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# IL GIORNALE

Grand Lodge  
of Maryland

Spring Issue  
2023  
410.668.OSIA

## Letter from our President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope the New Year is treating you well so far and your holiday season was a happy one! Hard to believe we're already into the second month of 2023. Wishing you a happy healthy year to come.

The OSIA Grand Lodge of Maryland had a good 2022. We had two (2) successful and well attended events chaired by Brother Vince Zaccaria: our Oyster/Bull Roast and Crab Feast. Look for the flyer in this newsletter and details about the 2023 Bull/Oyster Roast on March 26th. Hopefully you will join us!

I've been working on a bus trip in April for the Scholarship Fund. We will be going to New York City (day trip) to visit the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum – the museum is owned and operated by the OSIA and is located on Staten Island - then on to the 911 Memorial – followed by lunch at Puglia's Restaurant in NY's Little Italy section. Please see flyer in this issue. If interested, give the office a call or e-mail me at [dolcevitaap@verizon.net](mailto:dolcevitaap@verizon.net). Cost: \$149.00 per person.

As an FYI, we are proceeding with the 'Columbus Gala' honoring Christopher Columbus in October that the OSIA Grand Lodge has held for many years until 'that virus' kept us (and other organizations) from doing much of anything. I believe we're back on track and it's time to 'celebrate' Columbus outloud again! Look for information to come and hopefully you will attend and celebrate with us.

Look for information to come about other Grand Lodge events, as well as Local Lodge events. Go to our website ([osiamd.org](http://osiamd.org)) - click on the 'events' link and it will show you what the GL or the Local lodges are planning for the year.

Look around to your family and friends (Social Member) for 'membership.' Becoming a member is a great way to show your support and pride in your heritage and participate whenever it presents itself.

The il Giornale Editor Lauren DeFeo ([osiapublisher@gmail.com](mailto:osiapublisher@gmail.com)) is always looking (and asking) for information about lodge events, personal events, pictures, celebrations, family events, etc. to place in the newsletter. The membership enjoys reading all of those things. Forward your items to her for the next issue.

I look forward to a good year for the OSIA Grand Lodge of MD and for all Local lodges. Thanks so much for your support and all that you do for the Order Sons of Italy, Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Anita Lombardi Riley  
President

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# SHROVE TUESDAY

(also known as Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras and Pancake Day)

I don't remember everything I was taught in grammar school and I certainly didn't remember the official name of the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, either. I never knew of some of the traditions that occurred on Shrove Tuesday as listed below. I don't remember any of these traditions as part of our Shrove Tuesday growing up - traditions that took place many, many years ago (in the old days) and could possibly still take place in other countries today.

Shrove Tuesday is celebrated on the eve of Ash Wednesday. It marks winter's end and the beginning of Lent. It is a day of penitence – to clean the soul before Lent - and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins.

Most people would know Shrove Tuesday as Fat Tuesday that is celebrated at Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It's the Christian festival that the family enjoys most. 'Shrove' is derived from the word 'shrive' or confess. In shriving, a person confesses their sins and receives absolution for them. (I would need more than one Tuesday!)

Shrove Tuesday is a "pancake day", for the pancake is a symbol of the sun. (Who knew?) The tradition in the church of having pancake suppers and the secular tradition of just plain partying probably derives from the practice of feasting before the fast. The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday. Pancakes is a dish that would finish all the eggs, fats and milk, and adding flour to the mix ... thus making pancakes. In the old days, no food was wasted on Tuesday – all the foods in the home on the shriving Tuesday that wouldn't last the 40 days of Lent were to be gone.

Another tradition was that people did not do any hard work on Shrove Tuesday. They go to fun places – do fun things - such as sledging down the slopes while others try to pour water on them (I suppose there was a meaning to this?) or visiting friends.

If you do celebrate Shrove Tuesday OR Fat Tuesday – HAVE FUN!



# BUONA PASQUA! (Italian for HAPPY EASTER)

As you read this, Easter is right around the corner, coming a little early this year - April 9th. In Italy, where even minor religious holidays are observed with zeal, it is only to be expected that the greatest event in the church calendar, Easter, is widely and elaborately celebrated!

We know that Christ rose from the dead and that is why Easter is the greatest event in the Christian church. Our Italian ancestors had some beautiful traditions and customs rooted in the real reason for celebrating Pasqua. The very events that led to the first Easter took place on Roman soil.

Judea was a Roman province at the time of Christ's Passion and Death. It is a fact that Christ's original disciples flocked to Rome. Countless modern-day pilgrims come to Rome to take part in Pascal services each year. Some say that the most colorful, folkloric, the more interesting and, some say the most earnest Easter services take place in Italy's small, simpler town and villages. The Pope begins with a procession on Palm Sunday before the crowd who wave plaited fronds and olive branches sprayed silver and gold. On Holy Thursday a solemn Liturgy is held at St. John's in Laterano. On Good Friday, the Pope leads a massive procession around the Coliseum, following the Stations of the Cross. A crowd of 10,000 or more will follow him. At 10:00 PM on Holy Saturday, worshipers pack St. Peter's Square for the Lumen Christi Mass. After the Easter Sunday Liturgy, the Pope gives his Urbi et Orbi (the blessing to the City and the World) at the stroke of noon. In Italy, traditional foods are eaten during Lent, especially during Holy Week. Italy is a series of splendid images and gripping emotions that can humble the mighty and uplift the lowly. Buon Pasqua to all!



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just belong together



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# WHO WAS SAINT VALENTINE?

## How did a martyred saint inspire Valentine's Day?

Because St. Valentine (Valentinus) lived more than 1,700 year ago, there is not much detail about his life. Very few facts. As a matter of fact, in googling to find out about him, some of the information reports that there were three (3) St. St. Valentines! And, worth mentioning, all 3 were martyrs and all, ironically, died on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

From what I could gather (condensed version), I believe that this St. Valentine I am writing about is the one responsible for the naming of 'Valentine's Day' – February 14<sup>th</sup> – the holiday for 'lovers'!

St. Valentine was born in the mid to late 3<sup>rd</sup> Century in Rome. This was a period of intense persecution in Rome. Valentine was working as a Roman priest during the reign of an emperor named Claudius - whose nickname was 'Claudius the Cruel'.

It's said that Claudius likely believed that the reason the Roman army was not formidable was because husbands wanted to stay at home with their wives and families instead of fighting in wars. Thus, Claudius the Cruel made marriage and engagements illegal in Rome to sway male soldiers to stay in the Roman army and not worry about a significant other back home.

Valentine, a staunch proponent of marriage, especially Christian marriage, began marrying couples in secret. When Claudius II discovered what Valentine was doing, he sentenced Valentine to a three-part execution: beating, stoning and beheading. Most believe St. Valentine was killed during the year 270 AD, but some debate his death happened during one of the surrounding years.

As pointed out in one article, his death would have been during the month of Juno in Rome, who was a goddess associated with love and marriage. Perhaps from that arose many of the traditions we see now, such as the Valentine cards we send. That tradition may have come from a supposed letter that Valentine wrote while in prison and signed - 'From Your Valentine'.

St. Valentine has since become the patron saint of love and actually, patron saint of beekeepers (yes, you're reading correctly) as explained in an article written in World Vision, since bees are often equated as an aphrodisiac.

There's lots to read about this St. Valentine, and the other Valentines, I'm sure. Some could be fact but who will ever really know for sure? Love, good chocolate and a pretty 'be my valentine' card is always a good reason to celebrate ... anything!



**Grand Lodge of Maryland**  
presents its annual

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# **Bull & Oyster Roast**

## **March 26, 2023**

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# THE AMAZING SAINT MOTHER CABRINI

Frances Cabrini (Francesca Xavier Cabrini) was born in a small village in Milan, Italy on July 15, 1850. As a young child, she was enamored by stories of missionaries and decided very early that she wanted to join a religious order. She obtained a teaching certificate and in 1880, along with seven other young women, founded the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Italy. It was the first Italian female congregation to bear the formal title (missionary). Shortly thereafter, as servant of the Catholic Church, France Cabrini followed the direction of Pope Leo XIII, asking her to aid Italian immigrants transitioning to American life (in the United States) and to provide a formal outlet to practice Catholicism.

Nine years after she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she set off to America, arriving in New York. New York was chaotic, with much poverty prior to the 20th Century, but Mother Cabrini managed to organize catechism and education classes for the Italian immigrants, as well as provide for the needs of many orphans.

In 1909, Mother Cabrini celebrated her U.S. citizenship, which is believed enabled her to advance her ability to secure property, enhance her business adventures and further secure her missionary endeavors. The institutions which Frances Cabrini founded established her role as an advocate for Italian immigrants in America. She developed a philosophy of education which combined the need for Americanization, and to her, the equally important preservation of the Italian cultural heritage. She dedicated her whole life to help create a better life for others.

Because of her significant and numerous contributions made to (and for) the thousands of Italian immigrants struggling as they arrived in America, she received many honors throughout the United States. She was not only the first American to be canonized a saint in 1946, but she was named the Universal Patroness of Immigrants in 1950.

Frances Cabrini was an Italian immigrant; became a U.S. citizen; the first American to be declared a Saint in the Catholic Church. She endured much adversity as an Italian-American female, but she overcame many obstacles and continued to commit herself to immigrants and the less fortunate.

The truly amazing Saint Mother Cabrini died on December 22, 1917.





# CONGRATS!

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| 5. Brendon Hethcoat      | 21. The Godsons       |
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| 9. Ray & Barb McGuirk    | 25. Dennis Stichion   |
| 10. Vincent Mollicone    | 26. Mike Transparenti |
| 11. Desiree Morazzano    | 27. Stephanie Riley   |
| 12. Ann Angeletti        | 28. Katherine Clark   |
| 13. Elizabeth Nevins     | 29. Diane Lamancusa   |
| 14. Ann Dobbs            | 30. Kathy Johansen    |
| 15. Glen Graziano        | 31. Angela Natilla    |
| 16. Dante Antonioni      |                       |



## BAKED EGGPLANT SANDWICHES

1 lg. eggplant, peeled & cut into 12 slices

6 slices of Swiss cheese

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp. salt

1 cup fine, dry bread crumbs

¼ cup grated Romano cheese

¼ cup chopped fresh parsley

6 slices of thin, cooked ham

¼ cup extra thick spaghetti sauce

2 eggs, beaten

Sprinkle eggplant slices with salt and set aside for 1 hour. Rinse and gently pat dry. Combine the bread crumbs, Romano cheese and parsley and stir well. Spread spaghetti sauce evenly on one side of each eggplant slice. On 6 eggplant slices, arrange a slice of ham and cheese over the spaghetti sauce, folding ham and cheese as needed to fit. Cover with remaining 6 eggplant slices, sauce side down. Dip each sandwich into the beaten egg and coat on all sides with bread crumb mixture. Place in a lightly greased 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking pan. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. **Delizioso!**



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