*Delivered by Dominic Campione on behalf of the Italian Community on Saturday November 29, 2014 at the Church of St. Anthony of Padua, Hamilton, Ontario*

**Italian Community Memorial Mass for Corporal Nathan Cirillo**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Signore e Signori, Honoured guest, we are gathered here today as a community to give our respect and thanks for the life of Corporal (Cpl.) Nathan Frank Cirillo, one of our very own, who was struck down just over a month ago (October 22/14), in the service of our country, while proudly standing guard at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, a symbol of service and sacrifice.

Our democratic values are priceless and the lives of those who safeguard same deserve the ultimate praise and honour. We will not forget the recent deaths of warrant officer Patrice Vincent, and Cpl. Nathan Cirillo. Your presence today is a testament that we will never forget our fallen soldiers.

Canada and the world as well as the hearts and souls of Canadians and our Italian Community have been stricken by the tragic death of Cpl. Cirillo. The simple words of “GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN” are most appropriate and soothing at this time.

I along with many Canadians did not personally know Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, but through social media, news, broadcast, etc. his death not only touched our hearts and minds but we felt this special sense of connection as if we had known him a lifetime.

In reading a CBC news article Mayor Britania of the City of Hamilton stated that Nathan Cirillo was part of “a typical Hamilton family. Beautiful home. Clean as a whip. Pictures of Nathan and his two sisters are on the wall. It was a kind of place that anyone of us would feel right at home going into. We can all connect to this.”

Nathan Cirillo felt the calling of a soldier at the tender age of 13 when he became a cadet. He later became a proud member of the Argyll and Southerland Highlanders of Canada. He is the loving father of young Marcus Daniel Cirillo; beloved son of Katherine Cirillo & Victor Briffa; dear brother of Nicole Cirillo (Richard Schmith) and Natalie Cirillo (Jonathan Tuckman); and dear friend to all.

October 22, 2014 was a dark page in Canada’s history but Nathan’s death was not in vain, as it has made our democratic values, our community, our great Country all the more better and stronger.

May God grant Nathan eternal peace and love, and comfort his five year old son Marcus, his loving family & friends. Thank you for your presence today and God Bless All. GRAZIE.

We sincerely extend our sincere thanks to Father Janusz Roginski, Pastor of the Church of St. Anthony of Padua, its staff, all participating organizations and representatives, and all of you. In Italian it is all said in the word GRAZIE.

As an expression of sympathy you may make a donation to a trust fund for Marcus Cirillo Trust, particulars of which are at the front of the church.