

Sons-of-Italy

When I was presented with the question of “What does your Italian heritage mean to you?” It took me sometime to come up with a confident and definitive answer. During these trying times of the “Coronavirus Pandemic”, we have heard a lot about what is going on in the beautiful and strong country of Italy. Italy is currently facing some of the highest amounts of cases and unfortunately one of the highest amounts of death as well. As an Italian-American I cannot shy away from feeling sympathetic for our people. It is just a terrible situation going on over there and I offer all of my thoughts and prayers to the great people of Italy.

But on the other hand, you must notice the light that shines in the darkness. While the whole country is on a temporary lockdown, there is still a strong showing of pride, community, and love for one another. People are singing together out their windows as they are trapped in their homes for quarantine. There are people helping other people regardless of what is happening. Even in the worst of times, the Italian people are staying together, and that is what being Italian is all about. Treating all like your family, and to me that makes me proud to be Italian. But unfortunately, here in America I wish we could have the same morals and virtues.

As an “essential worker” working at Walgreens Pharmacy, what I see on a daily basis does not mirror what the people of Italy are doing. I see fights break out verbally and physically over purchasing the last toilet paper roll, the last hand sanitizer bottle, the last mask, and the list goes on. People over buying products all for themselves leaving the people who may actually need these goods with nothing. I constantly ask myself where the love is? Why aren't we banding together and becoming stronger as one unit?

Where have we gone wrong? At the age of 20 I find myself more confused with how some of my elders act, and sometimes it is rather embarrassing. People these days maybe should be more Italian, treat everyone like your family, and love one another no matter what the situation is.

Thank you,

Christian Rose