

6/22/49  
ABBATE, JOE (Ltr of introduction to Hon. Franklin C. Gowen, Vatican City)

June 22, 1949

My dear Gowen:

I have a request to make which I hope will not embarrass you. If it does in any degree, just forget it.

My barber, Joe Abbate, who incidentally runs the largest barbering establishment in the District, is leaving shortly to visit his uncle in Messina. A devout Catholic, he is very anxious to receive the Papal blessing. If it is at all possible to arrange this for him, I will be very appreciative.

[Joe is quite a character. He has done for most of the leading figures in the Army--MacArthur, Patton, Devers, and a long list of others including, of course, several Secretaries of War. He is a very fine man and has done quite a bit financially to help his uncle's people in Sicily.] This will be his second trip over there since the war, and it is his great ambition regarding which I am writing you.

With warm regards,

Faithfully yours,

(Sgd.) G. C. MARSHALL

Honorable Franklin C. Gowen  
Office of the Personal Representative  
of The President to the Vatican  
Vatican City  
c/o The American Embassy  
Rome, Italy