



September 2006

La Rondine

LA RONDINE

“Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan” by George Pepe, Ph.D. to be presented at our September 20th Dinner Meeting

Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, was one of the most eminent bishops of the 4th century. Along with Augustine of Hippo, Jerome and Gregory I, he is counted as one of the four Doctors of the West in ancient church history.

Dr. George Pepe, Professor of Classics at Washington University, will talk about St. Ambrose's role in the debate with Symmachus over the removal of the Altar of Victory from the Senate house in Rome, in combating the resistance to Christianity by the upholders of the old state religion. This issue has often been seen as sounding the death knell for paganism and bringing about the completion of the Christianization of the empire. Ambrose's speeches as well as those of Symmachus, his pagan opponent, survive so that we have a ring-side view of the struggle between these different attitudes toward the nature of religion and its role in the political arena.

Dr. Pepe received his Ph.D. from Princeton University. His interests center around Roman history and ancient political thought and its later influence. Besides lecturing on the Roman Republic and Roman Empire, he teaches all levels of Latin, particularly upper level courses in Cicero, Seneca, and Tacitus. Professor Pepe helped to develop the Text & Tradition Program and has served as its director since 1982. He is the recipient of a summer research grant from Washington University to develop a new course for the program, entitled "Scriptures and Scripturalism". He will focus on the canonical texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam together with examples of diverse interpretations. *by Pete Puleo*

Next Meeting

Wednesday

September 20th

Cocktails – 6:30p.m.

**Dinner – 7:00 p.m.
\$22 per person**

**RSVP
Dan and Jan Viele**

**(636) 537-5960
or**

**ItalianClubSTL@aol.com
by noon
Tuesday Sept. 19th**

“Pompeii: The Last Day” Documentary Presentation at our August 16th meeting

The August movie program, titled “Pompeii: The Last Day” is a dramatized documentary that tells of the eruption of the Vesuvius in the year 79AD. This eruption covered the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in ash and lava, killing all those trapped between the volcano and the sea. The documentary accurately portrayed the different phases of the eruption. It was a BBC production.

The documentary tells the story of the eruption from the point of view of assorted inhabitants of Pompeii and Herculaneum whose names and occupations are known; including a local politician, a fuller, and two gladiators. It draws heavily on the eye-witness account of Pliny the Younger as well as historical research and recent discoveries in volcano science.

On Aug. 24, 79 A.D., Mount Vesuvius unleashed its fury and blew its top, literally. Nineteen hours after the eruption the Roman resort towns of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae were destroyed, buried beneath tons of ash and rock. They remained hidden for the next 1,700 years.

Few lived to tell the tale of that horrifying tragedy, but in the 16th century two letters came to light. At the time of the eruption, a man known as Pliny the Younger was staying at the home of his uncle, Pliny the Elder.

Like a modern-day storm chaser, the older Pliny set out for the heart of Pompeii at the first signs of the volcano's stirring, to witness this once-in-a-lifetime event. He did not survive; however, his nephew, who remained behind with his mother, did live. Pliny the Younger's letters to his friend Tacitus, a Roman historian, recount the events of that terrifying day. This is the only known eyewitness account of the eruption.

by Pete Puleo



“The Last Day is a dramatized documentary that tells of the eruption of the Vesuvius in the year 79AD. This eruption covered the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in ash and lava, killing all those trapped between the volcano and the sea.”

L'angolo del Presidente by James Tognoni

My Fellow Members and Friends:

Well, summer is fading. You can hear and smell the change of the season coming. Before you know it, we will be talking about the holidays and all the parties and get-togethers. Sad to see summer go but fall has so many entertaining things to do. I like to go with friends to the various art fairs; events at the Botanical Garden and, of course, all the wonderful Italian American activities throughout the month of October. There is the St. Ambrose La Festa, Columbus Day parade and festa, banquets, etc. Don't forget, we will be having the Film & Opera series at the Bocce Club once again. The films

are free and great way to spend an evening. That brings me to Italian Club business. The Nominating Committee has done a great job of putting together a slate of candidates. Their recommendations will be presented at the September monthly meeting. Elections for the Officers and one Director will be held at the October monthly meeting. It has been my privilege to serve as an Officer or Director of the Club for about 16 years now. It is most gratifying and one of the highlights of my life. One thing I have tried to stress to all of you is to please communicate with me or any of the Board members. This Club belongs to us all, every suggestion is

appreciated. If you have complaints we would like to hear them, as well. I'll close for now. Please keep your copy of *LaRondine* so that you can see what's happening in our community. I also want to take this opportunity to send best wishes to our President Emeritus, Gene Mariani. As many of you know, he is in China for a few months on a teaching assignment. Be well, be safe, be happy and love to the fullest of your heart.

Ciao, Jim

(314) 865-1005 jtognoni@earthlink.net

Italian Film and Opera Series sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis and the Italia America Bocce Club

"STANNO TUTTI BENE"

September 15 at 7:30p.m. at the Bocce Club

A bittersweet tale of family love and family secrets, EVERYBODY'S FINE stars **Marcello Mastroianni** as Matteo Scuro, a retired Sicilian bureaucrat who has seen his friends and his own children leave his island for success on the Italian mainland. Determined to have a family reunion, he decides to travel to the mainland to surprise his five children. His journey takes him to the vast cities of modern Italy, where he is forced to face a chaotic and anxious modern way of life. He begins his journey in Naples, looking for his son Alvaro (Salvatore Cascio), but can not find him. Then he visits Rome, where he sees his son Canio (Marino Cenna), but quickly leaves the chaotic city for Florence, and the home of his daughter Tosca (Valeria Cavalli). In Milan, Matteo visits Guglielmo (Robert Nobile) and his troubled teenage son (Fabio Lellini). Finally, his mission takes him to Torino where he visits Norma (Norma Martelli). Matteo is consistently struck by his own children's need to hide their pain and troubles from him, but ultimately, at their family reunion in Rome, Matteo discovers that his children are hiding a wrenching family secret. This beautifully filmed slice of modern Italian life is a poignant portrait of a father's unrealized dreams for his children. Mastroianni is delightful as the keenly observant yet traditional father of five children, named after his most beloved operas. A truly Italian homage to life, family, and operatic moments of tragedy and self-realization, EVERYBODY'S FINE is directed by Giuseppe Tornatore. The film will be introduced by Roger Gennari. *Admission is free!*

SAVE THE DATES: Friday, October 13 and Friday, November 10 for more films and operas!

"Prisoners Among Us"
by **Michael Angelo DiLauro**
sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis
and the National Italian American Foundation

Friday, October 27
Missouri Historical Society in Forest Park
6p.m.—Reception
7p.m.—Film and Discussion

"Prisoners Among Us", a feature-length documentary by award-winning filmmaker Michael Angelo DiLauro and recipient of the "Grand Jury Prize" for Best Documentary at the 2005 New York International Independent Film Festival, chronicles the assimilation of Italians into American culture from 19th century immigration through World War II. The film will be followed by a question & answer session with DiLauro.

St. Louis University's
Third Annual Gene Mariani Lecture Series
Sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis,
Southwest Bank and the Mariani Family

"The Humanists and the Classics: Seneca's Heritage
in Petrarch's 'On the Solitary Life'"

by
Dr. Elvira Giosi
Thursday, September 28th at 3:30p.m.
Ritter Hall, Room 320.
St. Louis University Campus

Dr. Giosi will join the SLU faculty in August. She holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University and received her Laurea in Lettere Classiche from Università la Sapienza, Rome.

Congratulations to the Columbus Day Honorees!

Grand Marshal— Giovanni Domenic Galati
Spirit of Columbus Award— Joe Barbaglia
Miss Italian St. Louis— Julie Ronzio
Maids of Honor— Filomena DiMartino and Melissa Fields
Columbus Day Corporation's Dinner— Sunday, September 17
For reservations: Antonino Lombardo 314-638-3446

Going to Italy? Don't forget to look for that unusual and artistic Presepio for the Hill Nativity Walk 2006. Make sure the region of your ancestors is represented in the exhibit. For more information about history and regional distinctions of nativity sets see <http://www.italystl.com/>

Click on the Italian Club then Hill Nativity Walk 2005

Columbus Day Booth— Sun. October 8th

Once again the Italian Club will have a booth at the Columbus Day Festival. We need workers and would appreciate your help. Please contact Gloria DiMartino Etling (314) 965-6972.

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein



Giuseppe Giusti (Monsummano 1809 – Firenze 1850) fu accademico della Crusca e deputato al parlamento di Firenze. Il Giusti fu un liberale illuminato ed uno dei migliori poeti satirici italiani dell'800. Nel 1845, a Milano, conobbe il Manzoni. Fra le opere più note è Sant'Ambrogio, di cui la prima parte è qui presentata.

Sant'Ambrogio

di Giuseppe Giusti

Vostra eccellenza che mi sta in cagnesco
 Per que' pochi scherzucci di dozzina,
 e mi gabella per anti-tedesco
 perché metto le birbe alla berlina,
 o senta il caso avvenuto di fresco
 a me, che girellando una mattina,
 càpito in Sant' Ambrogio di Milano,
 in quello vecchio, la fuori di mano.
 M'era compagno il figlio giovinetto
 D'un di que' capi un po' pericolosi,
 di quel tal Sandro, autor d'un romanzetto
 ove si tratta di Promessi Sposi...
 Che fa il nesci, Eccellenza? O non l'ha letto?
 Ah, intendo: il suo cervel, Dio lo riposi,
 in tutt'altra faccende affaccendato,
 a questa roba è morto e sotterrato.
 Entro, e ti trovo un pieno di soldati,
 di que' soldati settentrionali,
 come sarebbe Boemi e Croati,
 messi qui nella vigna a far da pali:
 di fatto se ne stavano impalati,
 come sogliano in faccia a' generali,
 co' baffi di copecchio e con que' musci,
 davanti a Dio diritti come fusi.
 Mi tenni indietro; ché piovuto in mezzo
 Di quella marmaglia, io non lo nego
 D'aver provato un senso di ribrezzo
 Che lei non prova in grazia dell'impiego.
 Sentiva un afa, un abito di lezzo:
 scusi, Eccellenza, mi parean di sego,
 in quella bella casa del Signore,
 fin le candele dell'altar maggiore.
 Ma in quella in quella che s'appresta il sacerdote
 a consacrar la mistica vivanda
 di sùbita dolcezza mi percuote
 su, di verso l'altare, un suon di banda.
 Dalle trombe di guerra uscian le note
 Come di voce che si raccomanda
 D'una gente che gema in duri stenti
 e de' perduti beni si rammenti.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Basilica di Sant'Ambrogio

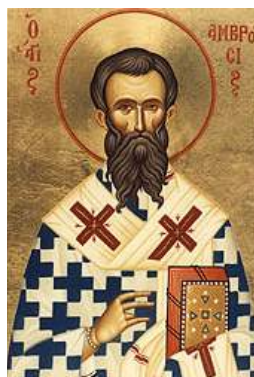


È una delle chiese più antiche di Milano e storicamente uno fra gli edifici medioevali più notevoli della Lombardia. Iniziata nel 379, fu costruita in piccole proporzioni a tre navate senza transetto. Nel 386 fu consacrata da Sant'Ambrogio il quale, alla sua morte avvenuta nel 397, vi fu sepolto vicino ai corpi di San Gervasio e San Protasio.

Nel 789 accanto alla chiesa fu costruito il monastero dei Monaci Benedettini e nel IX secolo fu eretto il campanile di destra, molto semplice, detto dei monaci. Le absidi e il presbiterio furono costruiti nel X secolo, mentre nel XII secolo furono costruite le navate, il tiburio, l'atrio e il campanile di sinistra, di stile Romanico-Lombardo, spartito da lesene e cornici di archetti pensili. Alla fine del XV secolo il cardinale Ascanio Sforza incaricò il Bramante di costruire i chiostri e il portico.

Nei secoli seguenti avvennero altri mutamenti, ma nel 1857 l'arciduca Massimiliano d'Austria ordinò di riportare la basilica alla primitiva semplicità, dopo le deturpazioni avvenute nell'epoca barocca, facendole assumere l'aspetto attuale.

Danneggiata dai bombardamenti del 1943, venne ripristinata dall'architetto Ferdinando Reggiori. L'atrio a portico rettangolare che precede la chiesa sostituisce quello originario ispirato dall'arcivescovo Ansperto il quale resse la chiesa milanese dall'868 all'881. Fu modificato nelle forme attuali nella prima metà del XII secolo. I capitelli dei pilastri del robusto porticato sono adorni di decorazioni vegetali, animali simbolici e figure mostruose. Ai muri, sotto il portico che cinge su tre lati e si chiude nel fondo alla facciata della chiesa, sono allineate lapidi tombali, bassorilievi e il sarcofago dell'arcivescovo Ansperto. La facciata, fiancheggiata dai due campanili, è composta di due logge sovrapposte delle quali quella superiore ha cinque arcate degradanti e in basso



è il nartece ove si aprono i tre portali. I due portali laterali, con possenti architravi, recano raffigurazioni tratte dai bestiari medioevali; il mediano è fiancheggiato da colonnine con architrave. Le originarie imposte lignee intagliate con Scene della vita di David e Saul risalgono al IV e VII secolo, ma furono quasi completamente rifatte nel XVIII secolo; i frammenti sono conservati nel [Museo della Basilica](http://www.museoambrosiano.it).

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi: <http://www.italytraveller.com>

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

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Prossime manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

September 20 - "St. Ambrose" by Dr. George Pepe

October 18 - Italian Heritage Month

The Italian Club meets the third Wednesday of each month for dinner at da Baldo's
Cocktails—6:30p.m. Dinner- 7:00p.m. \$22.00 per person

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Friday, September 15- Italian Film & Opera Series- "Stanno Tutti Bene"- 7:30p.m. Bocce Club

Sunday, September 17- Columbus Day Parade Corporation Recognition Dinner- 5:30p.m.—Christy's Hall

Sunday, September 24- Hill Sick and Elderly Program's Annual Ravioli Dinner—noon—6p.m.— St. Ambrose

Thursday, September 28- St. Louis University's Third Annual Gene Mariani Lecture Series

Sunday, October 1- "La Festa" at St. Ambrose from noon—6p.m.

Sunday, October 8- Columbus Day Parade and Festival- noon -5p.m. at Berra Park

Sunday, October 22- Misericordia Society's Annual Banquet

Friday, October 27- Michael DiLauro—"The Prisoners Among Us" - Missouri Historical Society