



SAVOY ORDERS 2014 CAPITOLO GENERALE

AND

AMERICAN DELEGATION "LA GRANDE BELLEZZA" TOUR OF ROMAN PALACES

September 26 – 29, 2014



AMERICAN DELEGATION OF SAVOY ORDERS

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2014 Chapter General (*Capitolo Generale*) of the Savoy Orders



For the second time since before World War II, the 2014 Chapter General was held in the Eternal City of Rome and in the extraterritorial properties of Vatican City (September 26 - September 29). It 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 these traditional ceremonies in the presence of the Grand Master of the Savoy Orders H.R.H. Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy.

The connection between the Savoy dynasty and the Vatican made Rome a historically significant setting, in view of the role of the Savoy sovereigns in the foundation of a united Italy. Rome fell and became the capital of the united Kingdom of Italy when the army of King Victor Emmanuel II captured and occupied the City on September 20, 1870, following France's defeat at the Battle of Sedan nineteen days earlier that caused the French army to withdraw its protection of the Papacy's temporal power. That date has ever after been celebrated 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. Savoy sovereigns wrote new chapters in Rome's history and artistic heritage as they collected new works of art for their recently acquired royal residences.

Against the background of the Eternal City's brilliant canvas, on Friday evening, September 26, the American Delegation set a special welcome dinner at the *Reale Circolo Canottieri Tevere Remo* (Royal Sports Club) for our knights and dames, new honorees being admitted to the Savoy Orders and their guests. The formal investiture ceremonies of Saturday morning and afternoon at the Pontifical Lateran University were followed by gala benefit dinner 'al fresco' in the garden terrace of the Villa Miani on the Monte Mario Hill, overlooking a splendid panoramic view of the City. A Procession and Solemn Mass at the magnificent baroque Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles (*Santi Apostoli*) followed on Sunday morning. On Monday, September 30, the American Delegation also organized a tour of Roman venues of historic importance to the Savoy dynasty. The 2014 tour would not have been possible without meticulous planning and coordination of the arrangements by our confreres, Comm. Prof. Eric Ierardi, Gr. Uff. Agostino Mattoli and Gr. Uff. Marco Grassi.





The American Delegation consisted of the Delegate Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli; Regional Representative for Los Angeles, California Cav. Daniel J. McClory, who was promoted to *Ufficiale*, Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus (OSSML); Regional Representative for St. Louis, Missouri Uff. Rev. John W. Rick III; and Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser, Administrator for the American Delegation of Savoy Orders; as well as those being admitted as *Dame* in the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus: Ms. Jolanta J. Fabicka of New York City and Mrs. Florentina McClory from Laguna

Niguel, California. Admitted as *cavaliere* in the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus was: Robert M. Clark, Esq. of Dallas, Texas. Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson of Houston, Texas was admitted as *dama* in the Order of Merit of Savoy and Josselin Lucas, Esq. of Washington, DC and Paris, France was admitted as *cavaliere*.

Our Delegation contingent also included Dama Dott.ssa Anna Armstrong from San Antonio, Texas and guests who came to experience the traditional ceremonies and dazzling events during the Capitolo Generale in Rome. Savoy Foundation President Gr. Uff. Marco Grassi, sponsored and hosted the Delegation luncheon during the Monday tour at the exclusive *Circolo della Caccia*, in the famed Borghese Palace.

Our shared experience of the Savoy Orders' chivalric traditions in one of the most ancient cosmopolitan and international cities – Rome – coupled, with the spiritual majesty of Vatican venues, helped forge lasting relationships and created indelible memories for all participants who were there.



(l to r) Cav. Philip Bonn, UK Delegate, Uff. Daniel McClory, Dama Florentina McClory, Gr. Uff. Agostino Mattoli, Cav. Avv. Peter Linsler, Alto-Adige Delegate, Dama Dott.ssa Anna Armstrong, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl Morelli, American Delegate, Comm.Prince Stéphane BÉlosselsky BÉlozersky, Cav. Avv. Robert M Clark, Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser, Dama Jolanta Fabicka, Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson, Cav. Avv. Josselin Lucas

Delegate's Meeting - Friday, September 26



The first event of the weekend took place on the Friday afternoon of September 26, 2014, at the Pontifical Lateran University, an extraterritorial site belonging to the Vatican State, where 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. Presiding at the meeting in the University Senate Hall were His Royal Highness, Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy, our Grand Master. During the plenary meeting, the Delegates shared reports of the activities of their Delegations and exchanged ideas on issues of common

concern in their respective delegations.

Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl Morelli spoke about the 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 Presentation* and the *St. Lazarus Mass and Dinner*. Mr. Morelli also presented to the Delegates his report and copies of the 2013 *Ballo di Savoia Journal* and a summary of the charitable contributions and grants made by the Savoy Foundation to various causes and programs up to the current year.





Welcome Dinner - Friday, September 26

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 19th century *Reale Circolo Canottieri Tevere Remo* (Royal Sports Club) by esteemed confrere and Club member Gr. Uff. 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 Lateran University
Saturday, September 27



On a warm sunny Saturday morning in the Eternal City, beginning at 10:30 a.m., Delegates, knights and dames from around the world gathered in the Great Hall (*Aula Magna*) of the Pontifical Lateran University, an extraterritorial site belonging to the State of the Vatican City, for the investiture ceremonies for the Order of Merit of Savoy and later 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 his son

H.R.H. Prince Emmanuel Philibert of Savoy, and was assisted by the Grand Chancellor Johannes Niederhauser and the Master of Ceremonies, 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 the Grand Master in the auditorium. For those receiving their diplomas on this occasion, the diplomas were notated with the location “Città del Vaticano.”



H.R.H Prince Victor Emmanuel, Duke of Savoy, Prince of Naples, Head of the Royal House of Savoy, XVII Grand Master of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus and VI Grand Master of the Order of Merit of Savoy Confers Honors Accompanied by the Hereditary Prince, HRH Prince Emmanuel Philibert of Savoy



Congratulations to the honorees from the American Delegation of Savoy Orders: Jolanta J. Fabicka and Florentina P. McClory, admitted as *Dame*, Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus; Robert M. Clark, Esq. admitted as *Cavaliere*, Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus; Cav. Daniel McClory promoted to *Ufficiale*, Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus; Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson admitted as *Dama* and Josselin J. Lucas, Esq. admitted as *Cavaliere* in the Order of Merit of Savoy.



Cav. Avv. Josselin J. Lucas



Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson



Dama Jolanta Fabicka



Dama Florentina McClory

Cav. Avv. Robert M. Clark

Uff. Daniel McClory



Blessing of the Church Robes



Reception and Gala Charity Dinner - Saturday, September 26

The Gardens and Terrace of the Villa Miani



In the evening, over 200 guests in formal attire attended a glittering Reception and Gala Charity Dinner on the grounds of the Villa Miani, situated on the grand Monte Mario hill overlooking Rome. Guests arrived as the famous Roman dusk was descending upon the City, driving through a long winding road lined by gardens and trees. The neoclassical villa, surrounded by extensive English gardens, was built in 1873 and since then it has maintained a prestigious name. The masterpiece of this location is the magnificent terrace that overlooks Rome, leaving everyone who visits it breathless. At sunset, you can admire the beautiful chapels of Rome with a fantastic light, while surrounded by elegant decor. 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.

Built for the Counts Miani in 1873 as a country residence high on the slopes of Monte Mario, the neo-classical Villa Miani is located in a large, secluded park, approached via a long private drive. Surrounded by acres of lawns and gardens, this historic villa offers a breathtaking panorama over the city of Rome. In 1875 Garibaldi reluctantly turned down an offer to reside at Villa Miani (which would have enabled him to look down upon the Pope in the valley below) as it was too far from the Parliament building for the aging General. Today, Villa Miani is outside and yet inside Rome at the same time.



Highlights of the Gala Charity Dinner

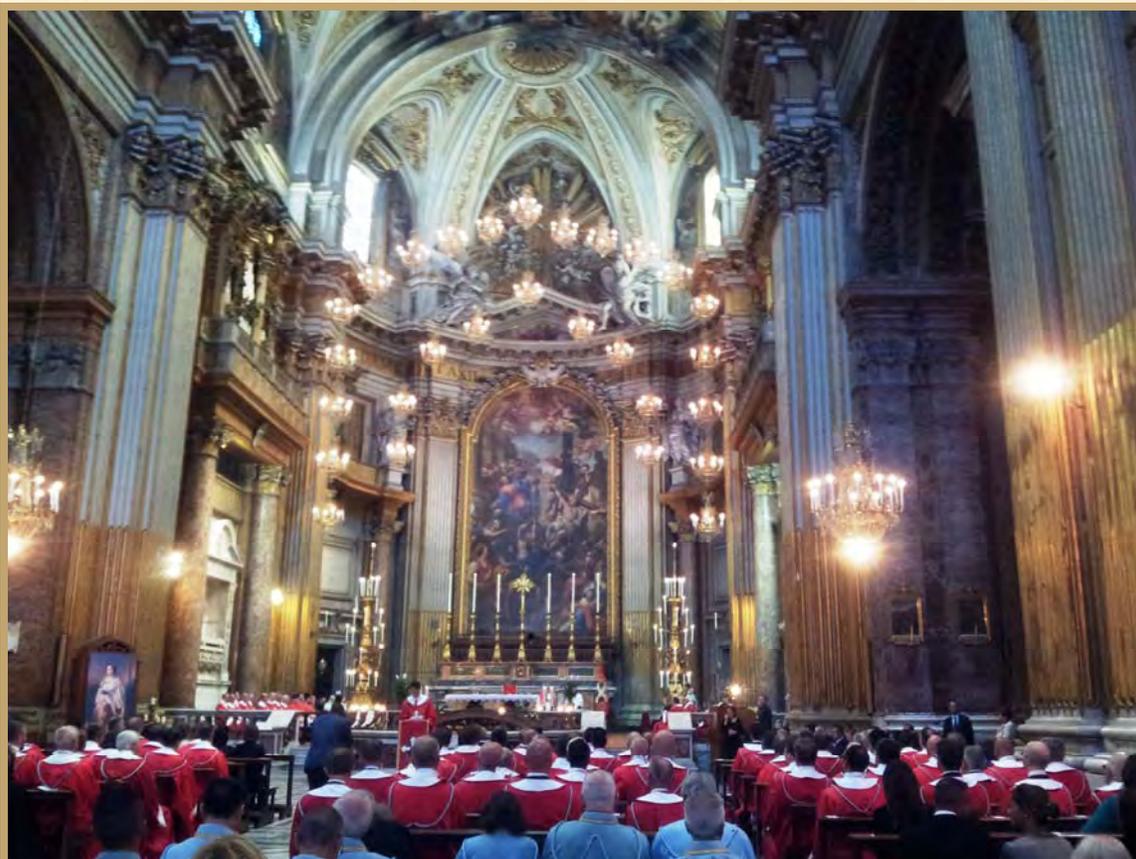








Solemn Mass and Capitolo Generale at the Twelve Holy Apostles Basilica, Rome
Sunday, September 28



On Sunday morning, September 28, the American Delegation, with other international Savoy Orders members, participated in the annual Procession and Solemn Mass, which was celebrated in the magnificent setting of the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses Princes Victor Emmanuel and Emmanuel Philibert, and Princesses Marina and Clotilde of Savoy, Cav. Gr. Cr. Dr. Johannes Niederhauser, Grand Chancellor, S.A.S Prince



Mariano Hugo Windish - Graetz, H.E. Amb. Cav. Gr. Cr. Antonio Benedetto Spada, and approximately 200 members of the Savoy Orders. S.E.R. Antonio Maria Cardinal Vegliò, President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, celebrated the Solemn High Mass with the assistance of several other chaplains and priests of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus. The Mass was dedicated to the Blessed Queen Maria Cristina of Savoy.



Procession and Solemn Mass at the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles with Members of the Savoy Orders and the Royal Family, September 28, 2014



Following the Mass, the new members of the Savoy Orders and the many consoeurs, confreres and guests enjoyed a buffet lunch for the benefit of *Hospitaller Works of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus* in the cloister of the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles with the Royal Family and dignitaries. United by common moral values and philanthropic ideals of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy, they had a chance to say goodbye in confraternal harmony as the General Chapter of 2014 drew to a close.





"La Grande Belleza" Tour of Rome: September 29, 2014



Members and Friends of the American Delegation of Savoy Orders at the Tomb of King Umberto I of Italy in the Pantheon with Commandant Ugo D'Atri, President of the Istituto Nazionale per la Guardia d'Onore (7th from right), and Gr. Uff. Agostino Mattoli, Coordinator for the Guardia d'Onore in the Americas (6th from left)

For many years, the members of the American Delegation of Savoy Orders have participated in an annual tour on the day after the *Capitolo Generale*. This year's "La Grande Belleza" tour of historic patrician residences in Rome and other sacred sites related to the Savoy Orders provided another rare opportunity. Residences and gardens of the Boncompagni Ludovisi, Sacchetti and Borghese families are intimately woven into the fabric of Rome's social, cultural, intellectual, artistic and political histories. Magnificent art collections of these Roman noble families are truly at home when displayed in the palaces for which they were acquired or commissioned.

The Delegate, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli, led the *cavalieri* and *dame* from California New York, Texas, and Washington DC, joined by friends and family members.

On the morning of Monday, September 29, accompanied by our tour organizer Ms. Annalivia Villa, we were picked up at our hotels by minivans to start our full day tour of the Pantheon, the Boncompagni family chapel in the Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the Villa Aurora, and the Sachetti Palazzo, with lunch at one of Rome's most prestigious clubs, the *Circolo della Caccia* (The Hunt Club). The contingent consisted of: Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli, Uff. Daniel and Dama Fiorentina McClory, Mrs. Helen Cattacuzena, Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser, Dama Jolanta Fabicka, Cav. Avv. Robert M. Clark and Cav. Avv. Josselin Lucas. We were joined at times by Gr. Uff. Marco Grassi, Cav. Gr. Cr. Ugo D'Atri, Gr. Uff. Agostino Mattoli, Cav. Philip Bonn, Prince and Princess Don Sforza Ruspoli, and Dame Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson and Dama Dott.ssa Anna Armstrong.

Visit to Savoy Royal Tombs at the Pantheon

At 9:00 am, tour members arrived at the **Pantheon** to participate in a ceremony at the **Savoy Royal Tomb of King Umberto I of Italy**. They 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 and Gr. Uff. Agostino Mattoli, Coordinator for the Guardia d'Onore in the Americas. 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. The Delegation contingent was joined by Cav. Philip Bonn, the United Kingdom Delegate for the Savoy Orders and member of the *Guardia d'Onore*, who together with our Delegate Carl Morelli, laid their respective national flags before the tomb of King Umberto I of Italy to commemorate the 100th Anniversary year of the beginning of the First World War. Dame Dott.sse Anna Armstrong and Catherine Stevenson were also present for the ceremony.



Delegation Members Signing the Visitors Register

Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson (2nd from right) and Dama Dott.ssa Anna Armstrong (far right) at the headquarters of the Guardia d'Onore with Commandant Ugo D'Atri and Staff Member

Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola at Campus Martius



At 10:00 am, we arrived at the ornate, Baroque-style **Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola at Campus Martius (Chiesa di Sant'Ignazio di Loyola in Campo Marzio)**, specifically to visit the private family chapel of the Boncompagni Ludovisi. Built between 1626 and 1650, it replaced the chapel of the adjacent Roman College that had moved to the Pontifical Gregorian University. Pope Gregory XV, a former pupil of the Collegio Romano, was strongly attached to the church. Following the canonization of Ignatius of Loyola in 1622, he suggested to his nephew, Cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi, that a new church

dedicated to the founder of the Jesuits should be erected at the college itself. The interior of the church is spacious and richly decorated with colored marble, animated stucco relief gilded ornaments and magnificent, bold trompe l'oeil frescoes in the dome. It contains the funerary crypt and monuments of Pope Gregory XV and his nephew Cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi, who provided the funds for its construction. It was their family predecessor Ugo Boncompagni who, as Pope Gregory XIII, founded the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus in 1572 and was best known for instituting the Gregorian Calendar.



Villa Aurora

At about 11:00 am, we arrived at the **Villa Aurora**, or **Casino Ludovisi**, located between the Pantheon and the Piazza Navona. Our group was not expecting to be greeted by the American-born HSH Princess Rita Boncompagni Ludovisi herself, (below right) who enthusiastically conducted the tour of her husband's ancestral home with great style befitting her own Texan roots. The Villa has passed on from generation to generation to each succeeding head of the Boncompagni Ludovisi family. It is now in the possession of her husband HSH Prince of Nicolò Boncompagni Ludovisi. The residence is a designated Italian national treasure and was, in the 16th century, a country retreat where famous artists, musicians, scientists and literary geniuses gathered under the patronage of Cardinal Francesco Maria del Monte. From 1622 to 1886 the Ludovisi and then the Boncompagni Ludovisi dynasty created



and maintained the largest (in its final form, 89.6 acres) and most magnificent private residence within the walls of Rome, the Villa Ludovisi. Of Italian noble families, the Boncompagni Ludovisi are the only Princes of the Holy Roman Empire who are Sovereign as well. The Boncompagni Ludovisi show in their family tree two popes (Gregory XIII, a Boncompagni, 1572-1585), who is direct ancestor of Prince Nicolò, and Gregory XV, a Ludovisi, (1621-1623), and numerous cardinals, in addition to distinguished men and women in fields that range from statesman to the sciences, across many generations. The Casino became known as Villa Aurora deriving its name from Guercino's fresco masterpiece, L'Aurora (1621-1623), which is magnificently displayed on the ground floor ceiling entrance gallery of the villa. It remains one of the most famous painted decors in Rome (below).





A ceiling on the first floor of what was formerly a laboratory study of a member of the family is adorned by the only mural ever painted by Caravaggio - Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto (left). Del Monte sold the casino and its extensive grounds to Cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi, nephew of Pope Gregory XV, in 1621. Ludovico Ludovisi was a patron of the arts, as well as the head of the College of Cardinals. He supported such artists as Guercino, Brill, Viola, Domenichino, Tassi, Pomarancio and Valesio, to name just a few. The vivacious and very knowledgeable Princess expounded on the challenges and great financial costs of maintaining and restoring the estate treasures and necessitating the Italian government's financial aid to preserve them and the villa for posterity, as jewels of Italian cultural heritage.



Lunch at the Circolo della Caccia in the Palazzo Borghese

The Palazzo Borghese, Rome's largest family palace, is the home of one of Rome's most exclusive private clubs, the *Circolo della Caccia*. Founded on November 7, 1869 with the name "Circolo di San Carlo" due to its first location in front of the San Carlo church, the private club, over the years, moved several times, finally settling in Palazzo Borghese in 1922. It has been the private social club for members of the most prominent European nobility and aristocracy. Among its elite honorary members are the King of Spain, King of Sweden, and princes of European royal houses. Our host for the lunch was Gr. Uff. Marco Grassi. H.E. Don Sforza Ruspoli Marescotti, Prince of Cerveteri (lower center and right photographs) and his wife joined the luncheon, along with Cav. Philip Bonn, Savoy Orders Delegate for the United Kingdom.

During the 1600's, the entire majestic Palazzo, noted for its grandeur and architectural innovations, was owned by the Borghese family, which still maintains a

private residence in a portion of the enormous palace. Containing separate servant quarters, stables, a coach house, it also housed the family's art collection, which was one of the greatest collections in Europe. In its heyday, the Palazzo was the grandest home in Rome, a place where one could entertain on a magnificent scale. The Palazzo Borghese was acquired about 1605 by Cardinal Camillo Borghese, just before he became Pope Paul V. Flaminio Ponzio was hired to enlarge the building and give it the palatial expansiveness appropriate to the hierarchical social status of the pope's family. He

added a remarkable open porticoed courtyard, ornamented with granite columns and statues and a wing overlooking Piazza Borghese. Subsequent enlargements included the building and decoration of a great nymphaeum known as the Bath of Venus. For more than two centuries, this palazzo housed the Borghese family's renowned collection of paintings, which was bought by the Italian state in 1902 and transferred to the Villa Borghese.



Visit to Palazzo Sacchetti



After the sumptuous lunch at the Caccia, our group needed a short siesta to refresh itself; but, instead carried on and arrived at the **Palazzo Sacchetti** around 3:30 p.m. Palazzo Sacchetti is a splendidly decorated 16th-Century palazzo, located just off of the Lungotevere (the Tiber River bank) on the beautiful Via Giulia, still privately owned by the historically important and noble Sacchetti family, entitled to be named 'marchesi de baldacchino.' The rooms and gardens of



the palace created the grand, mysteriously atmospheric and magnificent cinematographic backdrop for the Oscar-winning 2013 film *La Grande Bellezza* (*The Great Beauty*). Construction of the palace was begun in 1542 by Antonio Sangallo, a renaissance architect, to be his private home. The land had belonged to the Vatican until then. It is filled with art from the Mannerist period, which emerged from the Italian High Renaissance, as exemplified in the opulent Great Map Room that includes frescoes by Jacopino del Conte (1510-1598) and Pietro da Cortona (1596/7-1669), outstanding exponents of illusionistic ceiling paintings.





The formal part of the tour ended at 5:00 pm. Some members, Dama Jolanta Fabicka and Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser, stayed on in Rome and took a side trip to the charming countryside of Perugia and Umbria outside of Rome, to visit the shrine of St. Francis in Assisi and the town of Orvieto. Others availed themselves of the plazas and world renowned dining and shopping and other museums and civic monuments, until departing for their respective destinations. The 2014 Savoy Tour provided fond memories for all and reinforced the bonds of respect and camaraderie which we as members all have for each other. As we said “arrivederci” to Roma, some of us were quick to add, “a presto” in hopes we would soon return.

By Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser

