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Poggioreale In America
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When I was a young child, my family would gather at my grandma's house every Sunday to get together and have our favorite dish, spaghetti. For my siblings and I, Sundays were our favorite day of the week. We would arrive at my grandmother's house early so that we could help set the table and help with the preparation of the other side dishes, especially the salad that we would help my grandmother make. We would also have to take turns keeping our father from eating half of the spaghetti sauce because it was just that good. Finally, after what felt like hours, our grandmother would tell my sisters and I to go ahead and tell everyone "Mangia! Mangia!" (which means it's time to eat). I distinctly remember our Papa, Marion Joseph Campise, telling my siblings and I after we were done eating that we had "Sugo Face" which translates to sauce face.

I later learned that our spaghetti recipe has been passed down from my great grandfather Guiseppe "Joseph" Campisi. Joseph taught the recipe to his wife Dominica "Mandy" Campisi whom I have been named after. From there, Dominica then passed down the recipe to my Papa's wife Ruby Campise and she later on taught me how to make our family's famous sauce. My grandmother told me that Dominica "Mandy" would make the sauce every single Sunday for her family and that she was strictly instructed to do the same. My grandmother is very passionate about keeping our family tradition alive and is extremely happy that I have wanted to do the same. I have a memory from back when I was in kindergarten and we had to make an "All about Me" project. My grandma made spaghetti for my entire kindergarten class and from there on out I was known for my family's amazing recipe.

Growing up, I learned how important it is to be surrounded and supported by family. For me, my family's strong Italian heritage has helped mold and shape me into the person I am today. Some of the values that have come from my Sicilian roots have been my great work ethic, dedication, and drive. Due to this, I was fortunate enough to get the chance to play collegiate volleyball. I am the first woman to graduate college on my fathers side which I am extremely proud of. I will also be graduating in December of this year with my Bachelors degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

My family's Sicilian spaghetti recipe gives only a glimpse of what family has meant to me growing up and the core values that have been instilled in me. I am proud to be an Italian American and find myself implementing different aspects of my childhood in my everyday adult life, especially now that I am living in

Indiana away from my family. Being an Italian American is not only my identity, it's who I am. Being a member of the Poggioreale in America Junior program I have learned so much about Poggioreale and the many descendants that reside in the United States today. I have even recently learned that I have close relatives in Fresno, CA and Bryan, TX. I would love to get to know more about my close descendants and how our last name got changed from "Campisi to Campise". I am learning new aspects about our Sicilian culture each and every day and would absolutely love to visit the new city of Poggioreale in the future.