

# *Celebrating 105 Years*



*OSIA is the largest and longest-established national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States.*  
*The Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA)*

## FRIENDS VS. ITALIAN FRIENDS

FRIENDS: Never ask for food.

ITALIAN FRIENDS: Always bring the food.

FRIENDS: Will say "hello".

ITALIAN FRIENDS: Will give you a big hug and a kiss.

FRIENDS: Call your parents Mr. and Mrs.

ITALIAN FRIENDS: Call your parents mom and dad.

FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.

ITALIAN FRIENDS: Cry with you.

FRIENDS: Will eat at your dinner table and leave.

ITALIAN FRIENDS: Will spend hours there, talking, laughing and just being  
Together.

FRIENDS: know a few things about you.

ITALIAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

FRIENDS: Would knock on your door.

ITALIAN FRIENDS: Walk right in and say, "I'm home!"

FRIENDS: Are for a while.

ITALIAN FRIENDS: Are for life.



# *Welcome*



**Over 5.4 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 1992. Today there are over 26 million Americans of Italian descent in the United States, making them the fifth largest ethnic group.**



# Our Legacy



***“L'Ordine Figli d'Italia”***

**Created on June 22, 1905**

**By**

**Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro and  
five other Italian immigrants  
who came to the United  
States during the great  
Italian migration (1880-1923)**



# *Our History*



- **Established in 1905 as a mutual aid society for the early Italian immigrants, today OSIA has more than 600,000 members and supporters and a network of more than 700 Chapters coast to coast, making it the leading service and advocacy organization for the nation's estimated 26 million people of Italian descent.**
- **Our missions include encouraging the study of Italian language and culture in American schools and universities; preserving Italian American traditions, culture, history and heritage; and promoting closer cultural relations between the United States and Italy.**
- **The Sons of Italy Foundation is a private, philanthropic institution, established by OSIA in 1959. To date, the SIF has given more than \$93 million to scholarships, medical research, cultural preservation, disaster relief, and other projects.**
- **The Commission for Social Justice is the anti-defamation arm of OSIA. The CSJ is committed to fighting racism, prejudice, and the stereotyping of all races, religions and cultures.**
- **OSIA's National Headquarters is in Washington, D.C., near Capitol Hill and the various congressional office buildings.**



# *Our Mission*



- **Enroll all eligible persons so that we may successfully promote:**
  - **National Education**
  - **Secure adequate laws for the benefit of our members**
  - **Encourage the dissemination of Italian Culture**
  - **Organize programs for patriotic and humanitarian purposes**
  - **To combat discrimination while protecting and upholding the positive image and prestige of people of Italian heritage**



# *Our Motto*



**The motto of our Order throughout its history has always been:**

**“Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.”**





# *Our Concept of Liberty*



- **A free country as it was conceived by the founders of our Republic.**
- **Freedom that uplifts all people and affirms their rights in every field of human endeavor**
- **Freedom of assembly, of speech, of opportunity and above all economic freedom.**
- **Freedom of thought, of conscience and of religion.**



# *Our Concept of Equality*



- **All people are created equal and are equal under the law.**
- **Equal in the exercise of our rights.**
- **Equal in the fulfillment of our duties so that the benefits of human progress may be achieved and enjoyed by all without distinction as to race, color, creed, caste, or class.**



# Our Concept of Fraternity



- **We affectionately extend our hand to all without distinction as to race, color or creed.**
- **We console the families of our deceased members.**
- **We keep alive the traditions of our ancestors.**
- **We believe in brotherhood, and that the state was created to serve its citizens**



# *Our Oath*



**We have pledged ourselves and taken an oath to:**

- **Accept & respect the principles of the Order.**
- **Believe in God & our country.**
- **Uphold & defend the constitution and laws of our country.**
- **Believe in government by orderly process and do not believe in any doctrines that tend to unlawfully subvert constituted government & authority.**
- **Have an affectionate and high regard for the rich culture of the land of our ancestors.**
- **Support the charitable endeavors of the Order.**



# *Our Charities*



- **Alzheimer's Association**
- **Cooley's Anemia**
- **March of Dimes**
- **National Law Enforcement Memorial**
- **Birth Defects**
- **National Education & Leadership**
- **Disaster Relief**
- **Garibaldi-Meucci Museum**
- **Boys Town of Italy**
- **OSIA National Student Summit**
- **Barbara Sinatra Children's Center**
- **Medical research**
  - Cancer
  - Arthritis
  - Crohn's & Colitis Disease
  - Multiple Sclerosis
- **Children's Center at NIH**
- **Statue of Liberty Restoration**
- **Ellis Island Wall of Honor**
- **Immigration Research at the University of Minnesota**
- **National World War II Memorial**
- **Special Olympics**
- **American Fund for Dental Health**
- **Catholic Relief Services**



Did you know?



***The Nations' highest military  
award***

***“The Medal of Honor”***

***has been awarded to***

***23 Italian Americans***



A successful member is one who  
can lay a firm foundation with the  
bricks that others have given.



The most important question  
is before us now!

*Will we become just a footnote in  
the history of our beloved  
Order?*





## A Miraculous Fact



***“Once, on this earth, on this familiar spot of ground, walked other men and women, as actual as we are today, thinking their own thoughts, swayed by their own passions, but now they are all gone. One generation vanishing after another, gone as utterly we ourselves shall shortly be gone like ghosts.”***



**It's now time for action.**

***Our future is in your hands!***

***Together we can save our  
heritage.***

***Join Us!***