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 Chapter #319 • Italian American Chamber of Commerce •
 Italian American Civic Organization of Berwyn • I-A
 Executives of Transportation • I-A Human Relations
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 Italian American Police Association • Italian American
 Political Coalition • Italian American Society (Springfield)
 • Italian American Women's Club of Chicagoland
 • Italian American Women's Organization
 • Italian Catholic Federation • Italian Catholic Federation
 #392 • Italian Cultural Center • Italics Club • Italo-
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 Panormus • San Rocco di Modugno Society • Shrine of
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 Sicilian American Cultural Association • Società Beato
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 • Society of Santa Fara di Cinisi • UNICO, Chicago
 Amerital Chapter • UNICO, Chicago West Suburban Chpt.
 • UNICO, Greater Chicago Chapter
 • Veneti del Nordamerica



We have much to be thankful for

by Jo Ann Serpico

The following greeting was made by Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans President Jo Ann Serpico at the Columbus Day Mass on Oct. 8 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii.

For years, hundreds of Italian Americans have made the pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii on Columbus Day, celebrating Columbus and his mastery.

We are thanking you, Lord, for our heritage, and asking your blessing on preserving this tradition and way of life so that it may continue for generations to come.

Columbus is rightfully memorialized as one of the greatest Italians and foremost navigators of all times. His most famous voyage is what fuels the engines of the Italian-American community.

We are a people of faith, family and friends: hard-working, intelligent and motivated with a rich perspective for tradition. We have the highest hopes, soaring ambitions and we ride a wave of enthusiasm.

We have always put forth an effort to succeed. Our passion for our heritage remains the dominant feature of our community.

This year, we dedicate our Mass and all of the festivities to celebrate Columbus to the memory of Theresa Petrone, the beloved matriarch of our community. Her acumen is undiminished.

Just as Columbus is so much a part of our heritage, Theresa is so much a part of our Columbus Day Parade. Year after year she was an integral part of the early planning: hard-work, skillful negotiation, and sometimes tough decision making for the parade. Theresa was a multi-tasker extraordinaire.

An Italian discovered America and Italians and Italian Americans have gone on to make artistic achievements for generations. We have long played a role in entertaining America.

This year, we salute the many Italian Americans with phenomenal appeal who are responsible for more-than-significant contributions to the performing and visual arts.

Columbus pushed the frontiers of discovery. We now push for Italian Americans to be recognized for our strength of character, deep patriotism, and uniqueness of our heritage.

We are proud of our numerous contributions to America.

We thank you, Lord, for Christopher Columbus.

We thank you, Lord, for Theresa Petrone.

We thank you, Lord, for all we salute in the performing and visual arts.

Most of all, Lord, we thank you for our community and the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans: our unity and our strength.