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# IL GIORNALE

Grand Lodge  
of Maryland

Spring Issue  
2022  
410.668.OSIA

## **CIAO TO ALL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS!**

I wish you a very HAPPY EASTER and a HAPPY SPRING. I am hoping this finds you well!

Everything is still moving slowly but the Grand Lodge is forging its way back to normalcy – whatever that is, these days!

The Grand Council had its first in-person meeting since last November. It was good to be with each other again. There are lots of events being planned by several lodges and the Grand Lodge, as well. Keep on the look-out for information and I truly hope you will participate and support. The Grand Lodge Bull/Oyster Roast is March 27th. (See flyer.)

National Trustee Zaccaria, Past Grand Lodge/National President Longo and I attended National's Winter Plenary Session (by Zoom) on February 10, 11 and 12. It was long, but very informative. Here are a couple of notable changes:

The OSDIA logo (one with circle and lion) has been changed. It will now include the words "and Daughters". It will be used publicly with the new words for the next year and then the OSIA can and will register and patent it. It will be our new forever logo!

The OSDIA weekly TV show 'OSIA LIVE!' has a new name. It will now be called "The Italian America Show". The show is shown on YouTube every Sunday @ 8 pm via You Tube in the Winter months. You can subscribe to YouTube FREE and catch the show. Interesting and diverse guests each week. You will enjoy watching.

It was a good session and many other things covered - all for the Good of the Order! President Bianchi is moving in the right direction and his most important goal is membership – especially younger members –25 – 55. That's who will keep this organization going on and on! IT'S IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT YOUR HERITAGE by signing up your children, grandchildren, family, etc. I can't say that enough.

I'll keep your lodge president informed of all the happenings and events that will be taking place this year, and he/she will forward the information to you. Any questions, don't hesitate to call the office at 410-668-6742. In the meantime, stay healthy, enjoy your Spring and I hope to 'see you' (in person) soon!

*THANKS for all you do!*

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Anita Lombardi Riley

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# Carnevale in Venice 2022

According to Venetian officials, Carnival, the elaborate two-week celebration before the start of Lent, was always going ahead this year, after last year's cancellation. However, on the street, it was another story. In the weeks leading up to the annual Carnival season, running from February 12 to March 1 this year in accordance with the Christian calendar, travel rules and restrictions for both visitors and locals were changing nearly by the week, if not the day, and it seemed like no one - party organizers, tourists - was sure that it was actually going to happen. This is how, two weeks before I was supposed to leave for Venice, I ended up frantically contacting private travel consultant extraordinaire and Italy expert Merrion Charles, begging for last-minute advice. As the go-to Italian fixer for A-listers such as Jude Law, Kate Winslet, and Coldplay, Merrion immediately came to the rescue and put me in touch with one of the city's best guides - the born and bred Venetian, Giorgia Chiozzi.

"We knew Carnevale was returning, but we didn't know what to expect, and there was a lot of uncertainty," Giorgia tells me two weeks later, as we weave through the Carnival crowds in Piazza San Marco, ground zero for the celebrations. As promised, the festivities have returned to Venice: Windows of pastry shops are piled high with sugar-dusted treats like galani (paper-thin strips of fried dough) and frittole (fat doughnut balls studded with raisins and pine nuts). The canal-lined streets are strewn with colorful coriandoli (paper confetti) and tangles of unspooling streamers. And the famed, fantastical maschere (opulently costumed and masked figures who come from all over the world) pose and peacock for the tourists - of which there are plenty.

There are no final counts yet, but Giorgia tells me that the crowds look slightly smaller this year, as there's a "diffused program" with small stages and theaters set up throughout the city's campos (squares), rather than just in Piazza San Marco, to dilute the concentration of people. However, the buzz is undeniably back, if a bit softer.

Some of Carnival's traditional events have been canceled from the outset, like the Volo dell'Angelo (Flight of the Angel), where a costumed woman "floats" down from the bell tower in Piazza San Marco, but other festivities have been given the green light at the eleventh hour, including Il Ballo del Doge, the biggest and most luxurious masquerade ball. It falls on Feb. 26 this year, yet it was only given the official go-ahead on Feb. 10. "The theme of this year's Ballo del Doge is Time for a New Renaissance," says Antonia Sautter, creator and artistic director of the lavish event, a staple on Venice's Carnival calendar for nearly 30 years. "Art has been considered not superfluous or essential, but I would say the contrary: Art is essential, and it can be the key to becoming enlightened from all our fears and heavy thoughts," she says. "Carnival itself has particular significance at this moment. In the past era, it has always been a ritual of passage between the darkness to the light and winter to the spring, and this year, it's passing us into the springtime of the soul. We've been thinking too much, and now it's time to enjoy life - at least for some hours."

In addition to her work with Ballo del Doge, Antonia also has a costume atelier, a sumptuous cave of wonders filled with fabrics, finery, feathers, and fantasy (some of her masks even made an appearance in Stanley Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut"). Looking at this year's sales, Antonia has noticed some new costume trends: "Full masks are more accepted now because they hide your nose and mouth. But more so, people want their face free and prefer to have something in their hair or on their head as opposed to over their face and eyes because our eyes have been our only way to communicate with each other."

Outdoor mask mandates were only lifted in Venice several weeks ago. However, attendees at this year's Ballo del Doge at the Palazzo Pisani Moretta will have to wear masks, as they're mandatory indoors, as well as show their Super Green Pass to prove recent vaccination status. This year, the event will be smaller, and ticket sales are currently around 50% compared to previous sold-out editions. It's a similar story at another one of Venice's best artisan costume ateliers. "Business is just 30% of what it would be normally," says Stefano Nicolao of Nicolao Atelier. Dating back to 1980, Nicolao Atelier produces handmade historical attire - not just for Carnival (he usually makes the costume for the Flight of the Angel), but also for theater and film, including Pirates of the Caribbean and Outlander, to name but a few. "Up until a few months ago, we didn't know what was going on, but now it's getting better because all events - not just Carnival - are coming back."

With tourist numbers up, Venice's top hotels share a spirit of cautious optimism. "At Aman Venice, we've been very fortunate to have both loyal and new guests staying with us throughout Carnival," says Licinio Garavaglia, general manager of Aman Venice, which is, in fact, currently busier than in previous non-pandemic years. "Our forecast was conservative given our assumption that this year's Carnival would be more low-key. However, we are encouraged to see very high occupancy throughout February."

A 24-room rococo fantasy dripping in gleaming gold, dizzying frescos, and putti aplenty, Aman Venice needs little introduction. George and Amal got married here, which tells you everything you need to know. Set on the Grand Canal, just a short walk from Piazza San Marco, Aman Venice is the place to stay for an extravagant Carnival trip if you want to be in the heart of the action, though because it's discreetly tucked away down a narrow callette and flanked by two private gardens (a rarity in the city), there's still a sense of privacy, exclusivity, and remoteness. For those who prefer an escape from the Carnival masses, Charles suggests private accommodations in a sestriere (district) filled with locals, such as Casa Codussi, a chicly restored waterfront palazzo with altana (rooftop wooden terraces) and a private boat deck, in the Castello area. Castello borders the action-packed, confetti-covered San Marco district, but the streets get noticeably quieter and the number of revelers reduces as you walk toward Castello.

"Castello is authentic," Giorgia tells me. "It's one of the only places in Venice where you'll see laundry hanging from the windows because Venetians really live there." Even with the local vibe, there's still plenty of Carnival spirit in Castello: The grand opening of Carnival, La Festa Veneziana Sull'acqua (Venetian Water Festival), is usually held in the Rio di Cannaregio, but to guarantee social distancing this year, it was moved to the Arsenale, a former shipyard and armory right in the heart of Castello.



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Easter Monday

La Primavera

Spring

La Resurrezione

Resurrection

La Settimana Santa

Holy Week

L'Ultima Cena

Last Supper

Le Uova

Eggs

Venerdi Santo

Holy Friday

**Easter Monday**, also known as *Pasquetta*, is a national holiday in Italy. It is a day of complete relaxation which may be spent on excursion, short trips and picnics in the countryside.

Some Areas are devoted to pilgrimages. Some pay a visit to the sanctuary of the Madonna dell' Arco (next to Mt. Vesuvius).

The last of Italian Easter traditions: ALL the left-over food from Easter Sunday is eaten on Easter Monday!

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# TORTA PASQUALINA

(Easter Pie)

Recipe by Italian Chef Luca Marchiori



Torta Pasqualina is a beloved Easter pie in Italy. Originally from Liguria, the dish is now popular all over the peninsula. The most important aspect of the torta pasqualina is the eggs baked inside. Eggs are a very important part of Italian Easter baking. They mean life, fertility and birth.

**INGREDIENTS:**      **1 3/4 lbs of spinach**      **2 sheets of puff pastry**  
                                 **1 1/8 lbs ricotta**                      **salt to taste**  
                                 **6 eggs**    **black pepper to taste**

Place the spinach directly into a large saucepan with lid. Turn heat on low, cover and leave to wilt for 15 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool completely.

When spinach is cool, put into a blender for a few seconds to chop into small pieces. Or you can chop with a knife. Then, in a bowl, mix the spinach with the ricotta cheese. Season with salt and black pepper to your taste, then mix in one egg.

Butter a deep 8-inch cake pan lined with one of the sheets of puff pastry. Pour in the spinach mixture and transfer the pan to the fridge to chill for 30 minutes.

Carefully make four large holes in the spinach mixture with a spoon, big enough to take an entire egg each. Then, break one egg into each of the holes.

Cut a 7-inch circle out of the second sheet of puff pastry. Place it carefully over the top of the mixture, and use a sharp knife to score a cross in the pastry over the eggs.

Beat the remaining egg with a fork and paint the disc of pastry with it. Gently fold down the edges of the pastry lining to join up with the disk and seal the pie. Paint the top of the pie with the beaten egg and put the whole thing in the fridge for 30 minutes. Place pan in the oven at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Chill for 1 hour.

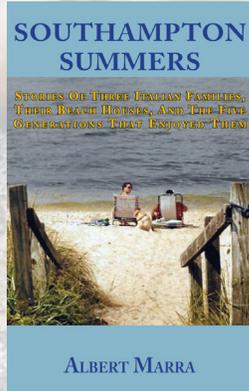
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- Gabriela Christie Toletti, Ph.D.

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# ROME'S PASQUA (*Easter*)

*By Professor Philip J. DiNovo*

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 has been raised 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.

Rome can be rivaled only with the Holy Land for its spiritual significance to the world's Christians. It must be remembered that 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, the seat of the Roman Catholic church, to take part in Pascal services. The Romans themselves state that the most colorful, folkloric, the more interesting and, some say the most earnest Easter services take place in Italy's smaller, simpler towns and villages. There are now fewer than 450 churches in Rome. There are said to be some 2,000 ritual events in Rome commemorating Easter. Some are extravaganzas attracting tens of thousands of people.

The Pope leads an impressive 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 in Laterano. The Pope (the bishop of Rome), leads a long solemn procession into Rome's Cathedral to celebrate Mass. During this Mass, the Pope washes the feet of twelve priests or individuals, who act as his 'disciples'.

On Good Friday night, the Pope leads a massive procession around the Coliseum, following the Stations of the Cross. A crowd of 10,000 plus will accompany him. The church of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme is popular with pilgrims during Holy Week. The 'Chapel of the Relics' houses fragments of the 'true cross' found by St. Helena, a chunk of the cross of Dismas, thorns from Christ's crown and a nail used in the crucifixion.

At 10:00 PM on Holy Saturday, worshipers pack St. Peter's Square for the Lumen Christi Mass, which begins with the Service of Light. The square is in darkness and a new fire is prepared. The fire is blessed and the Pascal Candle is lighted from the new fire. The flame from the Pascal Candle is passed among the worshipers until everyone is holding a lighted candle. The light grows gradually and spreads throughout the square as the many candles are lit. The bells of St. Peter's ring out at midnight and are answered by every other bell in the city.

After the Easter Sunday Liturgy, the Pope gives his Urbi et Orbi (blessing to the City and the World) at the stroke of noon.

In Italy, traditional foods are eaten during Lent, especially during Holy Week. On Good Friday, (if one is not fasting), to keep things light and simple, fish is usually served (grilled or fried). A great deal of eating is done on Easter Sunday!

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# WHERE DID THE POPE COME FROM?

*Article by Leonardo De Chirico*

*Pastor, Rome, Italy*

*Part I*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “The Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.”

Further reinforcing his power and authority, the catechism claims, “The Pope enjoys, by divine institution, supreme, full, immediate, and universal power in the care of souls.” The catechism presents the papacy as a divinely appointed institution that presides over the life of the church and exercises its rule over God’s flock.

Where do these massive claims come from? Roman Catholics trace the pope’s origin to the apostle Peter. But history tells a different story.

Rome wasn’t built in a day, and neither was the Roman Catholic papacy. It was a long process that led to the setting up of this millennia-old office that combines spiritual and political claims.

The pope claims to hold an office originally bestowed by Jesus upon the apostle Peter, and which has been passed down through a direct and unbroken line of succeeding apostles. In other words, the pope claims to hold apostolic authority and continue the mission Jesus supposedly entrusted to Peter in Matthew 16:18: “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.”

The Roman Catholic Church sees an embryonic stage of the papacy in this passage. It believes Jesus gave to Peter (and by implication, to all his formal successors) a foundational role in the building of his church. Subsequent traditions and practices continued to develop the bishop of Rome’s role to the point at which the papacy eventually emerged.

However, when we do a little digging, we soon enough find no organic connection between what Jesus says of Peter in Matthew 16:18 and the function of the papacy. The pope claims a succession to Peter’s ministry, but Jesus makes no reference to such a succession. Nor can we see in the text how this succession became attributed to the city of Rome, nor the imperial form that the papacy took.

A better interpretation of Matthew 16:18 is that the church, the community of Jesus’s disciples, will be built upon Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, not on Peter himself. Jesus underlines the fact that “my” church will be built in such a way. It is not Peter’s church; it is the church of Jesus, founded by Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus is the founder and the builder of the church, whereas Peter is a witness, a spokesperson of this divine truth that God was revealing to him and the other disciples.

Moreover, Jesus gives no indication that Peter will have successors that will take his place. This text can be seen as the biblical basis for the papacy only if the doctrine of the papacy has already been established apart from Scripture, and then subsequently and retrospectively squeezed into it.

*Part II Next Issue*



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Owner with over 50 years  
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