

# Voce Italiana

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## Maria Marigliano Celebrates 35 Years as Music Director

The beautiful, uplifting and powerful voice of music director Maria Marigliano, who also plays the organ and leads the choir, has graced the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass at Holy Rosary for the past 35 years.

Maria was still a teenager when she took on the role offered to her by then-pastor Fr. Cesare Donanzan, who wisely saw her great potential. Over the years, she attended the University of Maryland, married Sabatino Marigliano and raised two sons Antonio, 22, and Tino, 20, both of whom were altar servers at Holy Rosary for ten years.

For more than 30 years, she has worked at the U.S. Agency for International Development, where she is currently Chief Administrative Officer in the Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning. Her work has taken her to Latin America, the Caribbean, Afghanistan and other places. For several years she was also a key member of the joint US-AID-Department of State civilian uplift effort in Afghanistan/Pakistan, one of the largest efforts ever to oversee the deployment of civilians in the region.

*Voce Italiana* recently interviewed Maria to learn more about her years as music director and about the dedicated choir she leads.



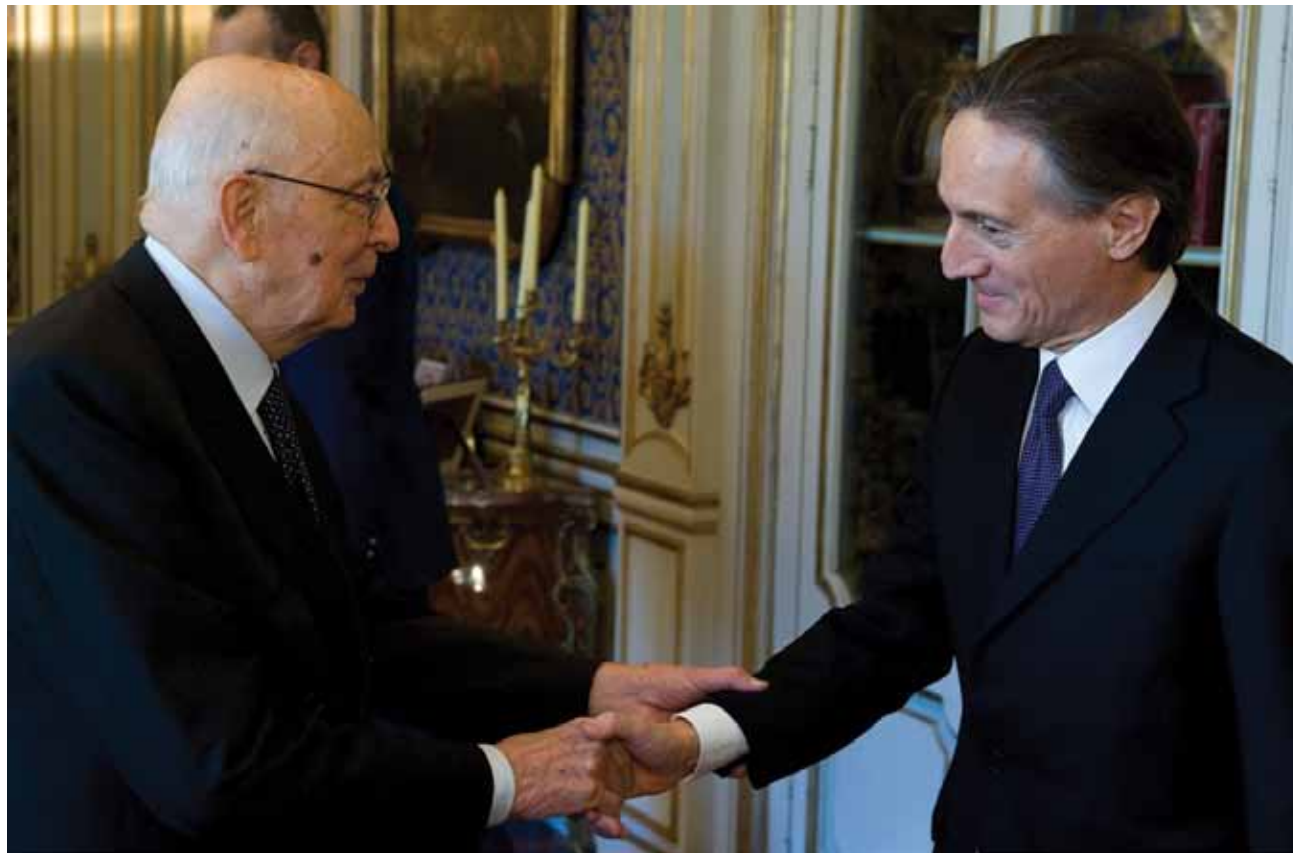
Maria Marigliano, Fr. Lydio Tomasi

**Tell us about how you started singing and playing the organ at Holy Rosary?**

I began singing at Holy Rosary when I was old enough to sing. After my mother arrived from Italy in September 1960, then-pastor Fr. Giulivo Tessarolo, and assistant pastor

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## Claudio Bisogniero, New Italian Ambassador to U.S. Succeeds Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, now Italy's Foreign Minister



Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano greets Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero, who is expected to assume his duties at the Embassy of Italy in Washington D.C. in early February. Bisogniero replaces Giulio Terzi. See article on page 3.

## Washington Nationals' Mike Rizzo Honored by Lido Civic Club

Mike Rizzo, General Manager of the Washington Nationals baseball team, will be honored at the Lido Civic Club past presidents' gala, held at the Washington Golf and Country Club, in Arlington, Va. on January 21, 2012.

Rizzo, who is credited with helping increase the team's fan base, among other accomplishments, says his passion for baseball came from his father Phil, a lifelong scout, and his grandfather Vito, a Chicago railroad worker who was also a semi-professional ballplayer. Rizzo says he is very proud of his Italian heritage.

A former player with the California Angels, Rizzo dreamed of being a major league player. But his father gently told him that he didn't think he was a good prospect. Mike turned to scouting and then joined the Nationals seven years ago, eventually becoming general manager.

The Lido Club's annual black-tie gala honors individuals who exemplify the greatest qualities of their Italian ancestry. Recent honorees have included Mario Andretti, Supreme Court Justice Sam Alito and General Peter Pace. Television personality Paul Anthony will serve as master of ceremonies. Tom Caruso is Chairman of the event.

The Lido Club was established in 1929 with the goal of helping new Italian immigrants better understand the ways of doing business in America. As Italian Americans became more successful, the goal shifted toward more philanthropic activities. Proceeds from the gala and other events, such as the annual spring golf tournament, provide funding for college scholarships for young people who would not otherwise be able to attend college, and for other worthy causes such as the "Wounded Warrior Dinner Program." ❖

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