



La Notizia Italiana

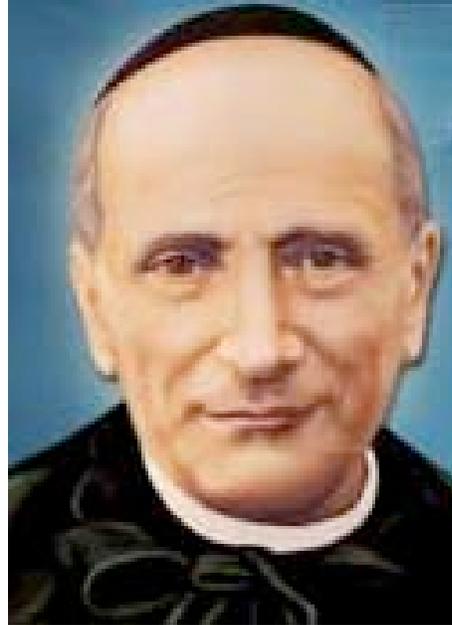
POINTers in Person

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SANTO ANNIBALE DI FRANCIA



Also known as:
Annibale Maria Di Francia;
Hannibal di Francia

Great Uncle of POINTers member
Lillian Pappas

Born:

5 July 1851 at Messina, Italy

Died:

1 June 1927 at Messina, Italy of
natural causes

Beatified:

7 Oct. 1990 - Pope John Paul II

Canonized:

16 May 2004 by Pope John Paul II

Saint Hannibal was born in
Messina, Sicily on July 5, 1851.

His father was Sir Francis Di

Francia, Marquis of /Saint Catherine, named by Pius IX as Papal Vice-Counsel and Honorary Lieutenant Commander of the Navy; his mother was the noblewoman Anna Toscano. When Saint Hannibal was two years old, his father died. At the age of seven, his mother sent him to St. Nicholas Boarding School in care of the Cistercian Fathers. There, he applied himself to the rudiments of knowledge, and his heart caught fire with religious fervor. He would always cherish the memory of good Fr. Foti, who enkindled in him the flames of love for the Blessed Virgin.

His love for others began to give off sparks. A poor man had gained entrance to the school cafeteria. While he was off in one corner, eating the little that had been given him, someone gave a signal for the fun to begin. Not only several of the school children but those who were supervising in the cafeteria went from witticisms to wisecracks, then started tossing at him fruit peels, cores, and table scraps. Humiliated, the man got up to leave. Little Hannibal couldn't bear to see the sight. He went to get a basket and put in it some bread, cheese, and fruit. He ran up to the man and gave him the food.

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The old man embraced him and, with tears in his eyes, kissed the boy. The Revolution of 1866 forced the boarding school to close down. Saint Hannibal was fifteen years old. Under the tutelage of the famous Sicilian poet Felice Bisazza, he continued his studies and made good progress. He was a born poet and if he had the time and means to cultivate his natural bent, he would have surely reaped laurels in the field of poetry. After all, isn't charity a form of poetry, the highest form of poetry?

An uncle of his was the editor of *La Parola Catolica* (The Catholic Word), and Saint Hannibal would contribute articles in those early years of his apostolate of the press. But he didn't confine his energies to the power of the pen. One day when he was leaving the Cathedral, wearing his good suit and jaunty hat, he noticed a soap-box orator in the square holding forth to a small circle of listeners and vociferating against the Pope. Without giving it a second thought, the pint-sized nobleman broke into the circle, confronted the smart-talker and cuffed him one in grandiose fashion, which muzzled the man and won the applause of the bystanders.

Rather suddenly and by a supernatural impetus, he felt himself drawn to the Sanctuary. On March 16, 1878 he was ordained a priest of God.

His Mission

A certain man named Lawrence, who was a florist, came to the city one day. Under his arm he bore a basket full of gardenias, the sweet-smelling white gardenias of Cumia. All of a sudden, the basket slipped from him, and the snow-white flowers landed in a puddle.

"It's God's will!" said the poor man, resigned to having lost a day's pay.

"Very good, my friend. God's will be done always!" interjected Fr. Di Francia. He was only a few steps behind the florist when he saw what happened and heard the words. He continued: "Look; it's nothing, really. Stay where you are hold the basket."

The priest bent down, picked the flowers up from the mud, and put them back in the basket. They were white. Snow-white, like before...

"Why, it's a miracle!" said the flabbergasted florist. Saint Hannibal Di Francia only quickened his pace and went on his way.

God earmarked Saint Hannibal Di Francia for this mission to lift up the souls of orphans from the mud and make their beauty shine in the light of truth and grace.

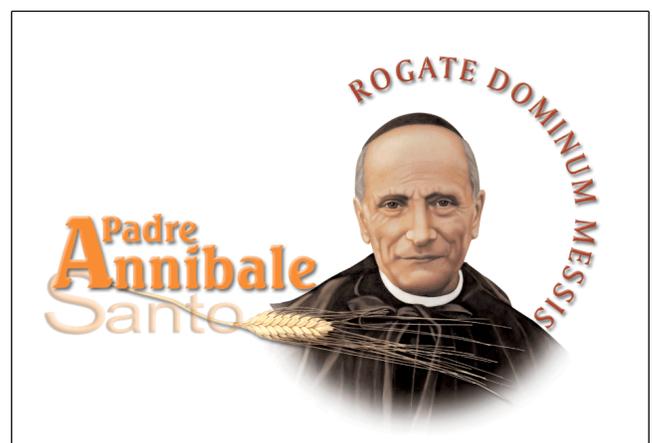
He was considered a saint during his life, and received a vision of the Virgin Mary just before his death. The groups he founded continue today, working all over the world in prayer, publishing, orphanages, schools, training for the deaf and mute, care for the aged, home for single mothers, and schools of all types. of his achievements or of his commitment to the United States and its Italian American community."

He had visions of Christ asking him to go out into the harvest and gather workers for the vineyard. Padre Di Francia started the Rogationists, an order of priests, he also started the Daughters of Divine Zeal, who took care of the orphans. The priests and nuns are all over the world. One day when the priests were seated at the table about to have their dinner, there was a knock at the door, when Padre Di Francia opened the door he saw a small child. He asked him to come in and have dinner. After dinner Padre Di Francia helped the child get ready for bed and when he kissed him goodnight he saw the face of Christ.

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints notified Lillian of the Beatification and also the Canonization, which was May 16, 2004.

Santo Annibale Di Francia's website is:

www.difrancia.net



Italian-American News:



Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Patricia D'Alesandro Pelosi (born March 26, 1940 in Baltimore, Maryland) is the 60th and current Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, following the 2006 Congressional elections, and is the first woman, first Californian, and **first Italian American in U.S. history** to hold that office. Pelosi ranks **second** in the Presidential line of succession following Vice President Dick Cheney. No woman has been closer to the Presidency.

Pelosi was the House Minority Leader of the 107th, 108th, and 109th Congresses of the United States. Since 1987, she has been the representative from the 8th district of California (numbered as 5th until 1993), which falls entirely within and includes most of the city and county of San Francisco.

Early life and career

Pelosi was born *Nancy D'Alesandro* to Italian-American parents in Baltimore, Maryland.[1] The youngest of six children, she was involved with politics from an early age. Her father, Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., was a U.S. Congressman from Maryland and a Mayor of Baltimore. Thomas L. J. D'Alesandro III, one of her five brothers, also served as Mayor of Baltimore from 1967 to 1971.

Pelosi graduated from Baltimore's Institute of Notre Dame high school and from Trinity College (now Trinity Washington University) in Washington, D.C. in 1962, where she met her future husband Paul Pelosi. When the couple married, they moved to his hometown of San Francisco, where his brother Ron Pelosi was a member of the city's board of supervisors[2] (San Francisco city and county council).

After her youngest child became a high school senior, Pelosi worked her way up in Democratic politics to become party chairwoman for Northern California, and joined forces with one of the leaders of the California Democratic Party, 5th District Congressman Phillip Burton.

Pelosi is an honorary board member of the **National Organization of Italian American Women.**

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POINTers in Person

The POINTers In Person program, an autonomous branch of **POINT - (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together)** was founded in 1992. Our group, Chapter 15, was organized in September 1996. The 21 nationwide chapters of POINTers In Person provide genealogical researchers an opportunity to meet socially, and learn and share information pertinent to Italian research. Each chapter is independent and sets forth its own procedures and schedules of events.

We cordially invite Italian genealogical researchers to attend our quarterly meetings. Membership is open to all. In addition to regular meetings our group takes occasional field trips to genealogical research sites in the New Jersey/New York area.

Calendar

Chapter 15 Meetings:

Elmwood Park Municipal Building
May 5, 2007
August 4, 2007
November 3, 2007

Passaic County Genealogical Society:

Lambert Castle
Meeting dates:
Feb. 10, 2007
Mar. 10, 2007
Apr. 14, 2007

Italian Language Groups:

See information at right
Thanks to Maryanne Graham for list.

Membership in our parent organization, POINT, is not a prerequisite to joining our group; however, it is highly recommended.

Internet Research: Useful Sites:

Italians, not in the US, looking for relatives:

<http://www.genealogica.it/>

Ship records online:

www.ancestorsonboard.com.

Italian source for books:

<http://www.casalini.it/>

These books are out-of-print, and some are independently-published books. The company is very efficient and will communicate in English via email.

Invaluable Tools:

<http://www.stevemorse.org/>

This site provides invaluable tools to the researcher.

Thanks to Margaret Cenci-Frontera for submitting the above information.

Italian Language Groups:

The Center for Italian & Italian-American Culture, Inc.
411 Pompton Avenue
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
Tel. 973-571-1995
Fax: 973-571-0199

Conversazione e Caffè offered at 3 different locations:

Cedar Grove Library
2nd & 4th Monday
6:30 - 7:45 PM
Municipal Plaza,
Pompton Avenue
Cedar Grove, NJ

Montville Library
1st & 3rd Thursday
7:00 - 8:00 PM
90 Horseneck Road
Montville, NJ
www.montvillelib.org

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Every Sunday,
6:00 - 7:30 PM
Richardson Hall

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Phone: +1 (202) 547-5106

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The Lou Costello Chapter

POINTers In Person

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