

JOSEPH AND CARMELA BARBERI



My grandfather, Cataldo (“Joseph”) Barberi was born in Gangi, Italy on December 9, 1883. At the age of 22 he sailed on the ship “Sicilia” from Palermo and arrived in New York, NY in 1905.

Joseph initially moved to Streator, Illinois before settling in Rockford where he and my grandmother, Carmela, lived at 1015 West Street – one block from St. Anthony Church.

He was employed as a machinist at Roper Company and then worked as a machinist for 17 years at Twin Disc Company before retiring in 1959. Joseph was active at St. Anthony Church, serving as an usher for over 45 years and was a member of the Society of St. Anthony.

My grandmother, Carmela, was born on February 10, 1891 in Italy. She married Joseph and had five children: Freda (Frank) Domico (1909-2002); Catherine (Walter) Nadolny (1911-1999); James C. Barber (Josephine) (1915-1997); Carl (Marion) (1922-1999); and my mother, Carmell (Iver) Boreen (1924-2011). My grandmother died in 1937 at the age of 46.

My mother, Carmella, was born in Rockford on December 10, 1924. She graduated from Muldoon High School in 1943. She married Iver Boreen in 1943. They lived in Colorado Springs, CO and Minneapolis, MN and eventually settled in Duluth, MN where my mother owned her own beauty salon and my father managed an optical shop.

My grandfather, Joseph, was close to his brothers, Jack and Tom. I remember Joseph savoring and enjoying one of his Italian stogie cigars. He was a gentle, loving, and a solid husband, father, and grandfather.

My grandmother, Carmela regularly had neighbors and friends stop by her home for coffee and seek her advice on a variety of topics – marital issues, cooking, and health. She was educated and able to assist neighbors in reading and writing letters. Carmela was known as a saintly woman, a peacemaker, and a calming influence on families and friends.

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