



Monthly Newsletter

January 2024 | Maria Santissima Lauretana Society – Arizona Chapter

Buon Anno!!



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Living in a coastal village in Sicily meant, for more than a thousand years, and until the first decades of the eighteen hundreds, exposure to attacks by Pirates; mainly from Turkey. This piracy made these villages an extremely insecure place to live and these attacks frequently sowed death and desperation amongst the inhabitants. A raid occurred on the night between the 14th and 15th of July 1636. The feudal



land of Altavilla Milicia was burnt and destroyed. Many inhabitants were enslaved. Some escaped the raid but the census was reduced to some 40 people.



During the attack, the painting of our Lady was damaged by pirates who began to strike the back of it with an ax. Legend states that during their attack on the painting, the ax exploded in the pirate's hand, thereby forcing him and his criminal friends to abandon their attack and flee.

Attempt to repair the damage was performed in 1990, during the restoration of the painting. However, the marks of the ax are still visible to this day on the rear of the painting.

Out of those that escaped Altavilla, some fled to Palermo to notify the city of what had happened in Altavilla concerning the miraculous explosion of the ax and the impending invasion of Palermo. In Palermo, the festival of Saint Rosalia was interrupted. Notices were posted throughout Palermo asking every man to show up with weapons and fight to defend the city. Thousands showed up to defend the city of Palermo and the pirates attempted raid on Palermo was deflected. This single event forever tied the city of Palermo with our Lady of Altavilla Milicia. The people of Palermo believe that Maria SS Lauretana was the reason they were spared from the pirate invasion. Our Lady of Altavilla Milicia is believed to also be the proctress of Palermo. To this day, many of the men that carry our Lady's throne are actually from Palermo. This demonstrates the unwavering devotion that has been handed down from father to son since the 1600's. In addition, every year, as our Lady's image leaves the sanctuary in procession, the throne/altar ("vara") briefly rests just outside the church, in the direction of Palermo. This being a sign of her continued protection of the city.



In September of this year, for the first time ever, the image of our Lady was transported to Palermo on a boat, and from the port, in procession, into the Cathedral of Palermo where a mass was held in her honor. There she remained for 24 hours to allow the citizens of Palermo to pay homage to



their great mother and proctress, Maria SS Lauretana. What a beautiful way to solidify the continued love and devotion that the people of the province of Palermo have for Our Lady of Altavilla Milicia.



“Nun ce cristianu ca'nun la chiama!” Viva Maria Lauretana!

NEXT GET-TOGETHER
January 13th, 2023

6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

at

St. Joseph Church – St. Joseph Hall

MENU

Pasta

Salad

Prime Rib, Mixed Vegetables

Bread & Butter

Water, Coffee & Dessert

PRICE

\$25.00

PLEASE RSVP TO

Lina Davi > 602-418-5679

MEETING

January 17th 2023

7:00 PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church

St. Joseph Hall

11001 N. 40th Street

Phoenix, AZ. 85028

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any board member. Contact information is just below. Also, if you wish to email our general email, you may send it to

mariasslauretanaaz@gmail.com

REMINDER: Our Annual St. Valentine's Banquet & Fund Raiser will be held on Saturday, February 17th 2023. This year, the banquet will be at Maggiano's Little Italy at 16405 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ. 85254. I'd say pencil it in on your calendars, but we penciled it in for you on

the calendars we provided! 😊 Music by DJ Hankster. Invite your family and friends and get a whole table to yourselves! Come join us for a great night out!

Price per person = \$75.00

To RSVP, please contact any of our Board Members:



President

Vice President

Treasurer

General Secretary

Trustee

Trustee

Apollonia Scianna

Franca Barone

Rosaria Ippolito

Sam Scimeca

Lina Davi

Sara Accardi

623-695-5254

602-793-0982

602-410-0397

602-622-5171

602-418-5679

602-677-3968

Society Calendars



Although this newsletter generally provides announcements of all the upcoming events, the Board of Directors decided to provide **each member's household**, a free custom calendar for 2024, listing each month's scheduled meeting, get-togethers, St. Joseph Novena, Ottava to Maria SS Lauretana, Picnic details etc.



The calendar is a small wall calendar.

All you need to do is retrieve your free calendar and hang it on the wall in your house! Each time you flip the page into another month, you will see all the events scheduled for that month. What better way to know what's going on and when! Most of these calendars are being mailed. However some of them were handed to Board members to distribute personally.



If you do not receive your calendar by January 15th, please call Sam Scimeca at 602-622-5171 or email him at mariasslauretanaaz@gmail.com

Maria SS Lauretana Society Sponsors Two Families on Christmas

It is with great joy that we announce our sponsorship of two families this past Christmas. Apollonia Scianna worked with St. Joseph Catholic Church to identify two indigent families. The two families were found and Apollonia went shopping, on behalf of the Society, to purchase everything on these two families' Christmas wish list. The gifts were delivered to these families by Apollonia Scianna and Olga Sanchez (St. Joseph Church) just in time for Christmas. This is just one small way that we can give back. Thank you Apollonia for doing this on our behalf. May God continue to show these families that people DO care!