

# ANNOUNCING

## RELATIVE STRANGERS

*Italian Protestants in the Catholic World*

by Frank Cicero Jr.

"One of America's most distinguished trial lawyers, Frank Cicero searches in this engaging memoir for his Italian roots. In part descended from Alpine Protestants, the Waldensians, Cicero finds becoming an Italian-American in Buffalo and Chicago was not what most people think. *Relative Strangers* is personal history at its finest."

--Edward Muir, Clarence L. Ver Steeg,  
Professor in the Arts and Sciences,  
Northwestern University

"Dazzlingly well researched and truly engrossing."

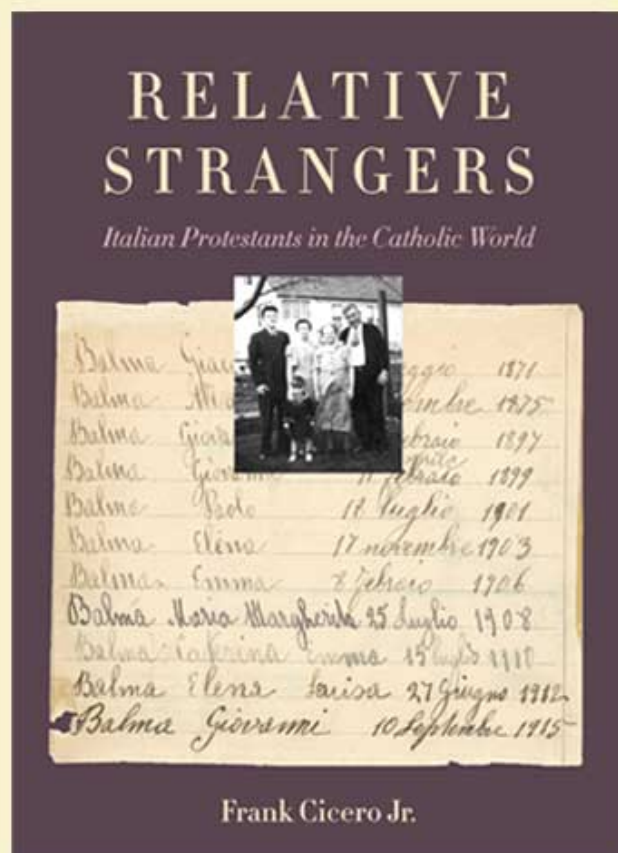
--Robert E. Lerner, Professor Emeritus  
of History and the Humanities,  
Northwestern University

"This fine book is part personal memoir, part history of religion and always compelling reading. It illustrates yet again the diversity of the human family and the unpredictable paths taken by the quest for faith."

--Scott Turow

"Frank Cicero's *Relative Strangers* is by no means a typical immigration narrative. He recounts the fascinating story of his Sicilian father's Catholic family and his mother's Waldensian Protestant parents and how they came together in their adopted country."

--Geoffrey Symcox, Professor of History Emeritus, UCLA



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"With engaging clarity and fascinating detail, Frank Cicero tells the story of his journey to trace the roots of his unusual family---Italian immigrants in Chicago divided by religion. In this era of inter-religious dialogue it helps us understand the roots of religious division and points to ways to overcome such divides. It is a rich read."

--Richard Peace, Ph.D., Professor of Evangelism and Spiritual Formation,  
Fuller Theological Seminary

"Good historians share three characteristics: they ask simple yet insightful questions, they have a burning curiosity about the past, and they are tenacious and resourceful researchers. Frank Cicero exemplifies each of these traits, and in *Relative Strangers* he has crafted a surprising Chicago immigrant story that defies our conventional historical thinking about who came to America and the beliefs they brought with them."

--Russell Lewis, Executive Vice-President and Chief Historian, Chicago History Museum

"This delightful, warm, and well-researched book adds complexity and depth to our understanding of the American mosaic as well as the often-neglected diversity of Protestant Christianity."

--Douglas F. Ottati, Craig Family Distinguished Professor of Theology and Ethics at  
Davidson College

*Relative Strangers* tells the true story of Frank Cicero's immigrant Italian grandparents. Divided by religion, in their first decades in Chicago they lived and worshipped in separate churches-Presbyterian and Roman Catholic-less than two blocks apart in one of Chicago's largest Italian neighborhoods. For thirty years their paths never crossed until the author's parents met, fell in love and wed secretly over the opposition of both families. The author grew up with little understanding of the ancient origins of his maternal grandparents' Protestant faith that marked the keen differences between the two sides of his family. *Relative Strangers* details his search for their religious roots in Northern Italy and Sicily, their immigration, and the first decades of their lives in Chicago.



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