



## President's Annual Message

Earlier this year, I wrote to you about my vision for a program that would highlight our ancestry in Basilicata and inform the public about it. Since then, we were able to work with a team from the Centro Lucani nel Mondo and others to develop a plan which will bring this idea to not only us but to the world next year. I couldn't be more excited and enthralled with the prospects!

2024 will be an amazing year for preserving our heritage, and events are already underway. As you will see (page 4) a Presepe from Basilicata representing a scene from Matera will be on display in New York City. It will be followed by local activities that will bring our members and the other organizations in the Federazione Lucana d'America into the BasilicatE Exhibition project by submitting traditional recipes, reading poems of Rocco Scotellaro, and sharing scenes from their homes. It will truly bring, "A celebration of Lucanian culture to the world."

Our involvement was shared by other collaborators in New York who will also play key rolls throughout next year. The Consulate General of Italy in New York has begun promotion of the event on their [website](#). An important part of the plans for next year include you and the other members of organizations in America that have a connection to Basilicata. Shortly, you will be receiving requests for your help in providing recipes that reflect our traditional foods and history. This will include those local recipes that evolved as our immigrant ancestors weren't able to find ingredients or adapted foods here to the Lucanian style of cuisine. The recipes will be used to document our shared traditions and also as part of February 2024 filming session showing their preparation.

Two other parts of the exhibit will rely on your involvement. The project team is seeking individuals to read a poem by Rocco Scotellaro, a poet from Tricarico, who dealt with the problems of peasants in Southern Italy. He was called the poet "of peasant freedom" by Carlo Levi. A second request will be to submit photographs of houses or sections of a

## *"Basilicata is coming to New York"*

house that reflect the memories of Basilicata, and Lucanian traditions or influences. I invite you, our members, to contribute to these efforts when asked with stories, family recipes, photographs, or material that help us all understand our shared history. My belief is that all of us from Craco are "cousins" and drives me to seek to learn more about each and every one of you through these stories.

With the exciting plans for next year, it would be remiss of me not to touch on some of the accomplishments we shared this year. Along with providing information through this newsletter about Basilicata, we also formed partnerships that will help us continue our mission of preserving the history, culture and traditions. The articles on the following pages highlight some of them. One of the often asked questions we get is about Italian citizenship. We were able to form a relationship with a law firm in Italy (page 2) that can help members seeking assistance. It will be wonderful for those of you who want to make that tangible connection to our roots. ■

*With best wishes for a joyous Christmas season and happiest New Year.*

*Joseph Rinaldi*



*Learn more about the project status on page 3.*

# New Regional President of the Basilicata Confederation

The Confederal Executive Committee of the Confederazione degli Italiani nel Mondo (CIM), chaired by the Hon. Angelo Sollazzo, has appointed the journalist Luigi Scaglione, Regional President of the Confederation for the Basilicata Region.

“The local communities of Italians in the world, including the Lucanian one,” notes the new regional president **Luigi Scaglione**, “include people of several generations who have achieved high degrees of well-being and success, and who continue to feel a strong attachment to the motherland both for family origins and for the excellence of "made in Italy", mainly in the historical, artistic and productive fields. As a member of the Confederation of the Centre for International Studies in the World, I thank you for the trust you have placed in me, hoping to be able to be up to the task”.

Inside Italy the Confederation is divided into regional structures, while in every foreign country where the C.I.M. is present, there is a national federation with its own leadership teams. ■



*Luigi Scaglione*

## Italian Citizenship

For Italian Americans seeking dual citizenship there can be daunting challenges. The Society has received several requests from members seeking assistance. Due to the unique situation of each individual it is prudent to obtain the assistance of a professional who is experienced in the requirements to successfully acquire Italian citizenship.

The Society identified a source in Italy that provides services to obtain citizenship. They advised us the starting point would be to have a family tree, which can be provided by the Society to members, free of charge. The family tree should then be sent to the firm who will use it to determine what documentation and other details may be needed. They will generally need to have a conversation to get all the details straight before they can give an estimate of how much it will cost to supply the services a person might require to pursue citizenship.

We suggest anyone interested in this start by contacting the Society at: [memberservices@thecracosociety.org](mailto:memberservices@thecracosociety.org)

We will work with you to gather the initial material (family tree or other documents) and facilitate an introduction to the firm. From that point on, they will work with you on the necessary steps to obtain Italian citizenship. ■

The firm in Italy we are working with is:

avv. Fernanda Solorzano Sarmiento  
Studio Legale Internazionale Solorzano  
Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, 55  
00185 Roma, Italia

Telephone: +39 06 92919131, +39 067005703  
Cell/WhatsApp: +39 389 954 8240  
Fax: +39 06 84389097

[www.solorzano.legal](http://www.solorzano.legal)  
E-mail: [info@studiosolorzano.it](mailto:info@studiosolorzano.it), or  
[studio.solorzano@gmail.com](mailto:studio.solorzano@gmail.com)  
Pec: [fernandasolorzano@ordineavvocatiroma.org](mailto:fernandasolorzano@ordineavvocatiroma.org)



# BasilicatE in New York

An advance team from Basilicata arrived in New York City during the first week in November to begin developing plans for the BasilicatE Exhibition in August-September 2024.

Mimi Coviello, Scientific Technical Committee Coordinator of Centro dei Lucani nel Mondo and Prof. Clara (Charlie) Cibrario Asserato led the team interacting with several local collaborators and supporters. Their objectives were to determine facilities and options for the exhibition space, meet directly with exhibition partners, build relationships with new supporters, and gather information and ideas from the local experts about how to best organize the exhibition in New York City.

Meetings with the Consulate General of Italy in New York, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, the Italian American Museum, Eataly, and others proved productive and valuable. Each meeting resulted in important information, suggestions, and advice that helped the team understand what will help make the exhibition a success in New York City.

There were also unexpected surprises. For example, while visiting Suzanne Mannon, Director of Public Affairs, and Stephen Lean, Director of the American Family Immigration History Center at Ellis Island (shown in the middle photograph holding carved statuary of Matera), new information surfaced about Rocco Scotellaro's family history. This connection with the Italian poet to Ellis Island and the US will be helpful in understanding themes in his poetry.

A presentation introducing the BasilicatE Project was made to the New York public by Mimi Coviello at the Calandra Institute. Introduced by Deputy Consul of New York, Dr. Cesare Bieller, and Dr. Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean of the Calandra Institute, Mimi explained the concept behind the project and the components that will make up the Exhibition. The audience included representatives from Italian American organizations in New York, societies that are members of the Federazione Lucana d'America, educators, and the general public. At a subsequent meeting with the staff of the Calandra Institute, the team in New York connected with their counterparts in Basilicata to get guidance from the Calandra staff. Dr. Joseph Sciorra, Director Academic & Cultural Programs (shown bottom photograph on the left) joined Dr. Tamburri (shown on the right) providing insights and suggestions about conducting an exhibition based on their knowledge and experience with events of this type. The group also met with Rosangela Briscese, Assistant Director Academic and Cultural Programs, who has an interest in traditional food recipes, one of the elements in the exhibition.

Besides meeting with interested members of the public and Italian societies, the team spent time evaluating Eataly at their Downtown location in the World Trade Center. The location offers a kitchen facility to film the preparation of Lucanian dishes and can feature foods from the Region during the New

York exhibition next year. Everyone involved in the meetings provided excitement, support, and encouragement offering great hopes for success. ■



*Consul General of Italy in New York—shown left to right are Mimi Coviello, Dr. Cesare Bieller, and Alessandra Oliva after meeting to discuss the exhibit.*



# Basilicata Presepe in New York City

The [Shrine Church of Our Lady of Pompeii](#) announced a special event for the Christmas season. In collaboration with the Consulate General of Italy in New York and the Basilicata Region, a Presepe, "The Nativity Scene from Basilicata" will go on display on December 8, 2023 at 5:00pm.

Don Luigi Portarulo, vicar at Our Lady of Pompeii says, "We will have the Mass of inauguration December 8 at 5:00pm and after a show and dinner. The nativity scene will be in our church from December 8 to February 2." Our Lady of Pompeii is located at 25 Carmine Street at the corner of Bleeker Street in Manhattan, NY.

Reservations for the opening event on December 8 are requested and should be sent to:

[donluigiportarulo@gmail.com](mailto:donluigiportarulo@gmail.com)



[Don Luigi](#), who is from Bernalda, received this assignment at the historic Italian American church, in the South Village section of Manhattan, after serving at the Vatican for several years.

The church was founded in 1892 as a national parish to serve Italian-American immigrants who settled in Greenwich Village. ■



Under the auspices of the Consulate General of Italy in New York, the Basilicata Region and the Church of Our Lady of Pompeii are pleased to extend their invitation to a special event:

**The Nativity Scene from Basilicata at Our Lady of Pompeii Church**

Friday, December 8th, 2023  
5.00 PM

Holy Mass in the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception and blessing of the Nativity scene.  
The Mass will be presided over by H.E. Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of Holy See to the United Nations

Following  
The sounds of the Nativity:  
Itineraries among the cultural heritage of Basilicata

**Our Lady Of Pompeii**  
25 Carmine street  
New York

Please RSVP to the following email address:  
[donluigiportarulo@gmail.com](mailto:donluigiportarulo@gmail.com)  
Your response is greatly appreciated

## Notice:

**Watch for your 2024 membership dues notice coming soon.  
The Society relies on you for support.**



### How to contact us - Come contattarci

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