

Growing Up in the Butcher Shop: Father's Day / Giorno dei Padri



Ciao Amici, Father's day was always very special to me. I was lucky to be able to have my father and grandfather together for their special day. When I was young I wanted to be just like them! I looked up to them with admiration (ha ammirato). One trait they passed on to me was their passion for food, cooking and eating. I have been catering for twenty years and it seems to me less people enjoy eating. Some will comment, "I don't eat this, I can't have that or I am dieting". Oh come on, just sit down and enjoy the food. Have food in moderation

Our Sunday dinner like 99.9% of the families in Roseto started with an antipasto, followed by some homemade macaroni made by my mom & grandmom to show us how much love and pride they had for their family. Next we had the gravy meat (meatballs, sausage, bracirole, and the lamb shank, pieces of pork, beef, and veal.) "Pass the bread", was heard chanting from the table. Then we'd have a refreshing insalata (salad), no fancy dressing, just pure extra virgin olive oil and tart homemade red wine vinegar and salt and pepper; that was it. "Let's relax a little on the pouch and talk," Grandpop would say. There was no TV and no computer; just stories, jokes and laughter. "Ok," the table's cleared," Mom, Grand mom and Aunt Theresa would call out. We walked to the dining room table to see the bowl of fruit; some of which was sliced and placed in the wine glasses for an Italian Sangria and also there were the nuts to crack. More stories and laughter continued as we enjoyed the espresso and desserts. Some token presents were given; not bought on line but made by my brothers and me at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. In our classrooms we were taught by the sisters as they emphasized respect for our fathers and grandfathers because they worked hard for us.

It has been forty years since my Grandfather passed away but there are not many days that I do not think of

him. It feels sometimes he is looking over my shoulder and I can hear him as I am cooking; "Easy on the salt you can always add it, check the oven you can always cook it longer but once it is over done there is not much you can do." I used to wonder why this person didn't call me for work or an organization that I am a member didn't call me and Grandpop would say, "Josie you can't get all the jobs, people have to try others, this way they appreciate the quality you give. Remember, sometimes the Paese (town) is not for the Paesano (Townsperson)

Thank you everyone for telling me how much you are enjoying these stories and that you look forward to them. It pleases me very much. Grazie!

Chi spesso va all'acqua con la secchia non prevede che si rompera Go to the well too often and you'll surely crack your crock. Moderation in all things
Best Regards / Con cordiali saluti

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Andrew is a 2005 graduate of Pius X High School in Bangor and a 2009 graduate of Centenary College in Hackettstown, New Jersey. He works as a Child Care Counselor for Willowglen Academy in Newton, NJ.

Kelly is a 2004 graduate of Central Regional High School in Bayville, NJ and a 2008 graduate of Centenary College. She works as a Senior Child Care Counselor, aslo at Willowglen Academy.

An October 9, 2009 wedding is planned.

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