paese.*  
I should have told him to get lost.

The euphemistic substitution of 'that place' for 'hell' is thought to have arisen because it was at one time considered bad luck to name the latter, carrying with it the risk of summoning evil spirits.

These days you can, however, send someone to the devil (*mandare al diavolo*), which has basically the same meaning as *mandare a quel paese*.

*Avete appena mandato al diavolo l'unica persona che poteva aiutarvi.*  
You just told the one person who could have helped you to go to hell.

If you want to tell someone to get lost in person, you can order them to '*andare a quel paese*' – to go to hell.

It's important to remember to conjugate *andare* so it agrees with whoever you're telling to get lost – *vai* for one person, *andate* for more than one, and you can technically even use the formal *vada* to 'politely' send someone to hell.

- *Quel maglione sembra un po' trasandato.*
- *Era un regalo di mia nonna. E vai a quel paese!*
- That jumper looks a bit past it.
- It was a gift from my gran. You can go to hell!

*Tu e papà non capite nulla di me, andate a quel paese!*  
You and dad don't understand anything about me, get lost!

As a footnote, there's a small Italian town in the province of Matera in Basilicata that for many years was referred to as simply *quel paese*, based on a superstition that the village was cursed. The legend goes that at a

local councilor meeting in Matera the 1940s, the mayor of the town of Colobrarò called for the chandelier in the room to fall in his head if he had told any lies. A couple of days later the chandelier did fall, causing several injuries and possibly death. From that point on, Colobrarò was feared by its neighbors, who refused to say its name, referring to it only as *quel paese*.

When the Italian anthropologist Ernesto de Martino paid a couple of visits to the village in the 1950s, he was warned off entering it by inhabitants of nearby towns. He later suffered severe engine damage to his car and recorded that the local who had been due to welcome his team died in a road accident shortly before the meeting.

These days, Colobrarò makes the most of its spooky reputation, putting on a series of events in August and September named *Sogno di una notte a QUEL Paese* ('Dream of a night in THAT town') in which visitors are invited to attend various theatrical and musical performances and sample the local produce.

Maybe on reflection it's not always such a bad thing to be *mandato a quel paese*.



### New Members

Patrick Magliocco; Melissa (Infantino) Sie; Krystin Letta Del Vecchio; Frank Miccoli; Leandro Buttarazzi; Chain Ferris; Gino/Cheri Marcello; Chis Coleman; Cindi Norbut; Anthony Gucciardo; Dominic Dalo; Paula Rotoli; Joseph Thomas; Anthony Thomas; Donna Peterso; Joseph Lynch.

### Club Rentals

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# Pope Francis Celebrates 70th Anniversary of Fellini's *La Strada*

Original article appeared in the "Vatican News" | by Joe Larizza



As a child and teenager, Pope Francis watched nearly all the films of Italian cinema dating from the neorealist era and beyond. He would visit the neighborhood cinema in Buenos Aires with his parents, or watch them during afternoons spent at his Grandma Rosa's house.

But of all these films, one in particular struck his soul, so much so that he has repeatedly cited it during his pontificate as a film from which to draw an almost evangelical lesson: "*La Strada*," Federico Fellini's 1954 masterpiece that won an Oscar and starred Giulietta Masina, Anthony Quinn, and Richard Basehart.

"It has remained in my heart," says Pope "As a boy, I watched many of Fellini's films, but *La Strada* has stayed in my heart. The film begins with tears and ends with tears; it starts at the seashore and ends at the seashore. But above all, the scene with the fool and the pebble has stayed in my heart, which gives meaning to that girl's life."

He was referring to the dialogue between "*Il Matto*," a tightrope walker and violinist, and Gelsomina, a fragile girl who works with the rough and violent street performer Zampanò, enduring insults and abuse.

The "*Pebble*" Scene and the "*Crying*" Scene. His first reference was to the final scene with the tears of the terrible Zampanò who, years later, returning to the same places where he had lived with Gelsomina, accidentally discovers that the girl has died. As he stands drunk by the sea, he comprehends for the first time his own smallness, his loneliness, and the vastness of the universe, and then bursts into tears.

The Pope also pointed to the scene of the "*pebble*," when the fool explains to Gelsomina that everything in life has importance and meaning: "Everything in this world is useful for something. Here, take that pebble, for example," says the

tightrope walker. "What is it for?" asks Gelsomina. "It has a purpose... But how should I know? If I knew, do you know who I would be?" replies the character played by Basehart. "The Almighty, who knows everything: when you are born, when you die. And who can know that? No, I don't know what this stone is for, but it must be for something. Because, if this is useless, then everything is useless: even the stars. And even you, you are also useful for something, with your artichoke head."

Their exchange bears a profound message expressed in simple terms, as Pope Francis cited in a homily at Mass on Easter Sunday in 2017. Speaking off-the-cuff to a crowded St. Peter's Square, the Pope said, "We too, little pebbles on the ground, in this land of pain, of tragedies, with faith in the Risen Christ, we have a purpose, amid so many calamities. The purpose of looking beyond, the purpose of saying: 'Look, there is no wall; there is a horizon, there is life, there is joy, and there is the cross with this ambivalence. Look ahead, do not close yourself off. You, little pebble, have a purpose in life, because you are a pebble near that rock, that stone which the wickedness of sin has discarded.'"

In that homily, Pope Francis made a clear citation of this cinematic masterpiece, which he has confessed many times to love. "*La Strada* is perhaps the film I loved the most. I identify a lot with that film, in which we find an implicit reference to St. Francis."

"Fellini knew how to give an unprecedented light to the gaze on the least," said Pope Francis in the interview, "In that film, the narrative about the least is exemplary and is an invitation to preserve their precious gaze on reality. I think of the words that *Il Matto* addresses to Gelsomina: 'You little pebble, you have a sense in this life.'"





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Marino**  
*Italian Legal  
Consultant*

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## **Italian Legal Consultant**

Patrizia Mancuso Marino is an Italian Attorney, certified by the New York Bar Association as Italian Foreign Legal Consultant. She provides legal services to Italians and Americans according to the Italian law in legal matters related to:

- Immigration law through the Italian Embassy (e.g. Italian citizenship)
- Inheritance and will (probate)
- Real Estate (purchase and sale of properties)
- Debt collection
- Family law

Patrizia Mancuso Marino extends her practice to all of Upstate New York, from Albany to Niagara Falls.

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# La Piazza: A Cornerstone of Italian Culture

Source: [italiannotebook.com](http://italiannotebook.com) | Edited by Joe Larizza

Daily life in Italy is divided into two parts ... *la vita in casa* or domestic, family life, and *la vita in piazza* or public, social, communal life. The first is rarely experienced outside of one's own family. The second, on the other hand, is the complete opposite.

Think of its components. The local church is always in the piazza, a central component of exchange and community life. The local daily *mercato* too is located there. People run into each other regularly... "Oh, I see you're buying a roast for six, how nice! And who are you having over for dinner?"

Not to mention the other stores that line the piazza as well ...  
"You want a bouquet of flowers? For who?! You're not even married!"

Or the all-important *farmacia* ... "Caro," yells Signora Pharmacist to her husband in the back, "can you get me extra diarrhea pills, hemorrhoid cream, and denture paste for Signor Franco?" ... with twenty neighbors waiting in line.

Now, that might look like a play area for kids, but if you listen to the parents' conversations you realize its real purpose is an ad-hoc child-rearing support group ... any surprise the *enoteca* (wine bar) is 20 feet away?

And finally, any piazza worth its salt will often have two or more *bar* (cafés, in English), each one frequented by people who hold political positions that are the opposite of those held by the patrons (and owner) of the other. All you wanted was *un caffè*, but now you have to pick which *bar* ... Political statement, anyone?



The flip side is that the next day at least half a dozen people ask you how your dinner for six went, Signor Franco will receive a sincere outpouring of concern over his upset stomach, and despite being at opposite ends of the political spectrum you will find common ground over yesterday's soccer match with the regular from the *bar* across the piazza.

Make no mistake however, your *vita in piazza* does not belong to you, it belongs to the piazza and everyone in it. Privacy? Pshah! Do you really expect to have any privacy in a country that doesn't even have a word for it?!

*Evviva la piazza!*

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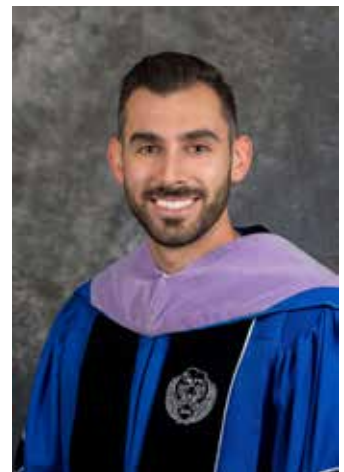
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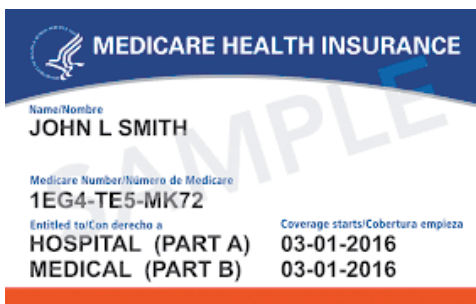


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## Consolato Onorario d'Italia a Rochester

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ConsolatoRochester@gmail.com

Saturday 9 am to 3 pm  
by appointment via e-mail

**Head of mission** Mr. Vincenzo Scollo, Honorary Consul. Mr. Scollo was selected as the new Italian Honorary Consul of Italy by the Consulate General of Italy in New York. Vincenzo (Enzo) Scollo brings years of expertise in Rochester area with the Italian community.

**Consular services:** The Consulate is a fully functional office and will be able to assist Italian citizens in obtaining Italian Passports, give information on becoming Italian Citizens, assist with authenticating various documents that need Consulate stamps, and offer support to Italian citizens in need of Consulate help. Mr. Scollo's assistant is Ms. Joëlle Carota.

## Common Catholic Church “Facts” Protestants Constantly Get Wrong

Source: *Equippinggoodwomen* | by Joe Larizza

Despite being the largest Christian denomination in the United States (and the world), much of what people believe about Catholics and the Catholic church simply isn't true.

### Myth 1: Catholics Don't Read Their Bibles

The average Catholic may not read the Bible and memorize Scripture quite as often as the average Protestant, but that certainly doesn't mean they don't read it at all or that they aren't familiar with what it says. Many Catholics are well-versed in Scripture, and studies have shown that the Catholic mass typically contains significantly more Scripture than Protestant services. Additionally, there are several Bibles, Bible studies and instructional aids available to anyone who is interested in reading the Bible from a Catholic perspective.

### Myth 2: Catholics Don't Pray to Jesus

Catholics DO pray to Jesus. They simply ask for additional help from their Christian brothers and sisters (saints) who have gone before in Christ as well, just how we might ask a friend or fellow church member to pray with us today.

### Myth 3: Catholics Believe the Pope is Never Wrong

Catholics do believe that God guides the church through the Pope, but this doesn't mean the Pope never makes mistakes or can't sin. Papal infallibility ONLY applies to official doctrinal declarations, it must be on religious matters, and whatever the Pope declares must be in line with Scripture and tradition. *Ex Cathedra* (from the Chair of Peter). And, for the record, only two official declarations have ever been made throughout history, so it isn't a privilege that is used often.

### Myth 4: Catholics Worship Mary, Saints, and Statues.

Catholics do not worship Mary or statues; they worship God alone. Instead, they “venerate” Mary, which is just a fancy word for “regard with great respect.” Catholics hold Mary and other saints in high esteem as good examples of how to live a faithful life. It's the same with statues as well. Catholics look at them for inspiration, but they certainly don't

worship them.

### Myth 5: Catholics Believe They Can Sin All They Want and Go to Confession.

The good news is: God doesn't just leave us in our sin and suffering. This false belief (called “presumption”) is against Catholic teaching. While Catholics can always confess their sins to a priest to have their sins absolved, the Church does not teach or encourage Catholics to sin “all they want because it's just going to be absolved anyway.”

### Myth 6: The Catholic Church Discriminates Against Others by Not Letting Them Partake in Communion

While it is true that Catholics have a “closed communion,” meaning that you have to be a Catholic in good standing to participate, this does not mean they discriminate against other faith traditions or denominations. Instead, it's because they view the Eucharist as Jesus's actual body and blood and regard it so highly that they would never want it to be in the hands of anyone who might not treat it with the utmost respect and reverence. To those who don't believe in the Real Presence, it may not seem like a big deal. But to those who believe the wafer truly IS God, it's a very big deal that shouldn't be dismissed.

### Myth 7: Catholic Priests Can't Be Married

(Some) Priests are married! Some even have children and grandchildren. This happens when a man is already married and a priest in a different denomination and then converts to Catholicism later. And of those who become priests the usual way and aren't allowed to get married—not all of them even want to be. Additionally, priests know what they're signing up for. They have a choice between God and a wife, and it is their choice to make. No one is forcing them to choose one or the other.

### Myth 8: Catholics Recrucify Jesus at Mass

Catholics do not recrucify Jesus at Mass. Instead, they believe that Jesus and the crucifixion occur outside the limits of time, so when they celebrate Mass, they are only making the Eucharist sacrifice (which has already occurred) “present” on the altar. This is a subtle distinction, but an important one! Christ said: “Do this in memory of me.”





## A Puccini Century

### Looking back on key operatic moments in 100 years since Giacomo Puccini's death

Original article appeared in "Gramophone," UK. | by Joe Larizza

#### 1926 Posthumous premiere of *Turandot*

When Puccini died on 29 November 1924 in Brussels from complications following treatment for throat cancer, he had yet to solve the riddle of how to complete *Turandot*. Before leaving for Belgium, he had begged the conductor Arturo Toscanini, "Don't let my *Turandot* die." Franco Alfano was commissioned to complete the opera, but at the Teatro alla Scala premiere on 25 April 1926, not a note of Alfano's work was heard. After the death of Liù, who kills herself rather than giving away the secret of Calaf's name, Toscanini laid down his baton, turned and addressed the Milanese audience: "*Qui finisce l'opera, perché a questo punto il Maestro è morto*" (Here, the opera ends, because at this point the Maestro died).

#### 1938 *La bohème*

After the death of Enrico Caruso in 1921, Beniamino Gigli became the Puccini tenor of choice for many people. In 1938, RCA announced that the company was recording a complete *La bohème* at La Scala with Gigli as Rodolfo. Conducted by Umberto Berrettoni, with Licia Albanese as Mimì and Afro Poli as Marcello, this *Bohème* became the first Italian opera to be recorded with a completely Italian cast. It set the standard for Puccini opera on vinyl and it still holds up well today.

#### 1964 *Tosca* at Covent Garden

On 21 January 1964, one of the greatest Puccini stagings premiered at Covent Garden. Director Franco Zeffirelli had persuaded Maria Callas out of semi-retirement to perform *Tosca*, singing opposite Tito Gobbi, with whom she sang on the famous 1953 RCA recording, but this was the first time they had ever performed their roles together on stage. It was electrifying, repeated the following year, when Act 2 was broadcast on television – in what turned out to be Callas' final stage performance.

#### 1990 FIFA World Cup: *Nessun Dorma* and the Three Tenors

The 1990 FIFA World Cup took place in Italy. What better music to introduce the television coverage than Luciano Pavarotti singing *Nessun dorma*, at the

climax of which comes the word *Vincero* (I will win!). It captured the passion and excitement of football – and introduced a generation of viewers to opera, the released single reaching number two in pop charts. On the eve of the World Cup Final, Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo, and José Carreras performed their first Three Tenors concert at the Caracalla Baths in Rome. It was watched by a global television audience of around 800 million.

#### 1992 *Tosca* live from Rome

Still in Rome, just two years later, came a hugely ambitious project by Andrea Andermann, broadcasting the three acts of *Tosca* to 107 countries, live from the actual locations of the drama – the Basilica of Sant'Andrea della Valle, the Palazzo Farnese, and the Castel Sant'Angelo – at the times of day specified in the libretto. Some people had to stay up at night to catch the action from the Castel Sant'Angelo ending with Catherine Malfitano leaping over the ramparts.

#### 2001 Luciano Berio completes *Turandot*

Franco Alfano completed *Turandot* and this is the version that is usually performed (although some productions end the opera at Liù's death). Puccini's publishers, Ricordi, commissioned Luciano Berio to write a new ending. Following a ravishing orchestral interlude after Calaf kisses Turandot, there's a calm, ambiguous ending. Does Turandot really love Calaf? Her declaration of love is quizzical at best. There are no celebrations from the chorus, only guarded amazement. Riccardo Chailly and Valery Gergiev have championed Berio's ending.

#### 2022 A return to Alfano's original *Turandot* ending

When Alfano completed *Turandot*, his first effort was dismissed by Toscanini, who enforced cuts of over 100 bars to create the standard version. The longer ending allows more time for *Turandot* to 'thaw' and can be dramatically convincing.

# In Loving Memory

## Natalia Oleksyn



Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 92. Pre-deceased by her husband, Ivan. She is survived by her children, Christina Oleksyn and Ihor Oleksyn.

Natalia was born in Shchirets, Ukraine in 1931. She was a lifelong member of St. Josaphats Ukrainian Catholic Church and was Treasurer for the Rochester UFA Branch. Some of her hobbies included bowling, watching hockey and soccer. Natalia will be remembered as a selfless, kind and caring person. She was the best mother in the world.

Her family received friends Monday, September 9, at the funeral home (570 Kings Highway So.). Panachyda 6:30pm. Friends were invited to meet the family Tuesday, September 10, 10:00am at St. Josaphats Ukrainian Catholic Church for her Divine Liturgy. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

To the Oleksyn family, especially to Christina, a good friend of many, active member, and Board of Director member of the club, the IASC extends its deepest condolences. May Natalia rest in peace.

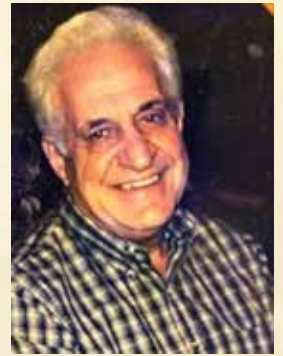
## Dr. Frank V. Sansone

Surrounded by his family, Frank entered into rest on October 10, 2024 at the age of 91. He was predeceased by his wife, Elvira; parents, Frank & Josephine and brother, Samuel.

Frank was a graduate of Aquinas Institute, St. Bonaventure University and University of Buffalo Dental School. Upon completion of Frank's service with the United States Air Force, he started Sansone Family Dental Practice. Over his long, successful career Frank developed many lasting relationships with his loyal patients and dedicated staff. He was a longtime member of the Apollonian Dental Study Club and former president of the Italian American Sports Club.

Frank's life story was shared during visitation on October 17th at the funeral home, 1411 Vintage Lane. His Funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, October 18th at Our Mother of Sorrows Church. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

To the Sansone family the IASC extends its deepest condolences. May Frank rest in peace.



## Rosetta "Rosa" Rotoli

Passed away peacefully on Monday, Oct. 14th, at age 89 surrounded by her family. Rosa is predeceased by her parents, two of her brothers & niece. She is survived by her husband, Giacomo- Jimmy the Barber; brother Franco (Dolores) DiGiovanni; sons, Dr. Victor (Italy), James (Tanya), Anthony (Dr. Ploy Siripornsawan), & Paul (Paula); grandchildren, Anthony P. Rotoli (Trisha), Jessica Weiland (Jason), Alexander, Alyssa Thomas (Joseph), Nicole Lynch (Zachery), Mia; 8 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held Sunday, Oct. 20th, at the funeral home, 1411 Vintage Lane. Funeral Mass, Oct. 21st at Our Mother of Sorrows Church. Entombment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

After the funeral, her life celebration was held at the IASC. To the Rotoli family the IASC extends its deep condolences. May Rosa rest in peace.



## Andrew "Andy" Bartucca

Passed away suddenly, October 17, 2024 at the age of 80.

Predeceased by parents, Giuseppe and Maria; brother, Paul; son, Andy. Survived by siblings, Dominic Bartucca and Maria Fruci; wife of 45 years, Elvira Bartucca; children, Joseph, Anthony, John, and Maria Teresa (son-in-law, Andre); grandchildren, Peter Michael Karekos, Anna Maria Bartucca, Anthony Joseph Bartucca, Joseph Bartucca, and Olivia Bartucca; several loving nieces and nephews and cherished family members; and his longtime companion, Marie Tomassetti and her family.

A celebration of life was held at St. John of Rochester (8 Wickford Way, Fairport) on November 2, with reception immediately following.

To the Bertucca family the IASC extends its deepest condolences. May Andy rest in peace.



## Eraldo Sartini

Rochester- Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at the age of 83. Eraldo is predeceased by his parents, Sante and Iva Sartini; grandson, Steven Paul Colon; brother, Giovanni. He is survived by his loving wife, Palma; daughters, Maria Pia (Angelo), Frida (Bill), Paola; grandchildren, Monica (Kyl), Felicia (Michael), Erica (Chris), Isabella and Juliet; 7 great-grandchildren plus one on the way. Eraldo was born in Porto Ercole, Italy in 1941. He moved to the U.S. and worked at Delco Products.

His family received friends Friday, October 25, 2024, at the funeral home (570 Kings Highway So.). Eraldo's memorial service was held on October 26, 2024 at Holy Cross Church. Interment Private.

To the Sartini family the IASC extends its deepest condolences. May Eraldo rest in peace.







## The Italian Tradition of St. Joseph's Table

Source: PJ Media | by Joe Larizza

March 19 in the Catholic Church is the feast of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus Christ and the husband of Jesus's mother, Mary. In the Bible, Joseph never speaks, but he always immediately does what the messengers of God tell him to do. He has therefore been considered since the earliest days of Christianity as a model father, husband, and servant of God.

St. Joseph's Day is important for Italians, particularly Sicilians, and when many immigrants came to America, the festivities in honor of St. Joseph were imported to the U.S. by the Italian immigrants. One old tradition that is said to originate in Sicily, and which continues to be practiced in America today, is the *Tavola di San Giuseppe* or St. Joseph's Table.

In many U.S. parishes the table is mostly spread with bread and baked goods. Sometimes the bread is free for guests at the St. Joseph's Day celebration, and sometimes the baked goods are sold and the proceeds are given to charity. One signature Italian food for the St. Joseph's festivals is a round cream puff (*sfinge*) that is filled with ricotta cheese and covered with candied cherries or citrus. Almond cookies are another dessert traditionally found on the tables. Catholic Culture notes that the tables originally began as a way of thanking St. Joseph for ending a famine and for feeding the poor:

According to legend, there was a famine in Sicily many centuries ago. The villagers prayed to St. Joseph, foster-father of the Infant Savior, and asked his intercession before the throne of God. Their prayers were answered. With the ending of the dreadful famine, a special feast of thanksgiving was held in commemoration of the Saint. This celebration became tradition. Wealthy families prepared huge buffets.

They then invited the less fortunate people of the village, especially the homeless and sick.

The festivals weren't just about eating, however. Villagers would traditionally be selected to dress up as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph — the Holy Family — and be placed in seats of honor. Other villagers might portray the Twelve Apostles and angels. After the local priest blessed the food, the "Holy Family" would be served first as a reminder of the religious reason for the celebration. The festival would often last most of the day and into the night.

Breads are baked in the shapes of a staff, a carpenter's implement, a hand, the cross and animals close to the Infant Child at birth. It is also customary for the village officials to arrange a public buffet in St. Joseph's honor. The banquet table invariably stands in the *piazza*—public square—opposite the doors of the cathedral. The table is usually built around two sides of the *piazza* in the form of a right angle. These village tables in the public squares may not be as elaborately decorated as those in the homes, but they sag beneath the weight of choice foods and wines contributed by the wealthy villagers. All come to this public table at some time during the day to pay homage to the great saint.

Still in some U.S. parishes now, a statue of St. Joseph is processed by the parishioners. The statue is then placed on the table and surrounded by the baked goods, a symbol of St. Joseph watching over the parishioners' welfare as he watched over the welfare of Baby Jesus and Mary in the Bible.

*Buon onomastico a tutti i Giuseppe.*



# The Origin of French Fries Might Surprise You

by Joe Larizza

Everybody loves French fries! The best fried potatoes turn out tender and steamy on the inside, crispy on the outside, not too oily, and plenty salty, making a pile of them the perfect accompaniment to a juicy burger, a rare ribeye steak, or a pot of steamed mussels.

You'd be hard pressed to find someone who doesn't like fries. According to the *South Florida Reporter*, the average American eats nearly 30 pounds of French fries per year, and McDonald's, the world's top seller of fries, slings about nine million pounds of them per day according to *Reader's Digest*. In fact, 25% of all potatoes consumed in the U.S. are eaten as fries.

If you've ever munched on a French fry — or if you remember the whole “freedom fries” controversy from 2003 — you may have stopped to think about the name.

Beloved all over the world, are French fries actually French? If you had assumed that the name “French fries” indicates that the classic fried potato dish comes from France, you'd be wrong. According to BBC, the crispy spuds were most likely invented in the country's northeast neighbor, Belgium, where historians claim potatoes were being fried in the late 1600s.

According to Belgian lore, poor villagers living in Meuse Valley would often eat small fried fish they caught in the river. During the winter months when the river froze, fishing would become an impossible task and forced villagers to find other sources of food. This is when the villagers turned to the root plant, potatoes, slicing and frying them just like the way they prepared fish.

While some historians have questioned the authenticity of this tale, Belgium has stood firm in its stance that it created French fries, and successfully petitioned UNESCO to add the dish to

Belgium's list of cultural treasures back in 2017 according to Brussels Express.

## The French fries' American connection.

According to an early 19th century manuscript written by then-US President Thomas Jefferson, he talks about a dish called 'Pommes de terre frites en petites tranches' (Potatoes deep-fried while raw, in small slices).

Some historians have claimed that this recipe came from the French chef, Honoré Julien. By 1850s, this recipe gained so much popularity that it became a mainstay in several American cookbooks as 'French Fried Potatoes.'

American soldiers were first introduced to the fries while they were stationed in Belgium during World War I.

## So why do fries have the word “French” in front of them?

The term most likely refers to the dish's method of preparation — not its origins. “Frenching” is a way of cutting ingredients for even cooking, basically a julienne that aims to expose all sides of an item, such as potatoes, to the heat of an oven or fryer according to *Delighted Cooking*.

Fries, or French fries, are one of the most popular side dishes in the world. They find accompaniment in dips, mayonnaise, ketchup, and even vinegar.

So, the next time you bite into a crispy fry, give a quick thanks to the proud citizens of Belgium.

*Original article appeared in the “Tasting Table.”*

# Traditional Italian Favorite Recipes

by Claudio Battisti

## Pan di Spagna

An old favorite of my area used for birthdays and special occasions. Everything hand made. I like to make 8 eggs type, because everyone wants a slice or more.

### Process:

Start process by taking eggs out of fridge and let them sit for a while until they are room temperature.

Heat oven to 325°F

Prepare your cake pan (line with parchment paper or coat with lard and flour).

Break 8 eggs in your blender. Add 240g of sugar.

Add vanilla extract (1 teaspoon).

Blend for at least 15-20 min or until volume doubles in size.

Sift and add 240g of all-purpose flour slowly. Pour in your pan.

Cook till done (soft brown color). Poke a toothpick in middle to see if dry. If not cook longer. (NOTE: do not disturb cooking time for at least 40 min.)

### While it is cooking prepare your cream filling; custard and chocolate

Cream Filling; Custard; 2 egg yolks; 1 liter of milk; 1 piece of lemon peel; 2 large table spoons of white sugar; 1 table spoon of white flour; beat egg yolks and sugar; warm milk.

Blend eggs and milk, add lemon peel.

Add flour and stir constantly on stove till it boils.

After first boil wait one more minute, custard is done.

Follow same process for chocolate less lemon peel.

Use dark powder Hershey chocolate. I use 3 table spoons of extra dark chocolate.

### Cut into 3 equal layers.

Mix rum with sugar water (1 cup) and pour on each layer to taste. If you use Alchermes liqueur do the same thing with less water.

Spread custard in one layer and chocolate on other, and there you have Pan di Spagna.





## Italian Chronicles...

### Never too Old



In the region of Emilia-Romagna, an Italian motorist who recently celebrated his 100th birthday has renewed his driving license for another two years. Luciano Gulmini received his renewed license from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. He received his first license 75 years ago. Luciano underwent an eye test, hearing test, and a short interview. Even though he was a bit nervous, he passed with flying colors. His first vehicle was a Lambretta scooter which he kept for 15 years before exchanging it for a FIAT 500. He and his wife, Tebe, who is 4 years younger, still drive to the beach each day in their perfect condition 30 year old Lancia.

### - Policewoman Turned Nun - is Promoted



An Italian policewoman turned nun has just become the Mother Superior of her order, the *Apostoline Paoline Sisters*. Tosca Ferrante, born near Naples 58 years ago, has started helping the young people she once arrested so that they don't end up on the wrong track, she told reporters at a diocesan training event for those looking after young people in Pistoia. She said that the passage from a policewoman to a nun wasn't dramatic or sensational, it was simply a part of her life. Her first job chimed with her sensibilities, while what she is living now is a life choice, a vocational response. The work she did in the police and meeting some young people who she arrested allowed her to become what she is today. That work gave her a chance to understand what her vocation was, and she felt God calling her to give over all her life.



## ITALIAN AMERICAN SPORT COUNCIL

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### The mission of the Newsletter Editorial Board is to:

- Issue a quarterly Newsletter
- Profile a message from the president of the IASC
- Publicize a calendar of events
- Disseminate news and updates of interest regarding the IASC
- Profile volunteers that have gone above and beyond expectations in their contribution to the IASC
- Print stories of interest related to Italian American culture and customs
- Promote relevant community events

*The editor reserves the right to accept or reject any article submitted for publication, and to edit submitted articles in any way deemed appropriate and necessary*

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*Submitted by Joe Larizza*

So what if I don't know what  
apocalypse means?  
It's not the end of the world.

My sister used to hide money in  
the bushes in our yard.  
She went on to become a  
successful hedge fund manager.

My wife asked me to put  
ketchup on the shopping list.  
Now I can't read anything.

"Dad, are we pyromaniacs?"  
"Yes, we arson."

I'm trying to convince my dad to  
get a new hearing aid.  
He just won't listen.

My boss asked why I only get sick  
on workdays.  
I said it must be my weekend  
immune system.

My grandma is 80% Irish. People  
call her Iris.

I saw a typo on a headstone the  
other day. What a grave  
mistake.

Q: What word is always  
spelled wrong?  
A: Wrong.

They warned me not to lean over  
the edge of that tower in Paris.  
Eiffel.

I got an email saying that  
Google Maps can read maps  
backward.  
It's obviously spam.

I saw a book titled "How to  
Solve Half Your Problems." I  
bought two.

Q: What does Jeff Bezos do  
before bed? A: He puts his  
pajamazon.

They used to charge you a  
quarter to fill up your car tires  
with air.  
Now they charge \$1.50. That's  
what I call inflation.

Q: Which is faster, hot or cold?  
A: Hot, because you can catch a  
cold.

"Dad, why do scuba divers roll  
backward off boats?"  
"Because if they rolled forward,  
they'd still be in the boat."

## Over 65 or Turning 65? Medicare Options Made Easy



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