



*The Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Program  
in Italian American Studies*

# PILLA PROGRAM E-LETTER

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A new academic year has arrived and we at the Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Program in Italian American Studies would like to share with you the many initiatives that will take place over John Carroll University's academic year 2010-2011. Furthermore we also like you to know about the successes we have experienced over the last academic year.

One of our great achievements this past year has been the approval of a new major in International Business with Languages and Cultures, and the pilot language for this exciting program will be Italian. During our Spring Break 2010, twenty students studied the representation of Women in the poetry and visual arts of the Italian Humanism and Renaissance; eight students participated in the Summer Program in Rome, studying "Modern Rome in Literature and Film." At the moment I am in Rome directing our JCU at Vatican City and 14 students are participating.

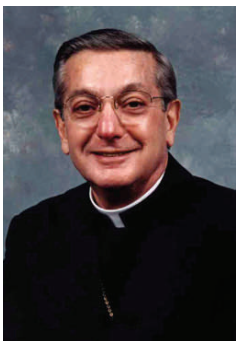
Our upcoming events are just as exciting as our past ones. The Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, Ninth Bishop Emeritus of Cleveland will give a lecture at John Carroll University on October 28, 2010 and he will speak on "The Role of Cleveland's Italian Nationality Parishes in Ministering to the Immigrants and in Preserving Italian Culture." In Spring 2011, Dr. Luigi Ferri will offer a course on Italian Opera and it will include a study trip to the Italian regions of Tuscany and Lombardy. During our Bishop Pilla Summer Institute 2011, our students will study "Film and Literature in Fascist and Post-Fascist Italy." In this particular course, students will analyze the political, social, and economic life between Fascist and Post-Fascist Italy. Mrs. Giuseppina Mileti is working on a very exciting trip for our community at large and will be leading a group to Northern Italy, in the Lakes' region. As the Bishop Pilla Program in Ital-



Dr. Santa Casciani, Pilla Program Director

ian American Studies enters its eleventh year, we continue to be committed to Italian and Italian American Studies and we teach our students to cherish our intellectual tradition.

Dr. Santa Casciani,  
Director



### SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on October 28th at 7:30pm for a lecture by the Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, titled "The Role of Cleveland's Italian Nationality Parishes in Ministering to the Immigrants and in Preserving Italian Culture."

## SPRING BREAK 2010 IN TUSCANY

Florence, Arezzo, Siena, Pisa, Monterchi, Sansepolcro, Urbino, Pesaro, Rome: these are the cities we visited with our twenty students who participated in the Spring 2010 field trip as part of the course "Italian Humanism and Renaissance," that Dr. Casciani taught. Students enjoyed visiting the many splendors of Italy, the great food and company, all in the charming atmosphere of the Tuscan Spring. Their appreciation comes through from the comments they wrote on the Bishop Pilla page on Facebook. Joe McKenna states: "Deciding to take IC361 was one of the best decisions that I made this semester; I learned so much about topics that I didn't even know existed! What's more, the learning experience was made all the more effec-

tive because of the Spring Break trip to Italy. Being able to spend 10 days in Italy was an unforgettable experience and was enjoyable for the culture, the language, and (but of course) the food. If I could take the class again, I would do it in a second." Sarah DiPalma, another participating student, commented: "During Spring Break 2010 I was able to go to Italy with Dr. Casciani and Dr. Ferri. It was hands down the best ten days of my life. I can't tell you how great it was to go with two professors that are actually from Italy. Even though I was there for only a short period of time I learned so much more than I could have ever imagined. I learned to embrace the language barrier, fell in love with the food, and couldn't get enough of the history." Another



Some of the students with Dr. Casciani in Sansepolcro.

student, Dan Kehoe, was so enthusiastic of both the course and field trip, that he decided to take more Italian language course and the Spring 2011 course on Italian Opera!

## THE SUMMER INSTITUTE 2010 IN ROME

The main theme of the 2010 edition of the Bishop Pilla Summer Institute was Rome and the historical role it played as the capital of Italy. Through the reading of essays, poetry, novel excerpts, and film viewing, the eight students who participated in the program had a chance to learn about socio-political issues that, while generated in the past, are still present in the social fabric of Italy. The course "Modern Rome in Literature and Film" included numerous visits to museums, churches, and places

of interest around the *Caput Mundi*. We experienced a quite emotional moment during our visit to the *Museo della Resistenza* located in the infamous via Tasso. In this building, which served as the Nazi post during the occupation of the city of Rome, many innocent people were imprisoned and died at the hands of Fascism and Nazism. Our stay in Rome offered also several happy occasions, in particular, visits to the most renowned *gelaterie* of the capital. Furthermore, for some students

of Italian descent, there was the opportunity to visit their relatives and for others to re-discover their origins. This happened with a weekend long field trip in Abruzzo, the region from which the families of three of the participating students came. During this trip we visited L'Aquila, and Dr. Casciani's home to see the destruction and devastation of the April 6, 2009 earthquake. Another weekend we traveled to Tuscany, where the students visited the cities of Arezzo and Florence.



The Summer Institute 2010 students at the Foro Imperiale, the day of their arrival in Rome.

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS WITH LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

With the beginning of Fall 2010, JCU students will have the option of choosing a new major in International Business with Languages and Culture. The major, recently approved by the university, is now in place, and is designed with two main components: academic and experiential. During the four years of the program, in addition to the University and to the standard Business Core courses, students will take courses in four categories: language, country-specific cul-

ture, required international business courses, and international business electives. The experiential component includes one semester of study abroad, followed by an internship in a company in the same country; another internship will take place upon return in the US in a company doing business with the same country. Developed in collaboration with the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Cultures and the Bolter School of Business, the

new major offers Italian as the 'pilot' language. For this reason, this past summer, Drs. Casciani and Ferri made contacts with the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Gesù in Milan, and with companies available to offer internships to JCU students. One of them is currently in Carsoli, in the Abruzzo region, where he just begun a six weeks internship. For more information, check out our page on FaceBook.



A view of the cloister inside the Università Cattolica in Milan.

## THE VATICAN CITY PROGRAM, FALL 2010

We have resumed our Vatican Program after taking a break last year due to the L'Aquila earthquake. This year marks its fifth year and 14 students are in Rome with Dr. Casciani. After a six day orientation in Rome, the students began the immersion part of the Program. They are studying Italian language and IC261: Faith, Reason and Art in Italian Literature and are in class most of the day immersing themselves in their studies. On October 1, the fourteen students and

Dr. Casciani will travel to Tuscany and Milan to complete their study on Dante, Petrarch, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and many more artists. On October 11, they will begin the second part of the program where they will study philosophy, religious studies, Italian history, and art history. Students are well adjusted and love living just around the Vatican, and five minutes away from the Urbaniana University which is located on the Gianicolo hill and overlooks Saint

Peter's basilica. Constance di Bacco recently wrote on the Pilla program FaceBook page, "Italia, Italia": "Rome is so beautiful! There is so much history to learn and so many places to see. The churches are like diamonds in the rough. From the outside some are being renovated, but they still take your breath away once you take a step inside. I cannot wait to learn more of the language to assimilate to the culture. Roma 2010 ♥"



Group picture in the gardens of the Università Urbaniana with St. Peter basilica in the background.

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

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

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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.

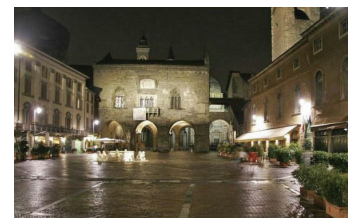
**V I S I O N • M I S S I O N • C O R E V A L U E S**

**LEARN OPERA WHILE VISITING ITALY**

Is Opera an old-fashioned form of art, or does it still inform our modern, globalized world about universal values? These are some of the questions that students will learn to answer in the course "The Role of Women in Modern Italy through Opera and Literature", which will be offered next Spring 2011. The course, taught by Dr. Luigi Ferri, will explore some among the most beloved works by composers like

G. Donizetti, G. Verdi, P. Mascagni, R. Leoncavallo, and G. Puccini. The course will also include a field trip component over spring-break. From March 2-12, students will visit places of interest connected to the history of Italian Opera between Tuscany and Northern Italy, in cities like Florence, Torre del Lago, Milan, Bergamo, Cremona, and Venice. The course entails a further element of novelty: in fact, for

the first time at JCU, students will receive an iPad for the duration of the semester. All didactic materials (novels, short stories, librettos, presentations, etc.) will be loaded on the tablet. This pilot project was made possible by The Bishop Pilla Program and by JCU internal funding. Many students have expressed an interest in the course and we are beginning to receive deposits.



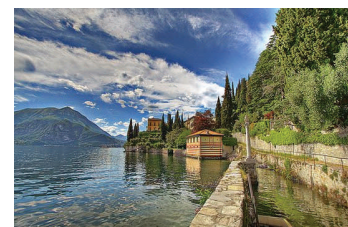
The birthplace of G. Donizetti, Bergamo is one of the cities that students will visit during the spring-break field trip in Italy.

**TRIP TO NORTHERN ITALY TO THE LAKES' REGION**

The trip will take place from May 24 through June 6, 2011. We will spend 6 nights in the city of Vicenza and 6 nights in the city of Bergamo. Vicenza, in the Veneto region, is defined as the city of palaces and a beauty of Renaissance art beyond description. A real must see, magnificent with palaces, villas, and churches designed by Andrea Palladio, the renaissance architect whose influence even reached America (the Capital building is one example of his style). Vicenza is also known as the "City of Gold," for its trade in the precious metal. While in Vicenza, we will take

daily trips to nearby cities such as Padova, Venice, Verona, Ravenna, Bologna and Sirmione, on Lake Garda. After our time in Vicenza, the tour will move onto Bergamo in Lombardy, where we will see the cities of Bergamo, Milan, Parma, Mantua, Cremona and Bellagio on Lake Como. Northern Italian regions are breathtaking in their natural beauty, blessed with dramatic scenery and spectacular locations. The Alps are visible from all these cities. The entire tour will be enhanced by local English-speaking guides, who will also accompany us to gourmet and

wine tastings in the capital of excellent Italian cuisine: Parma. Participants will be able to enjoy the 4 'P's of the region: Parma, Prosciutto, Parmigiano, and Pasta. Signed-up participants will attend some educational classes during the Spring Semester. First informational meeting on September 29, 2010 at John Carroll University, 7:00pm in the O'Malley Center, room 112. For those who are interested but cannot attend, please call or email Mrs. Giuseppina Mileti at 216.397.1798 or [gmileti@jcu.edu](mailto:gmileti@jcu.edu).



Northern Italian lakes often offer very romantic views. In this picture, Lake Como.