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IL GIORNALE

Grand Lodge
of Maryland

Winter Issue
2023
410.668.OSIA

Letter from our President

Ciao to all of my Brothers and Sisters,

Hope everyone is well and that you had a very nice Thanksgiving Day giving thanks for all of our blessings! Waking up in the morning is the best blessing you can get, right? Now we prepare for the birth of Jesus (the reason for the season) and so hard to believe another year has gone by so quickly.

The OSDIA had a very busy and good year. Everything is in order and moving along.

In August we had our annual Crab Feast and over 200 of our members, along with family and friends in attendance. Good time had by all.

As I had mentioned in my last letter, we were returning to our "COLUMBUS GALA" (honoring Christopher Columbus) which had been put on hold for a couple of years due to the pandemic. We celebrated the Gala and it was a great success - honoring Brother Don Castronova, as well. Many of Don's family and friends were in attendance which was a tribute to him. Don received the OSDIA "Columbus Award" for his "distinguished dedication and outstanding achievements and contributions to the OSDIA Grand Lodge of MD." Well deserved! We look forward to next year's celebration.

Please pay attention to the request asking you to call our U.S. Senators from Maryland - Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen. Here we go again! The U.S. Senate has put forth a bill (sponsored by Senator Casey (D) from PA.) to "eliminate" Columbus Day as a federal holiday and replace it with Indigenous People Day. Although there is no major problem with an IP Day holiday (of which I understand they are already several during the year that are celebrated), but enough already! **PLEASE** contact our Senators and ask them to **KEEP COLUMBUS DAY AS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY!** Thank you.

In a very short while we'll be celebrating a new year. I wish everyone a very **BUON NATALE e FELICE ANNO!** Throw in good health, some happiness in your life and a little bit of prosperity wouldn't be bad, either.

May God Bless everyone - and the U.S.A. **THANK YOU** for all that you do for the OSDIA in keeping our heritage alive!

Anita Lombardi Riley
President

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Urgent Notice!! Call to Action, Now!!

COLUMBUS DAY AT RISK IN THE U.S. SENATE!

Call Your Senator TODAY and tell him or her to

KEEP Columbus Day!!!

(Note: Italian Americans in Pennsylvania are URGED by PRIMO NOT to Reelect Senator Bob Casey (D))

We have just been advised about a bill that was introduced in the Senate to eliminate the Columbus Day federal holiday and instead have that be a federal holiday for Indigenous People. This requires immediate action from everyone! Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) has endorsed this new bill.

UNITED STATES SENATE

SR—Russell Building
SD—Dirksen Building
SH—Hart Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

118th CONGRESS

SUITE AND TELEPHONE LIST

All telephone numbers
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From Outside Dial:
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House—225-3121

From Inside Dial:
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CALL:

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(Maryland Senator - Democrat)

224-4524

AND

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

(Maryland Senator - Democrat)

224-4524

[Click here for a
list of ALL State
Senators'
contact info](#)

Buon Festa del Ringraziamento!

(Happy Feast of Thanksgiving)

Does Italy Celebrate Thanksgiving? Not exactly. Italy does not have a national holiday that celebrates Thanksgiving. However, you will find plenty of Italians toasting the holiday with their expat friends and family at a home or restaurant. Although Italians do love a celebration, you won't be watching the Macy's Day Parade or football games all afternoon. Italians who do celebrate our Thanksgiving may not celebrate it on a Thursday. If they do, it would have to be in the evening. Why? Not being an official holiday for them, Italians have to go to work and the children go to school on our traditional Thanksgiving. Generally, they would celebrate on a Friday or Saturday so that family and friends are able to join them and it tends to be a more relaxing occasion.

Are there Italian Thanksgiving Traditions? Most American Thanksgiving traditions are not celebrated in Italy, for cultural and logistical reasons. Italian Thanksgiving traditions tend to revolve more around food and special Italian recipes to accompany the roast turkey. The menu for Thanksgiving in Italy isn't identical to the American menu, but it is similar. Before the turkey arrives and side dishes even land on the table, an entire Italian feast is served (family style) – pasta (mostly lasagna), pumpkin risotto, antipasto platter or pumpkin soup, just to name a few. Apple or pumpkin pie would be served for dessert along with many other delights.

An aside: Whole turkeys are not found at the butcher shop in Italy, so if they want a whole turkey for Thanksgiving, it will need to be ordered 2 to 4 weeks in advance. Invited guests may be told not to bring anything, but if you don't want to show up empty-handed, you might consider arriving with: wine, flowers, chocolates/candy, a tea towel or candle. And, while Black Friday in Italy is becoming a big sales day for brick and mortar and online stores, it's nothing like the crazy shopping day in the U.S. Discounts are much less compared to the U.S. so that no fights break out over TV's or toys!



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**Order Sons & Daughter of Italy in America
OSDIA Grand Lodge of Maryland**



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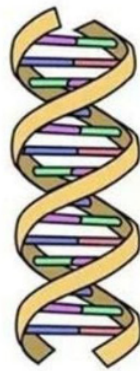
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To make you smile!

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen are defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians are delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

OUR FAVORITE ITALIAN CHEF DIED RECENTLY. HE PASTA WAY. HERE TODAY, GONE TOMATOO.
YOU NEVER SAUSAGE A TRAGIC THING. HOW SAD THAT HE RAN OUTTA THYME.
HIS WIFE IS REALLY UPSET...CHEESE STILL NOT OVER IT.
SENDING OLIVE MY PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY. WE CANNOLI DO SO MUCH.
HIS LEGACY WILL BECOME A PIZZA HISTORY...

NORMAL DNA ITALIAN DNA



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November to me is not only the month for celebrating Thanksgiving, but I think it's also the month to honor ALL our Veterans all month long (November 11 Veterans Day) who served, gave their lives and limbs so that we can enjoy the freedom we celebrate every day. God Bless ALL of them!

After receiving a calendar in the mail (one of about 50 I received) I especially took note of the one titled "Women Airforce Service Pilots." Of course, I had heard of the WASP before, but never really gave much thought to it. So, after looking the calendar over, I then thought it would be nice to focus on the women who served about whom we don't hear too much.

I'm sure there are some reading this that either served in some way during the war effort OR knows of someone who did – the "Rosie the Riveters" with bandanas to boot! To all of those women --- THANK YOU!

The National WASP WWII Museum is dedicated to honoring the life and legacy of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (waspmuseum.org).

In 1942, as the country reeled from the attack on Pearl Harbor, trained male pilots were in short supply. Qualified pilots were needed to fight the war. The Army was desperate for pilots to deliver newly built trainer aircraft to flight schools in the South. Twenty-eight civilian women pilots volunteered to ferry those airplanes. They formed the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) in late summer of 1942 as the country's first female squadron.

Between November 1942 and December 1944, 1,074 more women were trained to fly military aircraft – first in Houston, Texas and then moving to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas. The WAFS, founded by Nancy Love, were combined with Jacqueline Cochran's Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) to become the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)!

The WASP flew every aircraft in the Army's arsenal. In addition to ferrying, they towed gunnery targets, transported equipment and non-flying personnel, and flight-tested recently repaired aircraft before they were put back into service. For over two years, the WASP performed a wide variety of aviation-related jobs while serving at more than 120 bases around the United States.

General "Hap" Arnold, commanding general of the Army Air Forces, championed the WASP. Despite being revered by Congress, Arnold's request to designate the WASP as members of the U.S. military was denied in June 1944. The WASP were granted military status in 1977, thanks to a law signed by President Carter. The 1,102 Women Airforce Service Pilots flew wingtip to wingtip with their male counterparts and were just as vital to the war effort.

Research by Sarah Byrn Rickman

And, on a Personal Note...

"I love trying the recipes in *Il Giornale*. Often they are for things I remember my grandmother making for us as kids. This time it was my daughter Francesca in charge. I've had the ricotta cookie recipe on the fridge for a while and when she heard about our lodge bake sale she knew what we would make. She made the recipe her own and proudly brought her cookies to our bake sale complete with stories of where we found the recipe. Needless to say she sold out of our artigianale cookies. These things are exactly the kind of tradition the lodge helps pass along. We had a great time baking together and maybe starting a tradition of our own."

Anthony DeBella

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THE MARYLAND WINE WITH AN ITALIAN ACCENT

FATHER VINCENT R. CAPODANNO, M.M., SERVANT OF GOD

Vincent Capodanno (1929-1967), a Staten Island, New York native, was the youngest child of a large - 10 siblings - Italian American family. His Italian father immigrated from Gaeta (Lazio Region), and his mother was Italian American. In 1949, after attending Fordham University and working in the insurance field, Vincent Capodanno entered the Maryknoll Seminary in Ossining, New York. He was ordained a Maryknoll priest by Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York in 1958. After missionary work in Taiwan and Hong Kong, Father Capodanno decided to join the Navy Chaplain Corps in 1965, and after he was commissioned a Lieutenant in 1966, he volunteered to serve with the Fleet Marine Service in Vietnam. A year later, after a month of leave, he returned to Vietnam for a voluntary 6-month extension, and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. During his Marine Corps service, Father Capodanno earned the nickname the «Grunt Padre» from his Marine Corps companions.

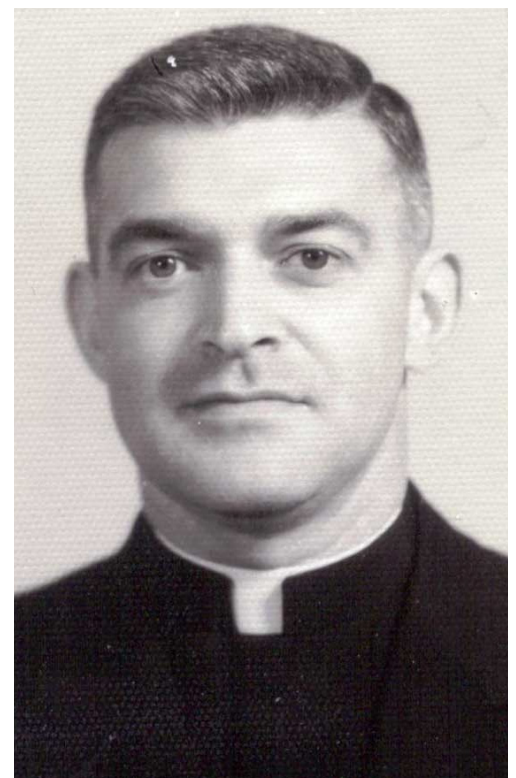
On September 4, 1967 (the Labor Day holiday), with Company D of that Marine Corps unit, Father Capodanno took part in «Operation Swift,» in the Thang Binh district of the Que Son Valley. It was then, while his unit was pinned down by heavy enemy fire from the North Vietnamese Army, and while administering first aid, last rites, and comfort to wounded and dying Marines, that Father Capodanno died in a hail of bullets. For his ... «gallantry and intrepidity»... «above and beyond the call of duty,» on January 7, 1969, Lieutenant Vincent R. Capodanno was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously by President Lydon Johnson.

A few years after his untimely death, on November 17, 1973, the US Navy commissioned the USS Capodanno (FF-1093, a Knox-class frigate), the first Navy ship to be blessed by a Pope, Saint John Paul II. It was not until 2002 that the Catholic Church opened Father Capodanno's «Cause for Canonization,» and in 2006 he was declared «Servant of God,» the first in the four-step process towards ultimate recognition as a saint. Key to this process is the recognition and certification by the Catholic Church that miracles can be attributed to saintly persons such as Father Capodanno. In his case, it was recognized that in 2019, following prayers to Father Capodanno, a Florida woman was healed of multiple sclerosis (MS). But additional, similar proof will still be needed to further the cause.

Discussing Father Capodanno's life and the process of his canonization will be Vice Admiral Stephen P. Stanley, USN (Ret.), who was appointed Board Chairman of the Father Vincent Capodanno Guild by the Archbishop of US Military Services, Timothy P. Broglio, in 2019. The Guild is a not-for-profit organization established in 2013 to promote the Cause for Canonization of Father Capodanno.

Part of Admiral Stanley's talk will likely include a power point presentation and discussion of the 2017 film produced by the Catholic TV network, EWTN, «Called and Chosen.»

Canonization is never a certainty. So, will Fr. Capodanno join the pantheon of American Saints, now numbering 15, including such familiar names as St. Mother Cabrini, St. Elizabeth Seton, Native American St. Kateri Tekakwitha, and most recently, Fr. Junipero Serra? Questions such as this were explored on the evening of the November 14th as we listened to and interacted with Admiral Stanley at the Little Italy Lodge concluded with the distribution of special prayer cards for the intention of Father Capodanno's canonization.



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