



# PILLA PROGRAM E-LETTER

NOVEMBER, 2009

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In an effort toward a green campus, the Bishop Anthony M. Pilla in Italian American Studies is pleased to send you the first issue of our electronic newsletter.

As Director of the Program, I have remained personally committed to the history and culture of Italy and Italian America. Since my arrival at the John Carroll University Campus in 1999, the Program has grown to include many opportunities for students to study abroad in Italy, as well as many community trips to the different sites of Northern, Central, and Southern Italy.

This fall semester, I was not able to oversee our John Carroll at Vatican City Program because of my personal involvement in the tragedy of L'Aquila's earthquake. However, we will resume the Program next fall 2010, and I am happy to report an extremely high interest.

With this occasion, I would like to reintroduce the members of the Program: Mrs. Giuseppina Mileti, Coordinator, continues to work to bring members of our community on memorable field trips to Italy; Ms. Mary Beth Brooks, Secretary, facilitates the many activities of the Program; our latest addition, Dr. Luigi Ferri, joined John Carroll University in Fall 2008 and is very much involved in the many facets of our Program.

We continue to work together to make the activities of the Bishop Pilla Program interesting to the community at large.

If you have a friend that would like to receive the Pilla Program E-Letter, please ask them to email us at [pilla@jcu.edu](mailto:pilla@jcu.edu).

Thank you,

Santa Casciani



Dr. Santa Casciani, Pilla Program Director



### SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for our St. Joseph Celebration on March 18th, 2010. We will honor Mr. Nancy Panzica.

## NEWS: 2009 SUMMER INSTITUTE IN ITALY

Last May and June, eleven JCU students participated in the Summer Institute in Italy. During the first week they visited Rome, Arezzo, and Florence, while the rest of the program was located in Bergamo, in Northern Italy. Students, directed by Dr. Luigi Ferri, studied "Women in Italian Society in

Literature and Film" along with visits to companies in Northern Italy, where they were able to witness first hand examples of "Made in Italy" products exported all over the world. The program included field trips to Milan and Venice.



JCU students at Trevi fountain, Rome, May 2009

(picture courtesy of Kristin Isabel)

**UPCOMING: NATURE AND CULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Program in Italian American Studies is organizing a trip to Italy (Calabria, Basilicata, Puglia, and Abruzzo) from May 24 to June 5, 2010 for the entire Community. This trip, led by Mrs. Giuseppina Mileti, will take place in the heart of the Mediterranean, the Magna Grecia, where the Greek ancient civilization began, flourished and extended its legacy into the Western world.

The trip will take the community to cities, towns, and little villages that are never advertised on travel books, but rich in history, art, tradition and nature.

Participants will visit the oldest settlement on earth still inhabited today. Since the Neolithic period 8000 years ago, people in Matera, Basilicata began to excavate the limestone plateau, creating water collection systems in

the *Sassi* that have persisted up to the present time.

For many in our Italian American Community this trip will be a return to the regions from which their ancestors came. It is going to be a trip "In Search of our Roots."

For additional information call or email Mrs. Mileti at (216) 397-1798, [gimileti@jcu.edu](mailto:gimileti@jcu.edu)



Mrs. Giuseppina Mileti

**UPCOMING LECTURE: CONFLICTS OF POST-MODERN ITALY**

As part of the Bishop Pilla Lecture Series 2009-2010, Dr. Luigi Ferri, Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian, will talk on February 17, 2010 on "Conflicts of Post-Modern Italy". Touching on the complex political situation, the function of the media in today's Italy, and on the role of women in Italian society, Dr. Ferri will provide an overview of the most debated current issues.

The presentation will begin with a brief excursus covering the years from 1990 to the present. This period is commonly described by Italian political analysts as "the second republic": what does this definition mean? Which are the differences between the 'first' and the 'second' republic? The answer to these questions are to be found in the transformation of the previous political system,

made of many parties, which led Italy for about 40 years after the fall of Fascism into the present day's system, made of two major political coalitions that split in almost perfect halves the Italian electoral body.

The talk will take place in the D. J. Lombardo Students Center LSC Conference Room, at 7:30pm.



Dr. Luigi Ferri

**UPCOMING: SPRING BREAK 2010 IN TUSCANY**

"The Representation of Women of the Italian Humanism and Renaissance" provides students with an examination of the role of women in these two important historical periods. We examine and analyze excerpts of Petrarch, the early humanists, Leon Battista Alberti, Michelangelo, Vittoria Colonna and Gaspara Stampa's literary

works. Furthermore, we study women's artistic representation, in Michelangelo, Piero della Francesca and Botticelli's artistic works.

We journey to Arezzo, Florence, Urbino, Siena, Monterchi, San Sepolcro, and Rome from February 25 to March 6, 2010.

Visits to the museums will

allow students to compare and contrast how also in visual arts female representation was subjugated by the brush of the painter and the chisel of the sculptor.

In our study of women's role, we will analyze the reason for which the female artist was absent from the world of Letters and Art.



Vittoria Colonna, the poet friend of Michelangelo

[www.jcu.edu/pilla](http://www.jcu.edu/pilla)

**THE BISHOP ANTHONY M. PILLA PROGRAM IN ITALIAN**

**Contacts**

Dr. Santa Casciani, Director

Tel. (216) 397-4394, [scasciani@jcu.edu](mailto:scasciani@jcu.edu)

Mrs. Giuseppina Mileti, Coordinator

Tel. (216) 397-1798, [gmileti@jcu.edu](mailto:gmileti@jcu.edu)

Ms. Mary Beth Brooks, Secretary

Tel. (216) 397-4558, [mbrooks@jcu.edu](mailto:mbrooks@jcu.edu)



For further information on the program, contact Ms. Mary Beth Brooks

Established in 1999 to honor the John Carroll alumnus and Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland, the Anthony M. Pilla Program in Italian American Studies is unlike any other in the nation. It stands out as the only program of its kind in the U.S. that focuses on an interdisciplinary undergraduate liberal arts approach, which emphasizes an understanding of the meaning of family, its heritage, and the role of spirituality in one's life.



**VISION • MISSION • CORE VALUES**

**UPCOMING: PARLIAMO ITALIANO!**

Join us in our journey to the discovery of Italian language!

Next Spring semester 2010, the Bishop Pilla Program will offer again courses of Italian Language on Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced levels, and Italian Culture.

The courses will meet for 15 weeks from January 19 to May 15, 2010, and will be taught by qualified native speakers.

Classes of Italian will be organized as follows:

- Elementary (Dr. Ferri)  
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm
- Intermediate (Dr. Ferri)  
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm
- Advanced (Dr. Casciani)  
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm
- Nature and Culture in the Heart of the Mediterranean (Mrs. Mileti)  
Thursdays, 6:30-8:00pm

All classes will take place on JCU Campus, in O'Malley Center Rooms OC112 and OC113.

The tuition for courses of language is \$210 for 15 class meetings, and includes the use of the Rosetta Stone™ lab software.



Dante reading the *Comedy*

**UPCOMING: SUMMER INSTITUTE 2010 IN ROME**

How many know Rome as the city of conflict, combining wonderful architecture and evident social contrast, blatant richness and visible poverty that it has come to represent today? A good example of this conflict is represented by the ongoing discussion on today's validity of the Italian national anthem. One of the verses states that Italy "schiaiva di Roma Iddio la creò" [God created Italy a

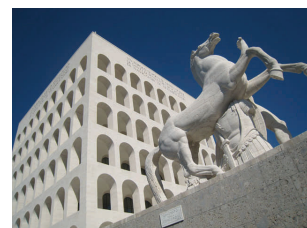
slave of Rome]: what does this expression mean?

Who knows the historical context in which the anthem was composed, it means that Mameli, the author of the lyrics, intended it to mean that Rome was indeed going to be the capital of Italy, because of its historical ancient meaning. This debate on the national anthem can be interpreted as a metaphor of the

widespread discussion on current issues of the marginalization and discrimination against immigrants.

All these issues will be addressed in the course "Modern Rome in Literature and Film", taught as part of this program.

Dates are from May 18 to June 16, 2010.



The EUR center in Rome