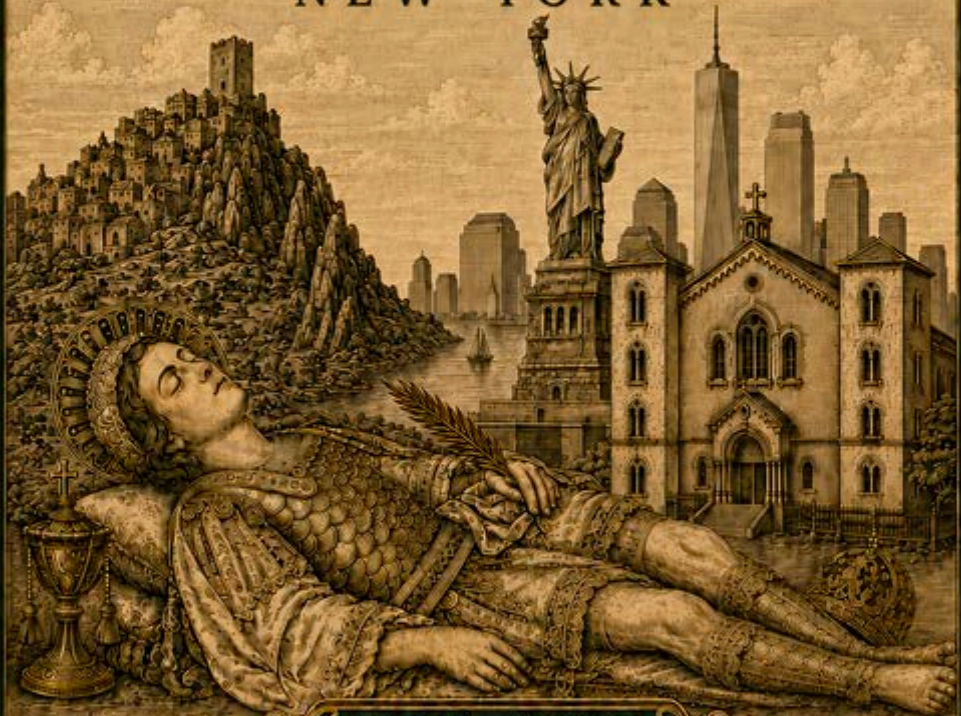
125th ANNIVERSARY

SAN VINCENZO MARTIRE FEAST

NEW YORK



1901–2026

CRACO SOCIETY

FAITH • FAMILY • TRADITION

Among the feast days for saints in the Roman Catholic Church, there is one not mentioned in the Universal Calendar but, which is of importance to the small hill top town of Craco in the province of Matera, Basilicata Region, Italy. This is the feast of San Vincnzo, Martire di Craco which is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of October.

October 25, 2026
The Church of the Most Precious Blood
113 Baxter St., New York, NY

San Vincenzo Martire, prega per noi.
Saint Vincent Martyr, pray for us.

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ITALIANS' GAY CELEBRATION.

Fireworks and Illuminations in Honor of St. Vincenzo Martry.

The church edifice of the Church of the Precious Blood, at Canal and Baxter Streets, which is being reconstructed, and is now about half built, was gay last night with many colored lanterns and fluttering Italian flags, surmounted by the Stars and Stripes. In front of the church fireworks of many hues were set off, and the neighborhood of Mulberry Bend was kept ablaze until a late hour. Two thousand Italians, young and old, who are members of Father Berardini's parish surrounded the church and quietly enjoyed the spectacle, their faces lighted up by the flare of the fireworks and swinging lanterns.

The occasion was the celebration by the Societe Militaire d' St. Vincenzo Martry of the natal day of its patron saint. The celebration began Saturday evening and was continued last night. The Italian Rifle Guard of New York assisted in commemorating the occasion. The members of both societies attended vespers last evening as a preliminary. They were in full uniform and carried their rifles. Later in the evening a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and many wheels of red, blue, and yellow fire were touched off. The band of twenty-four pieces of the Societe d' St. Vincenzo was seated on a raised platform in front of the church, and played many airs, both grave and gay.

New York Times, October 28, 1901, Wednesday, Page 7.

October 25, 1937, Roosevelt Street, New York, NY.

Circa 1950s Craco, Basilicata, Italy.

In loving memory of all the Crachesi who immigrated to North America to begin a new life, while faithfully preserving their cherished traditions for future generations.

– Anonymous
2026

A Message from
The Craco Society President
Joseph Rinaldi

It is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I welcome you to this special celebration and the commemorative journal for the 125th anniversary of the **Feast of San Vincenzo Martire** in New York.

This milestone is much more than an anniversary – it's a celebration of Faith, Family and Tradition – the values that have bound the Crachesi together for generations and define who we are today.

As we gather once again at the Church of the Most Precious Blood, we are reminded of those who came before us. In 1901, our ancestors gathered here to celebrate the first official feast of San Vincenzo in New York, carrying with them the faith and traditions of their beloved Craco. One hundred and twenty-five years later, we return to that same place once again to honor San Vincenzo and our ancestors. What began with the faith and determination of a small community has endured for well over a century.

We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the generations of Crachesi who had the courage to leave their homeland in search of a better life for themselves and their families. They faced uncertainty, hardship and sacrifice, yet they brought with them something that could never be left behind: faith, love of family and devotion to San Vincenzo. Through this dedication, they preserved the traditions of Craco and passed them from one generation to the next.

We are equally grateful to all those who continue that legacy today. By teaching our children about where we came from, by sharing the stories of our ancestors, by gathering as a community, and by keeping our faith and traditions alive, we ensure that the heritage of Craco will not be forgotten.

The Craco Society has played an important role in creating and nurturing a community of Crachesi and descendants of *(– continued)*

A Message From The President
(– continued)

Crachesi that continues to grow. Through its efforts to preserve the history, culture and traditions of Craco, the Society helps keep alive the connection between our ancestral home and the generations who now call North America home. My heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors Frederick Spero, Joseph Rinaldi (NY), Bob Rubertone, Lena Camperlengo, Stephen LaRocca, Rita Gallo Lavery and Tom Rinaldi.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all the members and friends of The Craco Society who have supported this commemorative journal through their generous tributes and advertisements. Your generosity has helped make this celebration possible and reflects the enduring pride we share in our heritage. A very special thank you goes to Rita Gallo Lavery, board member, Craco Society, whose dedication, creativity and hard work in designing and producing this beautiful journal have given us a lasting keepsake of this extraordinary occasion.

As we celebrate 125 years of San Vincenzo in New York, may we look back with gratitude, celebrate the present with pride and look to the future with hope. May we continue to honor those who came before us by carrying their faith, strengthening our families and preserving the traditions they entrusted to us.

May the legacy of San Vincenzo and the Crachesi who came before us continue to live in our hearts, in our families and in generations yet to come.

With heartfelt gratitude and best wishes,

Joseph Rinaldi

Joseph Rinaldi
President, The Craco Society

Commemorative Pin

Created and produced by Bob Rubertone, board member, Craco Society, to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Feast of San Vincenzo Martire, this beautifully detailed pin honors the faith and heritage that have united generations of the Craco community. San Vincenzo Martire stands at its center, framed by the flags of Italy and the United States – a powerful expression of the journey from the ancestral homeland to a new life in America.

The dates 1901–2026 mark 125 years of devotion to San Vincenzo and the preservation of a sacred tradition among the Crachesi and their descendants. Finished in rich enamel colors with gold detailing, the pin is more than an anniversary keepsake – it is a proud symbol of faith, family, cultural identity and the enduring bond between Craco and its community in America.

Commemorative Keychain

Created and produced in 2026 by Joseph Rinaldi, President of The Craco Society for the commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of the San Vincenzo Martire Mass, this distinctive wooden keychain honors a cherished tradition that has united generations of the Crachese community in New York. Its intricately engraved design brings together the image of San Vincenzo Martire with the ancient hilltop town of Craco in Basilicata, Italy, the Statue of Liberty, the New York City skyline and The Church of Most Precious Blood where the first official San Vincenzo Mass was celebrated in 1901. The keychain tells a visual story of faith carried from Italy to America.

More than a keepsake, the keychain is a lasting symbol of the devotion, resilience and shared heritage of the Crachesi and their descendants.

Faith • Family • Tradition

The words reflect the enduring values at the heart of the Craco Society and the annual Mass – a sacred observance preserved for 125 years and entrusted to future generations.

San Vincenzo Martire stands as an enduring symbol of faith, sacrifice and spiritual strength for the people of Craco. Across generations and across oceans, devotion to our beloved patron saint has remained at the heart of Cracotan identity.

The Origin of San Vincenzo Martire

After the Roman Emperor Aurelian died, Diocletian succeeded him and selected Massimiliano (Maximilian) to rule over part of the empire. In 286AD while Maximilian was on his way to Gaul (France) to quell a revolt of the Bagauds, a peasantry of Belgium, he stopped at the village of Otteduro (which today bears the name of Martigny, Valais, Switzerland) to rest his army.

There he was joined by the Theban Legion, which was summoned by Diocletian to re-enforce the militia. The Theban Legion was recruited in Egypt which was then under Roman rule. They camped near Agauno, at the foot of a mountain, which has a pass called Great St. Bernard, connecting Italy and Switzerland. The Theban Legion was made up of 6,600 Christian legionnaires. San Maurizio was an officer in command of the

(- *continued)*

The Origin of San Vincenzo Martire
(– continued)

Legion and San Vincenzo was among the soldiers in the legion. While camped there Maximilian issued an order for the entire army to offer sacrifices to the Roman gods for the success of the expedition. The Theban Legion refused to obey Maximilian's order on the grounds that it was a religious and not a military command. Because of this refusal Maximilian commanded that they be decimated, that is, every tenth man would be put to death. The troops filed into ranks and every tenth man was put to the sword. As a result of this slaughter, 660 men were killed.

Maximilian grieved at the useless loss of so many legionnaires and sent a very complaisant message asking the remaining soldiers to sacrifice to the gods. But they replied, "We are soldiers, but we are also servants of the true God. We owe you military service and obedience; but we cannot renounce Him who is our creator and Master. We have taken an oath to God before we took one to you; you can place no confidence in our second oath if we violate the first. We have arms in our hands, but we do not resist, because we would rather die innocent than live in shame."

Maximilian, amazed at this bold reply, again issued orders for every tenth man to be killed and yet even after this second slaughter the legionnaires remained constant. Finally, realizing that any threat or punishment of his was useless, he ordered the complete extermination of the Legion. San Vincenzo was among those who were slaughtered and given the status of martyr for his faith.

A Profile of Faith & Service

Don Luigi Portarulo: Faith, Heritage and Community in New York

From Basilicata to the Vatican and New York City, a priest builds community by meeting people where they are.

For this special year, we are blessed with having Don Luigi Portarulo as the San Vincenzo Mass celebrant. For members of the Craco Society, the story of Don Luigi Portarulo carries a special resonance. He was born in Bernalda, another historic town in Basilicata, and grew up in a world where faith, family and local tradition were woven into everyday life. His journey from southern Italy to the Vatican and ultimately to New York reflects a story familiar to generations of Italian Americans – the carrying of cherished roots across distance and the renewal of those roots through community.

Celebrating the joy of the San Vincenzo Feast Day in 2025: Joe Rinaldi, Craco Society president (left), Don Luigi Portarulo, (center) and Stephen LaRocca, Craco Society Director (right).

Don Luigi's vocation appeared early. As a child, he attended church with his mother and grandmother and served as an altar boy with unusual enthusiasm. At age 12, after traveling to Rome to serve at a *(– continued)*

Don Luigi Portarulo
(– continued)

Jubilee Mass in 2000, he entered the St. Pius X Pre-Seminary at the Vatican. What began as a boy's desire to serve Mass became more than two decades of formation and ministry within Vatican City. He studied philosophy, developed a deep appreciation for St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine and served Mass during the pontificates of St. John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

Ordained a priest on June 9, 2012, in the Cathedral of Como, Don Luigi later served as vice rector and financial administrator of the Don Folci Institute. He taught catechism, guided young altar servers and assisted people experiencing homelessness in Rome. Those who know him describe a priest who first sees the person, then the need – an approach grounded in friendship, dignity and human connection.

In 2022, Don Luigi accepted a new calling in New York, initially serving the Italian community at Our Lady of Pompeii in Greenwich Village. He arrived with limited English but with an instinctive understanding of the people he had come to serve. He taught children at La Scuola d'Italia, celebrated Mass in Italian and helped strengthen a parish that had long been a spiritual home for immigrants and their descendants. His warm, direct style proved especially effective with young people, who responded to the energy and encouragement he brought to faith formation.

In Memory of

Phyllis Rinaldi Benedetto and

Anthony Charles Benedetto

whose parents left their Craco home
and ventured forth to the exciting world of
New York City and founded future generations.

Congratulations on

the 125th Anniversary of

the Feast of San Vincenzo

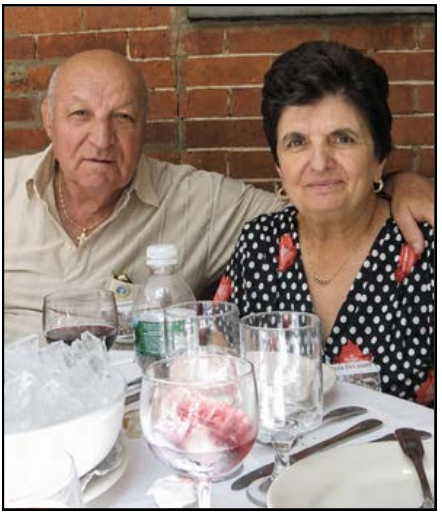
with grateful thanks
to the Craco Society
which brought us all together.

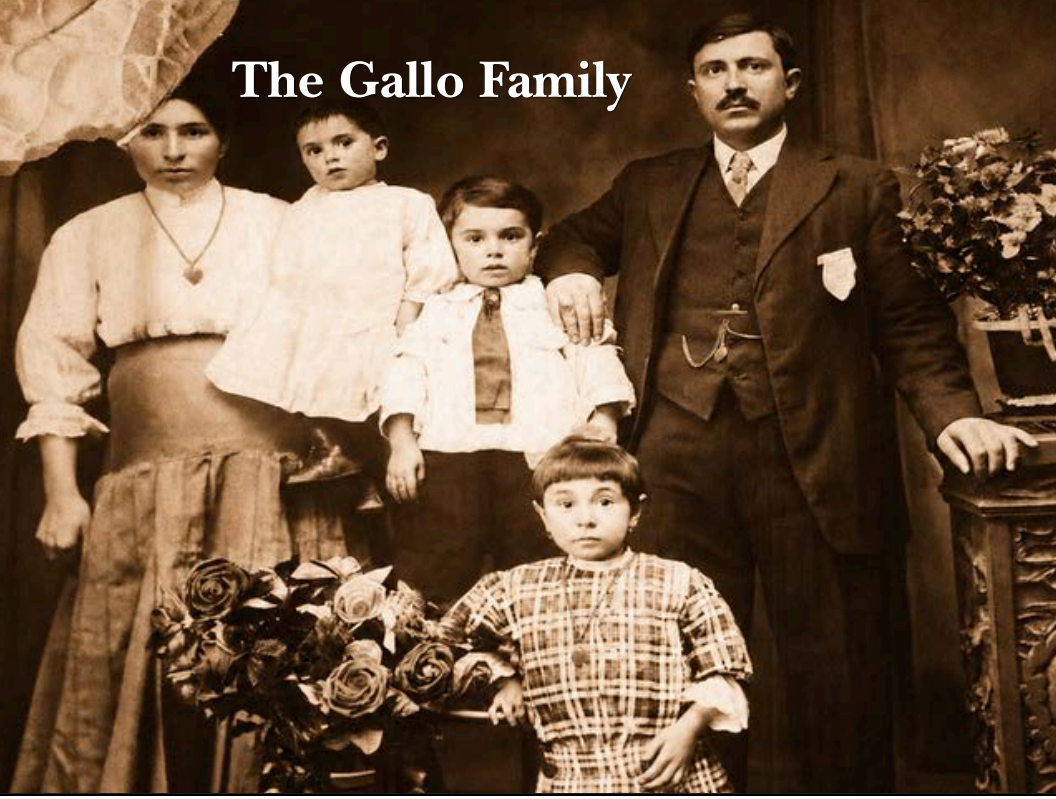
Remembering
Vitantonio Camperlengo and
Teodora Lorubbio,
who came to New York City
from Craco
and started a legacy.

In Loving Memory of

Domenico DeCesare

who came to America from Craco in 1967.





Angela Rose, Pietro, Antonio, Vincenzo, Rose (in front) circa 1917.

Honoring Saint Vincent

In loving memory of

Angela Rose (née Tuzio) & Vincenzo Gallo

who journeyed from Craco to America in 1911.

And in loving memory of their 14 children ...

Antonio (Josephine Calabrese), Rose, Pietro (Mary Sibliano), Maria (Mae) (Charles Pecoraro), Magdelena, Magdelena (Lena) (Charles Mitchell), Stella (John Viviano), Jean (Anthony Mulé), Salvatore (Rita Pisani), Giuseppe (Joe) (Isabel (Betty) D'Arecca), John, John (Ann Sciortino), Nicholas Robert/Fr. Regis O.F.M, Rita (Peggy) (Pasquale Monaco)

Their legacy includes ...

25 grandchildren ... 40 great grandchildren
and 37 (and counting) great, great grandchildren.

In Memory of

Giuseppe Grieco

Craco 1885 - 1959 New York

Grieco family circa 1912.

Left to right
Gaetano MD, Francis DDS,
Joseph, John, Alfred

Records indicate the Grieco family had roots in America as early as 1887.

Giuseppe was born in Craco, but spent some time in Salerno after his father went down with the SS Utopia in 1891. However, during most of his early years and young adulthood, he domiciled at 168 Mulberry St.

He married Maria LoPorchio at the tender age of 17, and went on to father eleven children including an MD and a DDS.

Giuseppe was a successful business man and three of his sons continued and expanded Star Waste Paper Corp into the 80s.

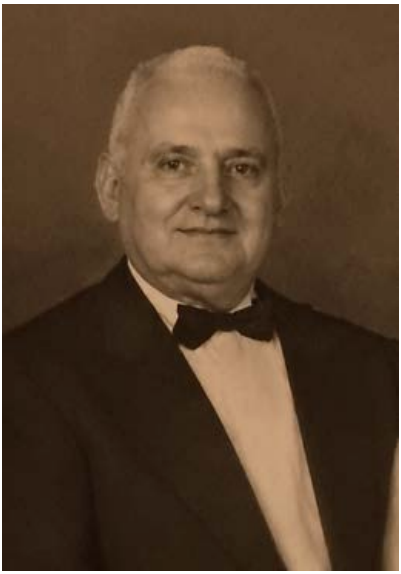
During their years in business, they operated out of Crosby St. next door to Vito Genovese, 511 Washington St, 430 West 18th St, and finally 516-18 West 27 St.

– Janis & Lisa Grieco

In Memory of

Giuseppe Grieco

Craco 1885 - 1959 New York



Many thanks to The Craco Society for celebrating and preserving our beautiful Italian heritage!

LISA LYNN GRIECO

ATTORNEY AT LAW

BERNSTONE AND GRIECO, LLP

295 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10017

TELEPHONE: (212) 532-1200
FACSIMILE : (212) 532-6330

In Loving Memory

of my grandparents

Antonio and Hiulia Gorgoglione

(1921) (1924)

who arrived at Ellis Island

from Craco, Italy

– *Richard Gorgoglione*

In Loving Memory

of my grandmother Anna Tricarico (front right),
great-grandmother Camilla Mormando Izzo (rear right),
great-great-grandmother Maria Giuseppa Dolcimele Mormando
(rear left), and my great-aunt Josephine Capparo (front left).

With all my love and eternal gratitude,
grandson, **Stephen LaRocca**

Offered in Tribute

to the memory of our grandparents,

Michael and Josephine Marino

from Avellino, Italy and

Pasquale and Maria Guariglia

from Craco, Italy

who migrated to New York City

at the turn of the 20th century.

Their families have grown and spread across the United States. They now reside in Connecticut, Florida, Montana, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas.

We thank and love them for their wisdom and courage to come to America for a good, free and prosperous life for them and

their families.

Lovingly,

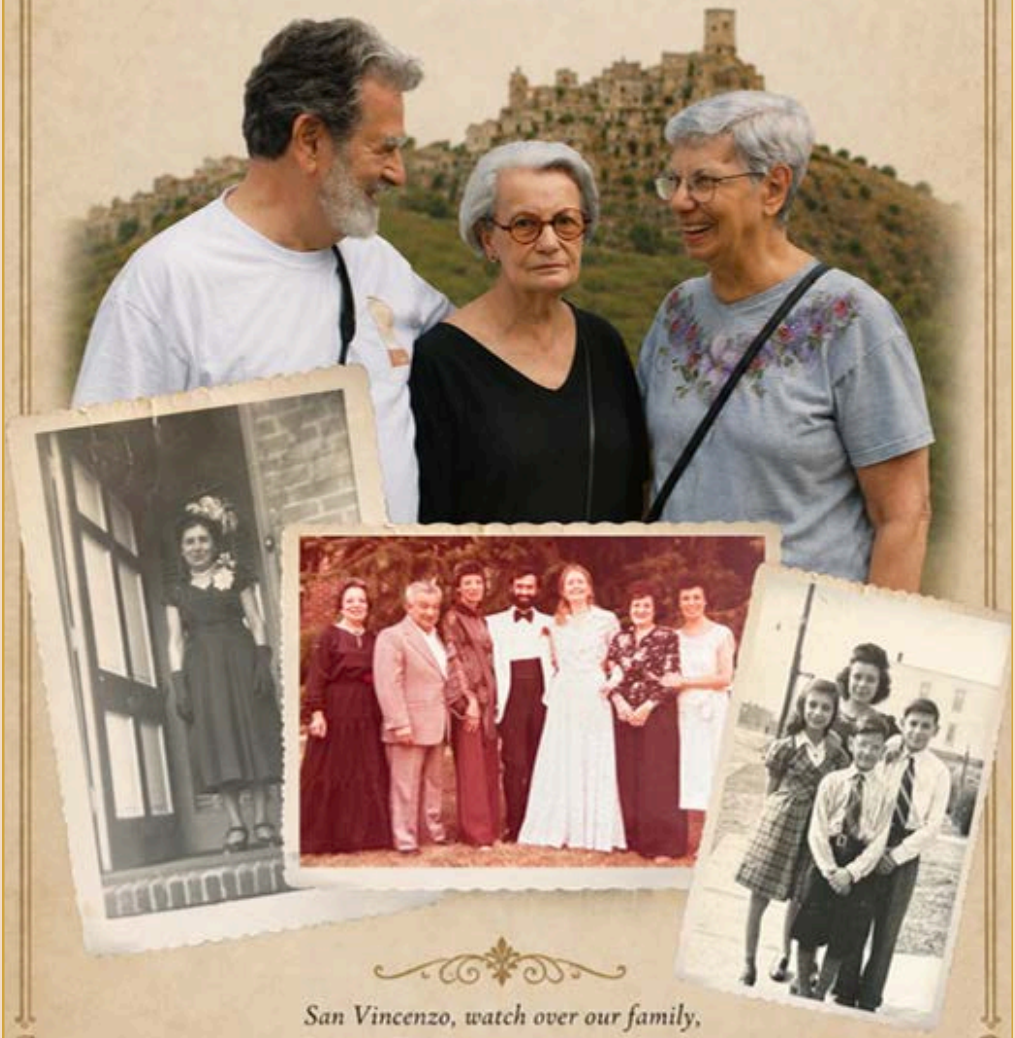
Maria, Pasquale and Michael Guariglia

TUZIO - LOSPINUSO
FAMILY

In loving memory of

ANN, JOSEPHINE & LOUIE

Children of Josephine Lospinuso (née Tuzio)



San Vincenzo, watch over our family,
guide our path, and keep us always in your loving care.

The Mormando Family

In Loving Memory of
Frank "Dusty" Mormando
(1936-2022)

Frank, Mark, Dusty, John

MADONNA DELLA STELLA

125TH FEAST OF SAN VINCENZO

1901 – 2026

A TRADITION. A COMMUNITY. A LEGACY.

CRACO

In Loving Memory

ANDREA RINALDI

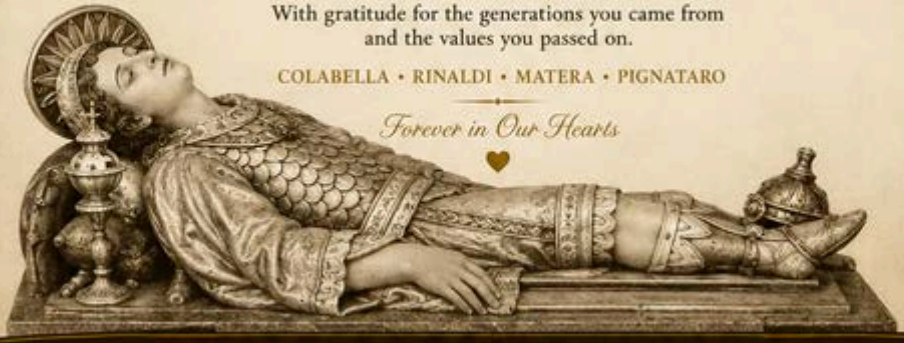
DOMENICA PIGNATARO

Thank you for your love, your strength,
and your unwavering dedication to our family.
Your legacy lives on in all that we do.

With gratitude for the generations you came from
and the values you passed on.

COLABELLA • RINALDI • MATERA • PIGNATARO

Forever in Our Hearts



HONORING OUR PAST. CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY. BUILDING OUR FUTURE.

In Loving Memory of

The Rubertone Family

Pietro Rubertone *(1873-1920)*
Maria Giuseppa Spero Rubertone *(1884-1954)*
Their children *(left to right)*
Peter (Kelly), Jean, Lena, Isabel, Danny and Jimmy.
(Back row) grandsons Peter and Edward DeBlasio.

The Spero Family

Celebrating 125 Years of the Feast of San Vincenzo Martire in New York City!

This anniversary marks not only a historic milestone, but the enduring strength of the Craco community – its faith, its culture and its commitment to one another.

With pride in our past and hope for our future, we celebrate all who have carried this tradition forward for generations.

Viva San Vincenzo!
Vìve Cràchë e tutte lë Cràchëtànë!

The Tocci Family

In Loving Memory of

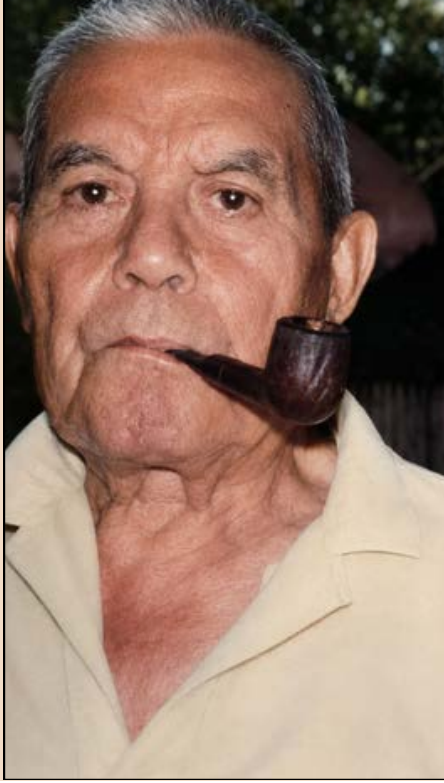
Dominick & Rosemarie Tocci

Together, they built more than a life.
They built a family.
A family rooted in love, strengthened by tradition, and enriched by the Italian heritage they proudly carried forward.
Their legacy lives on through their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The Anzilotti Family

In loving memory of my grandparents who came to America in 1913.

Francesco Paeto Anzilotti
& Rosa Maria Bloisi



Michael Anzilotti

In Memory of

Anna & Paolo Benedetto

Marilyn Augustyne

Leonardo Modena, born in Craco, Matera
3 daughters ; 3 grandchildren ; 8 great grandchildren
Worked at McKinley JH, Brooklyn for 32 years as a custodian

Vive congratulazioni per il 125º anniversario
della celebrazione di San Vincenzo Martire a New York.

IN MEMORY OF

MARY SONRICKER RINALDI

A TRUE FRIEND OF CRACO

1946 - 2019

In Memory of

Fr. Regis Gallo, O.F.M.

August 19, 1932 - June 27, 2025

A peaceful life of faith, well lived.

With love for our uncle,
The Gallo Family

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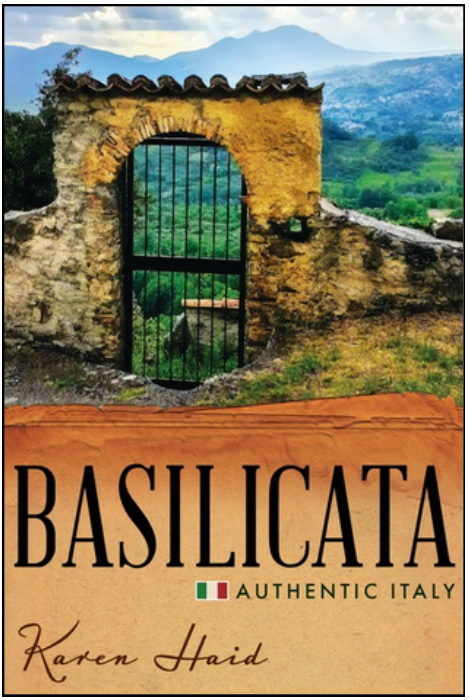
SAN ROCCO MONTESCAGLIOSO
147-149 Lewis st. (Montescaglioso st.)
PATERSON, N. J. 07501
Founded: October 28,1928

Basilicata: Authentic Italy

With heart and humor, author Karen Haid captures the essence of a fascinating land that maintains an old-world charm and authenticity into the 21st century.



"Striking depth and curiosity bring the reader a sense of familiarity that immerses you in Basilicata. Whether content to visit from the comfort of your armchair or planning your next trip to Italy, Karen Haid makes an excellent travel companion, one full of understanding and affection for the people and places she visits." – Ambassador Magazine

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Congratulations

to The Craco Society on the

125th Anniversary of

The Feast of San Vincenzo in New York City

from the St. Rocco Society of Potenza, Inc.

Viva San Vincenzo!!!

Viva San Rocco!!! Viva Lucania!!!

Learn more about the San Vincenzo statue and its sacred home

The Art of Immigration
Italian Art in an American Church
Most Precious Blood Church in New York's Little Italy

Authors
Mary Elizabeth Brown,
Janice Carapellucci;
Editor: Dr. Alan G. Hartman

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pastor emeritus

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Inno a San Vincenzo Martire

(Questo canto fu pensato dal sacerdoto don Carlo Romano all'epoca in cui era un giovane seminarista)

Un bel canto di gioia e d'amore,
Su concordi sciogliamo al Patrono.
Egli è duce ineffabile e buono,
Che ci guida al cammino del ciel.

Rit. Salve salve Vincenzo beato,
Salve o nostro speciale Patrono.
Lassù intorno al tuo fulgido trono,
Vogliam tutti venire con te. (Bis)

Or che in cielo risiedi avvocato,
Di tua Craco le fervide squadre,
Giubilanti ti invochiamo Padre,
Riverenti prostrate ai tuoi piè. Rit.

Hymn to Saint Vincent, Martyr

(This hymn was conceived by Father Carlo Romano when he was a young seminarian.)

A joyful song of love and gladness,
Together let us raise to our Patron.
He is our gracious and unfailing guide,
Who leads us on the pathway to Heaven.

Refrain:
Hail, hail, O blessed Vincent,
Hail, O our beloved Patron.
There in Heaven, around your radiant throne,
We all long to come and be with you.
(Repeat)

Now that in Heaven you dwell as our advocate,
The devoted ranks of your Craco,
Rejoicing, call upon you as Father,
Reverently bowed before your feet.

Perched dramatically above the valleys of Basilicata, Craco's historic center remains a powerful symbol of identity and belonging for generations of Cracotans and their descendants around the world.

The Craco Coat of Arms

The Craco Society (Inc.), is responsible for maintaining and preserving the statue of San Vincenzo. The Society was organized by descendants of Crachese immigrants in 2007 as a non-profit corporation to preserve the culture, traditions, and history of Craco in North America. The Society has been instrumental in documenting the story of the Crachese immigration and assimilation along with preserving historical material about Craco.

The town of Craco, Italy is a southern Italian hill town located in the Province of Matera and in the region of Basilicata. Its origins trace back over a millennium and a half. Although "Craco Vecchio" is no longer inhabited, it remains robust in the minds and hearts of the Crachese people everywhere and has become a mecca for visitors and artists. Founded in 540 AD by monks, the town prospered reaching a population of about 2,000. Then societal changes, economic problems, and a series of catastrophes made conditions there so difficult that from 1892-1922 over 1,250 individuals left to settle in North America.

Craco is a village which cannot be forgotten. Its haunting beauty has been the setting for several movies, the subject of television specials, and is now a site for historic preservation. It is one of Basilicata's most distinctive cultural landmarks, stands as an enduring testament to centuries of southern Italian history, architecture and tradition.

Visit our website to stay connected to our history and news.
Your membership/donation supports our ongoing mission.

The Craco Society
Founded in 2007
14 Earl Road
East Sandwich, MA 02537
774-269-6611

E-mail memberservices@thecracosociety.org
www.TheCracoSociety.org

Preghiera a San Vincenzo Martire Patrono di Craco

O forte e glorioso San Vincenzo, nostro insigne Patrono, che aveste l'onore di dare la vita per testimoniare la vostra fedeltà a Gesù Cristo, volgete amorevole lo sguardo su noi che, per sapiente disegno della Provvidenza, siamo, indegnamente, i fortunati custodi delle vostre reliquie.

Insegnateci, o Martire generoso, la tenacia nel bene, di cui ci siete modello, avendo perseverato nei buoni propositi anche quando siete stato strappato violentemente dal quieto vivere della vostra famiglia.

Comunicate alle nostre anime un poco del grande amore al nascondimento laborioso, di cui deste fulgida prova nel tempo della vostra vita.

Pregate il Signore Gesù perché la generosità vostra nell'amare la croce, abbia ad accendere sempre più i nostri cuori.

Presentate a Gesù, dolce amico delle nostre anime e corona dei martiri, il nostro vivo desiderio di sostenere coraggiosamente, come voi, ogni sofferenza della nostra vita. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Vincent, Martyr Patron Saint of Craco

O strong and glorious Saint Vincent, our illustrious Patron, who had the honor of giving your life in witness to your faithfulness to Jesus Christ, lovingly turn your gaze upon us who, through the wise design of Providence, are, though unworthy, the fortunate custodians of your relics.

Teach us, O generous Martyr, perseverance in doing good, of which you are our model, having remained steadfast in your good intentions even when you were violently torn from the peaceful life of your family.

Impart to our souls something of your great love for a humble and industrious life lived in obscurity, of which you gave such shining proof during your lifetime.

Pray to the Lord Jesus that your generosity in embracing the Cross may kindle our hearts ever more deeply.

Present to Jesus, sweet friend of our souls and crown of the martyrs, our earnest desire to endure courageously, as you did, every suffering of our lives. Amen.