



THE 2013 CAPITOLO GENERALE  
AND  
TOUR OF ROMAN PALACES OF ROME  
September 13 – 16, 2013



## 2013 Chapter General (*Capitolo Generale*)



The 2013 Chapter General (*Capitolo Generale*) of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy was a particularly momentous occasion for new members of the American Delegation, members promoted in grade, and for those participating for the first time in the traditional ceremonies under the Grand Mastership of H.R.H. Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy, Duke of Savoy and Prince of Naples. For the first time since the Second World War, the 2013 Chapter General was held in the Eternal City of Rome and in the extraterritorial properties of Vatican City (September 14 - September 15).

The historical connection between the Savoy dynasty and Rome made this an historically significant setting, particularly when one reflects on the role played by the Savoy sovereigns in the foundation of a united Italy. It was King Victor Emmanuel II who seized the opportunity to finally occupy Rome on September 20, 1870, after France's defeat at the Battle of Sedan, nineteen days earlier, caused the French army to withdraw from Rome, and to declare it the capital of the united Kingdom of Italy. The date has been celebrated ever since as the milestone of Italy's *Risorgimento*. In 1871, the Quirinale Palace, formerly the residence of the Pope as temporal leader of the Papal States, became the official royal residence of the Kings of Italy. The Savoy sovereigns wrote a new chapter to Rome's political history as well as to its artistic heritage by the policy of acquiring works of art for their royal residences.

On Friday evening, September 13, the American Delegation organized a special Welcome Dinner at the *Reale Circolo Canottieri Tevere Remo* (Royal Sports Club) for the American contingent of knights and dames and new honorees being admitted to the Savoy Orders. The formal investiture ceremonies of Saturday morning and afternoon at the Pontifical Urban University were followed by festivities in the garden and gala benefit dinner in the grand hall of the Palazzo Colonna in the evening and Procession and Solemn Mass at the Pontifical Urban College, the following Sunday morning. On Monday, September 16, the American Delegation also organized a tour of four historic Roman Palaces of the ancient Roman nobility of historical importance to the Savoy dynasty. The 2013 tour could not have been possible without meticulous planning and coordination of the arrangements by our confrere, Comm. Prof. Eric Ierardi [who regrettably was unable to attend this year] with our confrere, Comm. Agostino Mattoli.





The American Delegation consisted of the Delegate Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli; Uff. Dott. Igor Alexandroff; Uff. Anthony Cipriano; Cav. Avv. Frank Desiderio, Uff. Gerald Farrell Jr., Gr. Uff. Prof. Theodore Jacobsen, Cav. William Johns, Cav. Daniel McClory, Uff. Rev. John W. Rick III, Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson and Dama di Comm. Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò, as well as those being admitted as *cavalieri* in the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus: Mr. Vincent Pica II and Mr. Robert Roberson and Uff. Avv. Gerald Farrell Jr., who was promoted to *Ufficiale* OSSML. Our Delegation contingent was joined by friends and family members who came from California, Texas, New York and Virginia to experience the traditional ceremonies and dazzling events during the Capitolo Generale in Rome. Fond relationships were forged with their colleagues who experienced together the millennial traditions in the unique atmospheric surroundings of the most ancient of cosmopolitan and international cities – Rome – and the spiritual majesty of the Vatican

### Delegate's Meeting



The first event of the weekend took place on Friday afternoon, September 13, 2013, when the members of the Consiglio and Delegates of the Savoy Delegations around the world, were invited by the Grand Chancellor Cav. Gr. Cr. Johannes Niederhauser to the annual Delegates' Meeting of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy at the Pontifical Urban University, an extraterritorial site belonging to the Vatican State. Presiding at the meeting was His Royal Highness, Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy, our Grand Master. Among the members of the Consiglio attending were: S.A.S. Prince Ugo Mariano Windish Graetz, S.E. Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Conte Antonio D'Amelio, S.E. Cav. Gr. Cr. Conte Roberto Giustiniani, and S.E. Cav. Gr. Cr. Prof. Alberto Bochicchio. During the plenary meeting, the Delegates shared reports of their Delegations and exchanged ideas on the activities, issues and management of the Savoy Orders in their respective delegations.

Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl Morelli reported on activities of the American Delegation and the American Foundation of Savoy Orders and provided reports about the full calendar of events and programs of the past year which included, the *Savoy History Lecture*, the *Festa della Primavera Reception and Chivalry Awards*, the *St. Lazarus Mass and Dinner* and the addition of a new regional representative in Providence, Rhode Island and St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Morelli presented to the Delegates his report and copies of the 2012 *Ballo di Savoia Journal*.

## Welcome Dinner

### *Reale Circolo Canottieri Tevere Remo*



On Friday evening, the members of the American Delegation and their guests were hosted for a memorable dinner at the historic *Reale Circolo Canottieri Tevere Remo* (*Royal Sports Club*) by esteemed confrere and Club member Comm. Agostino Mattoli. The Club is one of the oldest and most renowned in Lazio, formally founded January 1, 1872, on the banks of the Tiber (*Tevere*) River. The Club has a long history of rowing and sailing competitions and many titles, medals and trophies, won since 1875, are exhibited. The late King Umberto II was the Club's Honorary President.



## Investiture Ceremonies at the Pontifical Urban University, Vatican City



On Saturday morning beginning at 10:30 am, Delegates, knights and dames from all over the world gathered in the Great Hall (*Aula Magna*) of the same Pontifical Urban University, the Janiculum, an extraterritorial site belonging to the State of the Vatican City, for the investiture ceremonies for the Order of Merit of Savoy and for the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus in the afternoon. The Grand Master of the Savoy Orders, H.R.H. Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy presided with H.R.H. Prince Emmanuel Philibert of Savoy, assisted by the Grand Chancellor Johannes Niederhauser and Cav. Gr. Cr. Nob. Dott. Carlo Buffa dei Conti di Perrero. The formal installation ceremonies began as each honoree was called forward to receive a diploma and insignia presented by His Royal Highness in the auditorium, in the presence of His Excellency Most Reverend Cav. Gr. Cr. Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, Regent Emeritus of the Apostolic Penitentiary. For those receiving their diplomas on this occasion, the diplomas were notated with the location “Città del Vaticano.”

Congratulations to the honorees from the American Delegation of Savoy Orders, including: Cav. Avv. Gerald E. Farrell, Jr., promoted to *Ufficiale*, Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus; Vincent T. Pica II, admitted as *Cavaliere*, Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus; Robert S. Roberson, admitted as *Cavaliere*, Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus.



*Cav. Robert S. Roberson*

*Cav. Vincent T. Pica II*

*Uff. Avv. Gerald E. Farrell, Jr.*

## Reception and Gala Charity Dinner

### The Gardens and Galleria del Cardinale - Palazzo Colonna, Rome



In the evening, over 400 guests in formal attire attended a glittering Reception and Gala Charity Dinner in the Palazzo Colonna, a building of great historical significance that has medieval origins and is one of the cornerstones of Roman city life. Palazzo Colonna is one of the oldest and largest private palaces of Rome. It contains the Colonna Gallery, a great hall which is considered to be the most beautiful hall in the world, created between 1654 and 1665 by Cardinal Girolamo. The grand hall, which celebrates the victory of the Christian fleet commanded by Prince Marcantonio II Colonna over the Turks at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, has been maintained in all its splendor up to the present day. It has belonged to the prestigious Colonna family who still reside there for over twenty generations.

The guests arrived and walked through the immense Gallery to a candlelit reception in the terraced gardens of the palace. This was followed by a sumptuous dinner in the Galleria del Cardinale and adjacent rooms of the Palazzo. The guests marveled at the Baroque setting and interiors of this magnificent building, which houses valuable masterpieces of painting and sculpture, enhanced by refined furnishings, reflected in the gleaming ancient marbles. The Grand Master and Grand Chancellor welcomed the attendees and thanked all members for their commitment to the centuries old tradition of charity and good works.

*Highlights of the Gala Evening*

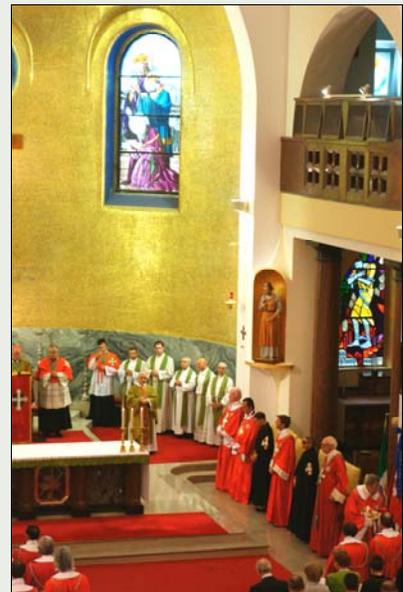








**Solemn Mass and Capitolo Generale  
at Pontifical Urban College, Chapel of the College, Vatican**



The American Delegation, with other international Savoy Orders members, participated in the annual Procession and Solemn Mass which was celebrated in the Chapel of the Pontifical Urban College, the Janiculum. The Mass was concelebrated by His Eminence Cav. Gr. Cr. Renato Cardinal Martino and His Excellency Cav. Gr. Cr. Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, Regent the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary, assisted by many Chaplains of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus. Cardinal Martino brought the greetings of the Supreme Pontiff, accompanied by Plenary indulgence conferred on all attending the Mass. The ceremony was held in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses Princes Victor Emmanuel and Emmanuel Philibert, and Princesses Marina and Clotilde of Savoy and approximately 200 members of the Savoy Orders, who processed with the Grand Master.



*Procession and Solemn Mass at the Chapel of the Pontifical Urban College, with Members of the Savoy Orders and the Royal Family, September 15, 2013*





Cardinal Martino and Bishop Girotti Celebrate the Mass



Following the Solemn High Mass, during which His Eminence Cav. Gr. Cr. Renato Cardinal Martino and His Excellency Cav. Gr. Cr. Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, blessed new members' church robes (*abiti da chiesa*), the new members of the Savoy Orders and the many consueurs, confreres and guests, enjoyed a buffet for the benefit of *Hospitaller Works of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus* followed in the College with the Royal Family and dignitaries.



## **TOUR OF THE PALACES OF THE ROMAN NOBILITY: September 16, 2013**



*Members and Friends of the American Delegation of Savoy Orders at the Tomb of Umberto I of Italy in the Pantheon with Commandant Ugo D'Atri, President of the Istituto Nazionale per la Guardia d'Onore (7<sup>th</sup> from left), Comm. Conte Alfonzo Marini Dettina, Savoy Orders Delegate for Lazio and Rome (8<sup>th</sup> from left) and Comm. Agostino Mattoli, Coordinator for the Guardia d'Onore in the Americas (far right)*

For many years, the members of the American Delegation of Savoy Orders have participated in an annual tour organized by the American Delegation following the main events of the *Capitolo Generale*. This year's first-time tour of historic palaces in Rome and other sites related to the Savoy dynasty had a remarkably large attendance. The tour explored outstanding examples of the magnificent residences of Roman Princes in the Eternal City—and revealed how tightly the histories of the Doria, Pamphili, Colonna, Patrizi and Rondinini families are interwoven with their stately palatial residences. The competition to create the most sumptuous palazzo left a lasting legacy of splendor and refinement in architecture and art. The Delegate, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli led the group. The Delegation contingent was joined by friends and family members of the *cavalieri* and *dame*.

On the morning of Monday, September 16, accompanied by a superb English speaking tour organizer Ms. Annalivia Villa, the tour group of eighteen were picked up at their respective hotels by three minivans for a full day tour of select Roman Palazzi and Savoy historic sites of Rome with lunch at one of Rome's most exclusive clubs. The contingent consisted of: the Delegate Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli, Uff. Dott. Igor Alexandroff, his wife Dr. Olga Belostotsky, Uff. Anthony Cipriano, Gr. Uff. L'On. Dominic and Mrs. Frances Massaro, Gr. Uff. Prof. Theodore Jacobsen, Uff. Avv. Gerald E. Farrell, Jr., Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson, Dr. Anna Armstrong, Cav. William P. Johns, Cav. Vincent and Mrs. Marie Pica II and their daughter Miss Gloria Pica, Cav. Robert S. and Mrs. Barbara Roberson. The Delegation was also joined by a confrere from the Argentinean Delegation, John Casal with his wife and daughter.

## **Museo di Palazzo Doria Pamphili**

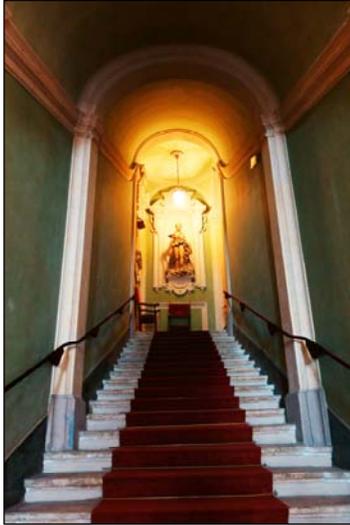


At 9:00 am, the tour members arrived at the sumptuous Museo di Palazzo Doria Pamphili, one of Rome's cultural riches and lesser known gems. Conveniently located between the Piazza Navona and the Piazza Venezia, it is an oasis of quiet in the midst of bustling street scenes of Rome and off the beaten path of tourists. The members stepped into a regal palace whose walls are covered with art. It is immense and varied and includes churches, courtyards and offices, making it a city unto itself. It is the largest building complex of Roman patrician society. Built over four centuries, it is an architectural masterpiece of the Baroque.

Still privately owned, this residence of the princes of Doria Pamphili houses a gallery which displays one of the richest Italian collections of paintings and sculptures still in private hands. Of the more than 700 paintings and sculptures on display, perhaps the most famous is Velázquez's portrait of Pope Innocent X. The picture, which is one of the most important of the Doria Pamphili collection and absolutely one of the masterpieces of portraiture of the whole seventeenth century, portrays one of the key figures of the family, Giovanni Battista Pamphili, who reigned as pope from 1644 to 1655.



## Palazzo Patrizi



At about 11:00 am, the group walked to the Palazzo Patrizi, located between the Pantheon and the Piazza Navona. The tour group found itself in the warm, historic atmosphere and original furnishings of the Patrizi family home. Originally from Siena, the Patrizi family has lived here since 1642 and is related to many families in the city, including that of Marquese Naro, custodians of the renowned Vexillum of the Holy Roman Church, which was entrusted to them by Pope Urban VII in 1603 and since 1736, with that of Marquese Chigi Montoro. Marquese Corso Patrizi graciously greeted the Delegation members and friends and conducted a private tour of his family's residence, providing interesting historic anecdotes. He showed a collection of insignia belonging to his ancestors, which included insignia of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus.



## **Lunch at the Circolo degli Scacchi at the Palazzo Rondinini and Tour**



The Palazzo Rondinini is the home of one of Rome's most exclusive private clubs. Officially founded in 1872, it has been the private club for members of the most prominent nobility and aristocracy.

Throughout the nineteenth century, there being no heirs of the family Rondinini, the building was the subject of several hereditary disputes, passing through numerous owners and tenants including the minister of the King of Bavaria, and the Ambassador of the Czar of all the Russias at the Holy See.

Despite various alterations done to the building until the early twentieth century, when it was bought by Count Roberto Sanseverino, there are some prestigious pieces such as the only six-hour clock in Rome in the courtyard; a statue of Venus with the mirror of Lorenzo Bartolini, sculptor at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth century; some busts of the fifth century on display in the gallery niches; and paintings by unknown artists of the 1700s.

Our host for the Lunch was Duke Paolo Badoglio, Club member, and was attended by our esteemed confreres Comm. Count Alfonzo Marini Dettina, Savoy Orders' Delegate for Rome and Lazio and Comm. Agostino Mattoli.



## Visit to Savoy Royal Tombs at the Pantheon

Tour members had the privilege of being greeted by Commandant Ugo D'Atri, the president of *L'Istituto Nazionale per la Guardia d'Onore* at the Royal Tombs at the Pantheon, who spoke about the work of the Royal Guards. The Guardia d'Onore is an association founded in 1878 to provide on-call guard duty for the tombs of two of the Savoy kings of Italy at the Pantheon and keep alive the memory that links the House of Savoy, the Risorgimento, and the national military traditions. It is currently the oldest military association still existing in Italy.



*Commandant Ugo D'Atri (left) with Gr. Uff. Prof. Theodore Jacobsen at the Royal Tombs*



## Visit to Princess Isabelle's Apartment in the Palazzo Colonna



The last part of the tour was a special private visit to the older della Rovere wing of the Palazzo Colonna known as Princess Isabelle's apartment, restored and preserved as it was when she was still alive. Located on the ground floor of the Colonna Palace, it contains many treasures and masterpieces. Isabelle Colonna, née Sursock, from a family of Byzantine origin, established in Lebanon since the 17th century, fell in love with Prince Marcantonio, who brought her to Italy as his bride, where she was able to integrate successfully into Roman society. A great lady-in-waiting, she was intelligent, educated and conservative in the most consistent and purest sense, offering regal receptions, where royalty and, among the bourgeoisie, only financiers and bankers were allowed, provided, of course, they were not divorced." (as Laura Laurenzi remembers it in the daily newspaper *La Repubblica* from 18 November 1984, on the occasion of her funeral).



By Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser

Photography by: Uff. Dott. Igor Alexandrov, Gr. Uff. Prof. Theodore Jacobsen, Cav. Daniel McClory, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli, and Cav. Vincent Pica II