

NAME OF PROJECT: *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII*

TRANSCRIBED BY: Grant Karcich

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- **ICEA2010.0008.0047.a**

Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[handwritten in ink] 104 Millwood Rd., Toronto, / Oct 9, 1940. / Dear Sir, / I read an article on the editorial page of / the Globe & Mail re the internees in the United / Kingdom. I was especially interested, because it / stated that as a result of the interest taken by / members of parliament, an investigation was held / which resulted in the release of 800 prisoners. / I believe that if our members of parliament / were better acquainted with what is actually going / on, they would be anxious to follow the example / of their colleagues in Great Britain. It is with this / hope that I appeal to you to take an active / interest in the plight of those law-abiding / Canadian citizens of Italian extraction who have / been interned under the Defence of Canada Regulations. / Many of these I know personally, and well enough / to know that they would do nothing which would / hinder in any way, the Defence of Canada. / Among these innocent victims is my / husband, the Rev. L. Sauro, minister for the / Presbyterian Church of Canada from 1918 to 1925 and / since that time in the United Church of / Canada. / He came to this country in 1907 at / the age of 16 and has been a naturalized British subject since 1913. He has never gone back

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Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[handwritten in ink] -2- / to his native land and does not ever expect to go. / His only interest, besides preaching the Gospel, has / been to build this nation of ours. His sphere of / influence was naturally among the Italians. His / efforts in this respect were not in a political sense / but in an [sic] a moral and social sense, and I / may also add, physical, for he is the father of nine /

Canadian-born children, seven of which are boys / and one of which is to go into military training / to-day [sic]. My husband is a very calm and understanding / man with strong high moral principles, and this / miscarriage of justice to which he has been / subjected can do him no harm of a permanent nature, but this incident cannot possibly have a / beneficial effect upon his children or on his / innumerable friends. / I say that my husband has been subjected / to a miscarriage of justice, first, because he was / arrested for an act supposed to have been com- / mitted on Sept. 4th which was in violation to the / Def. of Can. Act. Sec. 21. He was at home all but one / hour of that day and in that hour he went to / visit a patient at the psychiatric hospital. This / leads me to believe that the charge which was / laid against him was purely fictitious. Secondly, / because the Def of Can. Reg. give the prisoner the / privilege of filing a notice of objection within 30 dys. [sic] / of his arrest. He has been detained for 32 days in the / barracks of the Veterans' Home Guard at Lansdowne + / College Sts. where they are not permitted to file any / such objection. The fact of the matter is: they / may file their notice only when properly

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Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[handwritten in ink] interned in the Concentration Camp at Petawawa, / and they are not taken to Petawawa until there / are 50 prisoners. If it takes a whole year for them / to pick up that many prisoners, my husband will / have to remain there all that time without a / hearing. I leave it to you to judge how this / procedure compares with – The Rights of Man – of which / all British peoples are proud [sic] and which I had the / privilege of learning as well as teaching in the / public schools of this province. / I wish to make it clear that I do not / object to my husband's internment. I am quite / satisfied that the State must take all possible / precautions for its own safety. My objection is / against the fact that at this late date he has / not yet been given the privilege which is his by / law. I wrote to the minister of justice on this / point but received no satisfactory reply. / I trust that you will find it within / your power as M.P. to take an active interest / in this case. Should you require further / information, I shall be pleased to give it. / Yours respectfully, / C. Sauro.