

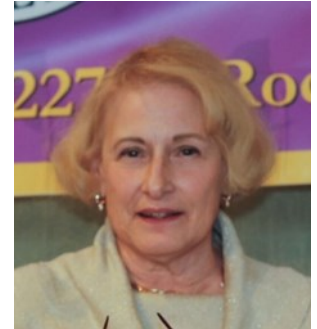


# The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor  
November 2022 edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this continues to find you well and taking care. As we move from outside activities to being indoors more, we need to take extra caution to stay healthy. The holidays are fast approaching and hopefully we can spend time with families and friends, which may have been curtailed over the past few years.



The Lodge has a busy few months ahead of us. Most of us look forward to the Papa Antolini Turkey Raffle that was started by Jen Gugino’s father many years ago. While it may not look the same, the spirit is still there. Once again, we will have the ROC City Singers perform for us. They are a highly competitive show choir. There is no better way to kick off the holiday season than with music and dancing. If you have not seen them, be sure to attend the Turkey Raffle. You are in for a treat!

Our December General Assembly Meeting will be a celebration of the Christmas season. We hope to install those members who joined the Lodge this past year but have not been able to make it installations we have held. As in the past, we are adopting Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes under the direction of Sr. Marisa. Safe Harbors touches the lives of thousands providing shelter, guidance, education, and crisis intervention. This is the season of giving and sharing with others who are less fortunate, and it doesn’t take a lot.

The beginning of the new year brings electing officers and council members for the next two years. These are members who will continue to work to keep the Vincent Lombardi Lodge moving forward, but they cannot do it alone. It takes all of us to do what we want to do and need to do. Your council is planning similar activities as we have had in the past: Winter Picnic, Members’ Picnic, CIBI Regional Dinner, and hopefully an installation celebration this year. We could always use help with the planning and execution of our events, but if that is not possible, please support what we do with your presence.

Take care and God bless,  
Marjorie

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To all our Brothers and Sisters,  
Have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday.

~Your Council

## 2022 Lodge Calendar

November 3rd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

**November 17th, 6pm: Papa Antolini's Turkey Raffle , St. Nicholas Society (East Rochester) RSVP by Nov 12th - \$35/pp**

December 1st, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

**December 15th, 7pm: General Assembly Holiday Gathering, Eyer Building (East Rochester)**

# VETERANS DAY



## HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. Nov. 11, 1918, was largely considered the end of “the war to end all wars” Thank you to all our veterans, former and present, for the jobs you do to maintain and restore peace.



VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE #2270  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
HOLIDAY GATHERING  
DEC. 15, 2022 AT 7:00 PM  
SENIOR CENTER, EYER BUILDING



- Charity adoption  
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes  
Please donate something from this approved list:
- ❖ Books for children
  - ❖ Diapers-smaller sizes especially
    - ❖ Wipes
  - ❖ Art & Craft Projects for children
  - ❖ Toys for toddlers

**Induction of new members**

A visit from Santa Claus (and maybe Mrs. Claus!)

The Lodge will provide pizza, but please feel free to bring a favorite holiday goodie.

**Please join us for holiday fun  
good food, and raffle.**





VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE #2270



## **Papa Antolini Turkey Raffle**

**Please Join Us for a Fun Filled Evening**  
**Great Food, Raffles & Entertainment**

### *Menu:*

Chef's salad with dressing, Baked macaroni, baked chicken,  
Italian sausage with peppers and onions, roast beef, greens and beans,  
oven roasted potatoes, dinner rolls with butter

We ask our members to share in their culinary talents by bringing either an appetizer or a dessert:

A thru J Appetizer

K thru Z Dessert

**Performance by the Roc City Singers directed Judith Ranaletta**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2022**

**(Donations will be accepted on behalf of the ROC City Singers)**

**St. Nicholas Society**                      **186 Madison St., East Rochester**  
**6:00 pm with buffet served at 6:30 pm**

**Members Early Bird Cost thru Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> \$30/person**

**From Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> until Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> the cost is \$35/person**

**Non member's cost is \$35/person**

**Children under 12 years cost \$15/person**

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

**NO REFUNDS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment can also be made with PayPal.

**Make Check Payable to: Vincent Lombardi Lodge # 2270**  
**and mail to Marisa Przepiora at 4552 Wildflower Dr., Canandaigua, NY 14424**  
**Proceeds will benefit the Vincent Lombard Lodge Scholarship Fund**



11/1: Franklin D'Aurizio,  
Joseph Valentino

11/10: Philomena Giambrone  
11/17: Patty Johns



Sending continued prayers for good health to Sandy Meleca, Lillian and Ezio Bonanni, Nancy and Joe Rubé, Bill Agnello, Patty Rask and all of our members who have been ill.



To all who helped make the Christopher Columbus Italian American Heritage Dinner a Success - Vince Giannantonio, Luigi DiFilippo, Tom Meleca, Ron Santoli, Patty Johns, Angela Giancaterin, Frank Giancaterin, Annette DeCarolis, Joe Rubé, Kitty DiNicola, Carol DiNicola, Char Dodgson, Louis DeCarolis, and Marisa Przepiora



There is no regular General Assembly Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10th. I hope you plan to attend the Papa Antolini Turkey Raffle on Thurs. Nov. 17th. December General Assembly Meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday Dec. 15th. We will be celebrating the Christmas Holiday Season.

## Acoustic Light Art Raffle



It's a repurposed guitar and it's a lamp. It's one of a kind, a piece of artwork, made by Stephen Cataldi, a member of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge. The unique lodge logo was designed by our past lodge president our beloved Jennifer Rube'.

The LED lights can change colors (red, green, blue) and change brightness & speed with the beat of music, by using its own mike to hear music that you provide.

Hang it on a wall or a guitar stand, use it as a night light, or a decoration for your den, office or bar.

Tickets will be available starting on November 17th at the Turkey Raffle and will continue until our Members Picnic in August 2023 when we will draw the winning ticket. Tickets cost: \$10 for a single ticket or \$25 for three tickets.

**For more information or to purchase tickets  
contact us at  
[vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com](mailto:vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com)**

## 2022 Italian American Heritage Award Honoree for Lifetime Achievement *Rosita Caridi-Miller*



Born in Calabria, Italy and raised in New York City (NYC), Rosita Caridi-Miller emigrated to America in 1949 at the tender age of two. Because of U.S. immigration laws at the time, her mother, Angelina, had to emigrate from Italy in 1948 before she turned 21 or lose the right to enter the U.S. outside quota. She reluctantly left her husband and her one-year-old baby, Rosita, in Italy and boarded a ship bound for NY, NY. Through connections in the U.S. Congress, Angelina and her father arranged to have Rosita join her a year later. At two-and-a-half, Rosita Caridi was the first child to fly unescorted across the Atlantic. After 22 hours in the air, the twenty-two passenger Sabena-Belgian Airline prop-plane landed in NYC's Idlewild Airport (now JFK). A room full of strangers that included her grandfather/sponsor, her mother and newspaper photographers/reporter greeted the bewildered young traveler.

Rosita Caridi lived in a predominantly Italian neighborhood in Long Island City until she was 11 years old. The Caridi family then “moved up” to Jackson Heights in Queens, NY where she lived until she married and moved to Rochester, NY in 1968. She attended high school at Holy Cross Academy in Manhattan, followed by Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY where she earned a B.A. in Mathematics and Rochester Institute of Technology where she earned her MS in Computer Science.

Rosita worked at Kodak for one year before the birth of her children, Mark and Kristin Scheible, in 1969 and 1971. She stayed a “work-at-home” Mom until the late seventies when she returned to the workforce as a teacher of Mathematics and Data Processing at Monroe Community College. After earning her MS, she returned to the corporate world to work as a Software Engineer at Scientific Calculations followed by positions in technical management and marketing at Kodak and Xerox. At fifty-five years old, Rosita decided to end her lucrative corporate career and finally follow her heart.

In 2005, with no experience in the food industry, Rosita became a self-taught chef, plunged into the food business and opened Cibi deliziosi, LLC, offering Italian-inspired cuisine, catering, cooking classes and cooking parties. From then on, “she never worked so hard for so little money and loved it so much.” Cibi not only fulfilled Chef Rosita’s dream of owning her own business, it introduced her to lifelong personal friends, strengthened her passion for food and cooking and gave her many chances to share that passion. Her early Cibi customer and now a dear friend, Elizabeth Osta, brought Chef Rosita into the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (SDOIA) which celebrates and strengthens our Italian heritage. Chef Rosita leads the Italian Regional Dinners, A.K.A. Cibi Dinners, an annual event focusing on a different region of Italy each year and produced by OSDIA members.

An avid supporter of the “Local & Healthy Food Movement,” Chef Rosita founded and directed the Mendon Farmers Market, developed and conducted classes and programs for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County’s locavore initiatives, designed and conducted cooking classes and demos at local Farmers Markets, the Rochester Public Market and Gourmet shops. Chef Rosita served as a Chef/Instructor at the New York Wine and Culinary Center (now NY Kitchen). She participated as a Chef/Instructor in Foodlink’s Cooking Matters Program (a national Share Our Strength program which introduces healthy cooking and eating to adults, families and school age children) and has been inducted into the Cooking Matters Hall of Fame.

As an active member of the American Culinary Federation (ACF) since 2006, Chef Rosita serves on the Board of the ACF Rochester Chapter (ACFR) and holds leadership positions supporting the chapter’s initiatives, including Chairperson and Culinary Director of Dish It Out (an annual chef’s competition and gala that benefits the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of NY (NCMEC), 2013 – 2019). In 2016, NCMEC honored Rosita with their Community Service Award for her work with DIO. In 2021, ACFR honored her with the title of Culinarian of the Year for service to ACF and contributions to the local Food & Beverage Industry and the community. Chef Rosita currently serves as Chairperson of the ACFR Marketing Committee.

Rosita stays physically, mentally and socially fit in her “retirement” years by continuing to share her passion for cooking and good food with family, friends and the community, avidly reading, actively serving ACFR, power walking (& talking) with friends, occasionally modeling/acting in commercials, and working on two memoir/cookbooks - Peasant Food: Angie’s Story (her mother’s story of life and cooking in Calabria and America) and Amer-Italian Food: Rosita’s Story (her story of growing up Italian in America).

Rosita Caridi-Miller lives with her husband Gary Miller in Victor, NY. Their family consists of six children and six grandchildren. Dr. Mark Caridi-Scheible and Dr. Kristin Scheible are Rosita’s biological children whom she raised with strong Italian family values - the love of family, community, education and good food! Rosita and her children are proud and happy to be Italian-Americans.

## 2022 Italian American Heritage Award Honoree for Woman of the Year *Marisa (Rubé) Przepiora*



Marisa Przepiora is the Executive Director for Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, a not-for-profit agency providing services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and child abuse in Ontario, Seneca and Yates Counties. She has worked at Safe Harbors for 15 years, first as their Victim/Witness Coordinator co-located in the Yates County District Attorney's Office, then as Assistant Director, and finally as Executive Director starting in 2016. Prior to this, Marisa worked for Alternatives for Battered Women (currently Willow Domestic Violence Center) as a Court Advocate, and before that at Safe Horizon in New York City, the nation's largest crime victim serving organization, as a supervisor on their 24-hour hotlines, which were the gateway to the NYC domestic violence shelter system, and at the time was also providing assistance and support to the victims of the Sept 11th World Trade Center attacks.

Marisa graduated from Stony Brook University in 2002 with her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. After living and working in New York City for two years, Marisa decided to return home to the Rochester area to pursue her graduate degree and most importantly, be closer to her family. In 2006, she graduated from SUNY Brockport with her Master's Degree in Public Administration. This degree led her to her current work at Safe Harbors, her dream job and one that she feels blessed to do every day.

Marisa was born and raised in Rochester and currently calls Canandaigua home. She lives near the lake with her husband, Chris and their two black labs, Blue and Lady – the loves of her life. She is a proud Italian American whose roots in Italy come from Polizzi Generosa in Sicily. When she is not at work, Marisa most enjoys the time she spends with her husband and dogs, her parents and family, and her amazing close friends. She loves anything having to do with the water, particularly kayaking and swimming with the dogs. She also has a huge garden and loves the process of preserving the food she grows, making pasta sauce, pizza sauce, salsa, pickles, relish, jellies and jams to name a few. The garden and all that goes along with it have become a passionate hobby.

Marisa joined the Vincent Lombardi Lodge with her family in 2005, just after returning home from New York City. In 2015, Marisa joined the lodge council as Recording Secretary, a position she held for two terms. After those terms were up, Marisa took the position of Principle Trustee for two years. She is currently serving as Vice President. Marisa wouldn't be where she is with the lodge if it weren't for her beautiful sister, who passed away while she was President of the Lodge in 2014. The love that was shown by lodge members to Marisa and her parents when Jennifer passed away goes right to the heart of what being a member of this organization means. Marisa now looks at the members of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge as her family, and plans to continue to be involved in whatever ways she can.

## 2022 Italian American Heritage Award Honoree for Man of the Year *Matthew Grosodonia*



Born: Wednesday April 9th, 1986 at Genesee Hospital Rochester, New York. Son of Michael R. and Joanna M. Grosodonia both of Rochester, New York. Also Grandson of A. Phil and Josephine M. Grosodonia (Former Long-Time Members of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270) and Frank M. and Victoria D. Mirabella all of Rochester, New York. Great Grandson of Michele and Maria Grassadonia of Valguarnera, and Villabate, Sicily. Great-Grandson of Rosario M. and Orsola Grillo of Tusa, Sicily. Great Grandson of Francesco M. and Giovanina Mirabella of Piazza Armerina, Sicily. Great-Grandson of Cesare and Libera D'Alessandro of Vallefredda and Rodi Garganico, Italy.

Received into Holy Mother Church Sunday May 11th, 1986. Received his First Holy Communion Sunday April 24th, 1994. Confirmed as "Ignatius of Loyola" on Thursday November 18th, 1999. All at St. John the Evangelist Church on Humboldt Street in Rochester, New York.

A Frequent Communicant of Peace of Christ Parish (Saint Ambrose, Saint James and Saint John the Evangelist) where he serves as both Lector and Sacristan and St. Alban's Catholic Church, where he serves as the Business Manager, both of Rochester, New York.

Charter Grand Knight and Current Chancellor of Ascension Council #15638 - Knights of Columbus at Peace of Christ Parish - Rochester, NY

Color Corps Commander of Bishop James E. Kearney Assembly #0723 -Knights of Columbus - Rochester, NY

Past Faithful Navigator of Bishop Michael J. Gallagher Assembly #0482 - Knights of Columbus - Clawson, Michigan

Past Holder of Various Offices in the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 - Rochester, NY

Attended Elementary School at School #1 - Rochester, New York - Graduating Class of 1998

Attended Middle and High School at McQuaid Jesuit High School - Rochester, New York - Graduating Class of 2004

Attended University at LeMoyne College - Syracuse, New York, Gonzaga University in Florence, Italy and Gonzaga University - Spokane, Washington - Graduating Class of 2008

Currently Enrolled in Master of Divinity Program at Saint Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry - Rochester, New York  
In Service to One in Service to All

## 2022 Italian American Heritage Award Honoree for Family of the Year *The Palucci Family*



Tony and Mickey Palucci were both born and raised in the Italian coastal town of Casalbordino, which is located in the province of Chieti in the Abruzzo region. In 1961, they married, and soon immigrated to East Rochester, NY to join family and friends. In pursuit of their American Dream, they quickly obtained employment. Tony used his training as a carpenter and a mason to proudly become an A and B Mechanic for the Eastman Kodak Company. Mickey worked in the meat department at Wegmans, primarily in the Pittsford store.

Together, with the help of family, they raised two children, Maurice and Anna Maria. Family and faith were a central part of Tony and Mickey's life. They were parishioners of St. Jerome Roman Catholic church, where Tony served as an usher for over 60 years. Maurice became a Podiatrist, and with wife Lorraine, have a son, Tony. Anna Maria, an Underwriter for ESL, married Kevin, and have three children Mary, Gabrielle, and Kevin, Jr. The grandchildren were and continue to be the love and highlight of Tony and Mickey's life. They never missed school or sporting events. The grandchildren were guided by the inspiration of their grandparents' goal of a better life, where the importance of an education was paramount. Mary is an Occupational Therapist with the Mary Cariola Children's Center. Gabrielle is an Assurance Associate with Price Waterhouse Coopers in Manhattan. Kevin, Jr. is a Manufacturing Engineer locally with Garlock Sealing Technologies. Tony, currently a junior at Syracuse University, is majoring in Sports Management with aspirations of a career with a major league sports team.

As members of the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy, Tony and Mickey thoroughly enjoyed volunteering and the many social events they participated in that created so many deep and lasting friendships with their fellow brothers and sisters.



Through the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF), and hundreds of thousands of family members located in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) has awarded nearly \$61 million in scholarships to date. In past years, the SIF has offered 10 to 12 merit-based scholarships (National Leadership Grants), ranging from \$4,000 to \$25,000, in a nationwide competition.

**General Eligibility:** U.S. citizens of Italian descent (at least one Italian or Italian-American grandparent) enrolled in a four year undergraduate program or a graduate program at an accredited academic institution for the Fall 2023 term. Previous SIF scholarship winners are not eligible. Additional eligibility requirements may apply to specific scholarships.

**General Requirements:** Please see each scholarship description for its specific requirements. The following general requirements apply to all scholarships:

- Online application: All requirements must be uploaded to the online application for each scholarship.
- Transcripts: For each scholarship, transcripts provided must be through the December 2022 term. All transcripts must be stamped by the institution.
- Processing Fee: A \$35 non-refundable processing fee is required with each scholarship application. The fee includes a one-year At-Large Membership to OSDIA, with all At-Large Membership benefits.

**Deadline:** The deadline for all scholarships (unless otherwise noted) is February 28, 2023. All requirements for a given scholarship must be met or the application will not be considered. **All scholarship materials must be submitted online, and completed applications must be submitted by February 28, 2023. No exceptions will be made.** The SIF takes no responsibility for incomplete or late applications.

**Process:** Applications are screened by education professionals. Final selection is made by OSDIA's National Scholarship, Education and Culture Committee. Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 1, 2023. Monetary awards are presented directly to the students' academic institutions in accordance with eligibility requirements.

For detailed requirements and to access the application, please visit: <https://www.osia.org/programs/scholarships/>

## Italian Contributions to World Civilization *Boccaccio*

I confess that for most of my life I thought of Boccaccio only as the author of The Decameron, a collection of risqué stories written during the 1300s. Only recently have I begun to realize his importance to the Italian Renaissance and to world literature.

Giovanni Boccaccio was born either in Florence or the nearby village of Certaldo in 1313. He was likely born out of wedlock to Boccaccino di Chellino, a Florentine merchant, and an unknown woman. When he was about thirteen years old his father moved the family to Naples. There he studied law at the Studium (now the University of Naples) and met a number of influential people.

An early admirer of the works of Dante, he always considered his true vocation to be poetry. Before he was thirty he produced important works that included some innovations in poetical composition. In 1341 he returned to Florence in time to witness significant changes in government and the decline of family fortunes. But he left the city in 1347, just one year before the onset of the Black Death. This was the greatest plague of the Middle Ages killing about three-quarters of the city's population, including his father and probably his mother.

Writing at Ravenna in the Tuscan vernacular, he began work on The Decameron in 1349 and completed it by 1352. In the book, seven young women and three young men escape the plague devastating Florence, and spend ten days in a secluded villa. To pass the time each one is required to tell one story each night, thus giving the reader one hundred stories. The tales range from the comic to the erotic to the tragic. Besides their literary value, these stories give the reader some insight into the concerns and values of the time. Because many of these tales criticized the church and clergy, The Decameron was placed on the Index of Forbidden Books. He revised and rewrote the work in 1370-1371 and this manuscript survives to the present day.

By 1350 Boccaccio had become involved with Italian humanism and the Florentine government. This was also the year that he met Petrarch who became his lifelong friend. With Petrarch's encouragement, he began to study classical Greek and Latin literature. This pursuit led to the writing of the Genealogia Deorum Gentilium, a reference work on classical mythology that remained the standard for over 400 years. His championing of classical literature meant defending its value in the face of church leaders who feared their pagan influence. Among his other efforts in this time, he wrote De Mulieribus Claris, a collection of the biographies of 106 famous women. His wide ranging interests and accomplishments encompassed a lengthy treatise on Dante's Divine Comedy and, along with Petrarch, he became one of the first serious students of archeology.

In his later years Boccaccio turned his attention to spiritual matters and wrote in a more formal style. His health failed him after 1370 and he died, probably of congestive heart failure, in 1375 in Certaldo.

~A Friend of Matteo Teresi





## Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini First American Saint Feast Day: November 13

**Born:** July 15, 1850, Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Italy

**Died:** December 22, 1917, Columbus Hospital, Chicago, IL

**Buried:** 1933, St Frances Cabrini Shrine, New York, NY

**Beatified:** November 13, 1938 by Pope Pius XI

**Canonized:** July 7, 1946 by Pope Pius XII

Mother Cabrini founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that supported fellow Italian immigrants giving her the title of Universal Patroness of Immigrants.

Mother Cabrini's beautification miracle was restoring the sight of a day-old baby who was blinded by the administration of 50% silver nitrate solution instead of the normal 1% solution. The child, Peter Smith, attended her beautification and became a priest. Her canonization miracle was the healing of a terminally ill member of her congregation. When Cabrini was canonized, an estimated 120,000 people filled Soldier's Field in Chicago for a mass of thanksgiving. Although her feast day would normally be December 22<sup>nd</sup>, her beautification date was chosen as her feast day to avoid conflicting with Advent.

## News from Italy



### Stolen Art Work Returned to Italy - New York Times 9/17/22

Three statues were returned to Italy after the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles discovered the sculptures were illegally excavated from a site in Southern Italy. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office seized fifty-eight pieces that represented thousands of years of rich history and worth millions of dollars from the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, which was stolen and sold so looters could line their own pockets.



### Entry and Exit System (EES) to take Effect May 2023 - Clare at the Local 10/26/22

The new system will improve and modernize border systems for anyone entering from non-EU countries. One of the goals is to reinforce security and aid the fight against crime and terrorism. It will mainly change how passports are checked at the border. In addition to the details on the passport, it will also record facial images and fingerprints of all passengers. This is similar to coming to the US where foreign arrivals already have to provide fingerprints.



### Tourist Rentals - Amusing Planet

There is a revival of ancient dwellings across Italy. Travelers want to connect with the ancient heritage. Trulli are traditional dry stone huts with corbelled roofs found mainly in the Itria Valley in Puglia. They are thought to be first built about the 14th century. The design allows the structure to be easily demolished, which allowed the feudal lord to avoid paying taxes on new settlements. Or you can stay in a simple treehouse like the ones near Foggia. Located in lush forests, visitors are surrounded by nature. One way to experience our prehistoric roots! Perhaps the sea grotto is more to your liking! In,

Palmarola, located off Rome's coast, fishermen grottos have been turned into elite summer retreats with use of private dinghies. Seafront villas have been cut into hillsides on the island of Ponza. Salt pan mills in Sicily have been renovated into panoramic bars. Old medieval olive oil mills are pizzerias or B & Bs. In Abruzzo the entire coast is littered with old wooden stone huts, known as Trabocchi. Abandoned after World War II, the old wooden sea huts are restaurants. These ancient buildings are being restored for the savvy tourist who is looking for something unique.

## U juornu re muorti - Day of the Dead

This is the day when the church remembers with special celebrations those who are no longer alive, people visit the cemetery taking flowers and candles to the graves of dead relatives and friends, and children find presents 'brought' to them by the "muorti".

As in other parts of the world, for example Mexico for 'El dia de los muertos' or Japan for 'Obon festival', it is a day dedicated to life and the family. The various traditions of the "iuornu re muorti" express the Sicilians' strong attachment to life and to their families, both those who are alive and those who are no longer with them. This is especially visible in the traditions that involve children since they create and reinforce links between them and those members of the family that are not alive anymore.

Until a few decades ago, this was in fact the only celebration of the year when children received presents, usually sweets and toys. Today there are many other occasions during the year (Christmas, Epifania, Birthdays, etc.) and the tradition risks to lose its strength. However, many families still keep it alive. Parents tell their children that if they behave correctly, "i bonarmuzza re muorticeddi" (the good souls of the dead) might bring them presents. On the 1st of November, children go to bed in the hope to be remembered by dead members of the family while parents prepare the presents and hide them around the house. One of the traditional sayings for the children to ask for many presents is this:

"Armi santi, armi santi,  
Io sugnu unu e vuatri siti tanti  
Mentri sugnu 'ntra stu munnu di guai  
Cosi di morti mittitiminni assai."  
("Holy souls, holy souls,  
I am one, and you are many,  
While I am in this world of troubles,  
Bring me lots of presents from dead people")

The morning after the search begins as soon as they wake up and after having found them they get ready to go to visit the cemetery. This is not a sad day in any way; it is a day where 'two worlds' meet to celebrate life. As usual with Sicily, food is a big component of this festivity and traditions vary from town to town, the most common are "pupi i zuccaru", frutta marturana e "ossa ri muortu".

## Unknown Soldier - Italy's Milite Ignoto

In the aftermath of world war one, many nations determined that they would bury an anonymous corpse to symbolize all who died on the battlefields. In Italy's case, the act of honoring an unknown soldier was passed in parliament in 1921, leading to the establishment of a committee tasked with selecting a body.

11 unidentified corpses were duly selected from various areas of the front, their coffins transported to the Basilica of Aquileia, near the Isonzo battlefields. One of the 11 bodies would be chosen as the "Milite Ignoto" and have the honor of being buried at the Altare della Patria in Rome's central Piazza Venezia.

The choice fell to Maria Bergamas, from Trieste, who was selected to represent all Italian mothers who had lost a son during the war without knowing where he was buried. Maria's son Antonio had been drafted into the Austrian army but deserted to enlist with the Italians and was killed in battle at Monte Cimone di Tonezza on June 16th, 1916.

On October 28th, 1921, Maria Bergamas was led into the basilica where she was faced with 11 coffins. When the grieving mother reached the 10th coffin in the line, she collapsed on the floor, breaking the silence of the basilica by screaming her son's name. The church bells tolled and those present wept. This would be the body chosen to make the journey to Rome (the other 10 soldiers were buried in the war cemetery behind the basilica at Aquileia, where Maria Bergamas herself would be buried more than 30 years later).

The coffin of the Unknown Soldier was placed on the gun carriage of a cannon and was accompanied by war veterans who had been awarded medals for valour. The casket was set down on a railway wagon designed specifically for the occasion. The train traveled slowly through Italy, over four days, so that at each station along the way, crowds of people could honor the unidentified soldier. Hundreds of thousands of Italians showed up to pay their respects. Many greeted the passing train on their knees. Others threw flowers. When the carriage reached Rome, the body of the Milite Ignoto was brought to the Church of S. Maria degli Angeli before being buried at the Altare della Patria on November 4th, 1921. The solemn ceremony was attended by King Victor Emmanuel III, as well as veterans, war widows and the mothers of sons who never returned from the battlefield.

Each year, the Unknown Soldier is honored on November 4th, the National Unity and Armed Forces Day, when the Italian president lays a wreath at his tomb and the Frece Tricolori jets fly past in honor of Italy's war dead. This year was a particularly poignant anniversary, as it marked a century since the burial of Milite Ignoto, an unknown man who means so much to so many.





OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge  
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Marjorie Focarazzo

**Vice-President**

Marisa Rubé Przepiora

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Patricia Bartholomew

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Melissa DiStaffen

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Carol DiNicola

**Orator**

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**Mistress of Ceremony**

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**Trustees**

Tom Meleca  
Louis DeCarolis  
Catherine DiNicola  
Ron Santoli  
Jeremy DiFilippo

**Immediate Past President**

Sandra Meleca

**Chaplain**

Patricia Galante

**District VIII State**

**Trustee**

Vincent Giannantonio

**Chaplain Emeritus**

Sister Carole Proia

**State Deputy to Vincent Lombardi  
Lodge**

Peter Gillotte

**State Deputy to Geneva Lodge**

Jeremy DiFilippo

**Past Presidents**

Joseph Lusardi\*  
Thomas Laverne\*  
Louis Giambra\*  
Joseph Vazzana \*  
John March\*  
Victor Bell\*  
Peter Cimino\*  
Sam Parese\*  
Cosmo Caceci\*  
Michael La Comba\*  
Shirley Sculli  
Phillip Dattilo\*  
Joseph Berta\*  
Joseph Rubé  
Jennifer Rubé\*  
Vincent Giannantonio  
Sandra Meleca

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