

John Karam

Sons of Italy Scholarship

What does my Italian Heritage mean to me?

My family and I would always attend my Nonna's house for every holiday and she would always make some amazing meal, her homemade lasagne was always my favorite, but with all the culture my Nonna brought into my family, it opened me up to the rest of my Italian heritage. As a senior, my Vice Principal always has a foreign exchange student and this year a student from Rome came, her name is Cecilia. The first day I met her, we connected on so many different areas, such as our Nonna's both making the same meals, on the same holidays and how after our Nonna's will bury us with food, they will always give us the same sweet dessert. After meeting her I realized how much my Italian heritage meant to me and even though I don't live in the same country as her, we both still live the same lives with our Nonna.

I have visited Italy twice once when I was in third grade, and the next when I was going into my Freshman year of High school. The first time I went was by far the best, I visited the area of where my Nonna grew up and I went all over the country from Rome to Venice with many stops along the way. Seeing my culture with my own eyes was truly amazing, from going inside the Vatican to riding a Gandale in the Venice canal. Seeing all of this first hand was something I will never forget, and from that day on I knew I was Italian.